

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Lillian Walker

COLLECTION: 4700.0550

IDENTIFICATION: One of the first women elected to Louisiana State Legislature

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Parker

SERIES: Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge

INTERVIEW DATE: October 12, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1960s -1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 797

Family background; attends high school in Alabama; works to help pay for school; attends junior college; begins working as civil service employee at an air force base in Meridian, MS; marries and has child in 1946; moves to Louisiana in 1948; involvement in community service projects; instrumental in founding the Baton Rouge Association for Retarded Children; decides to run for state legislature in 1960; recalls campaign strategies; Bill Stracener serves as campaign public relations advisor; memories of first days in legislature; Walker receives heavy media coverage; appointed to appropriations and health and welfare committees; diligent work ethic while in legislature; internal politics of legislature; political strength of East Baton Rouge Parish delegation grows; successful legislation supported by Walker; refuses to join legislature retirement system because of scandals; tries to protect budgets of LSU and Southern; good working relationship with LSU and Southern administrators; attempts to keep budgets of state colleges and universities together; introduces legislation to build a new state school for the deaf; introduces measure that calls for Louisiana legislature to ratify Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution; lack of infrastructure services designed for women in legislature; involvement with constituents when legislature is not in session; awarding of Tulane scholarships; honesty and sincerity of majority of legislators; loses seat when single member districts are implemented.

TAPES: 1 (T797)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 28 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 56 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None