Civil Rights Class

Shirley Barnes Interview
Veronica Myers/ Loretta Parham
May 1, 1998

Transcription:

Question: Has there been any healing in Prince Edward County that you've seen?

Answer:

"In order for healing to take place in any situation, there has to be closure. This situation has never had closure. In a death, in order to get over the death, you have to have a funeral; there has never been a funeral of Prince Edward County Schools being closed. Healing will only come when there is closure to this entire situation."

Question: Do you think that the buy back of R.R. Moton School will help to start it [healing]?

Answer:

"No. I just think its another step in the process. If...if the citizens of Prince Edward County could some way have formal, or have had formal apologizes; not just black, but black and white because there were whites who were unfairly treated too. There were poor whites who had to sacrifice every penny they had because they wanted their children to go to school and not rest until they had spent lots of money (and some of them are still recovering) to send their children to the foundation school. So in that sort the public schools to them were closed but not fairly justified to them also. And I'm not even sure that a public apology or written apology, persons paid back their tax money...my parents paid their taxes every
single year, part of your tax money goes to your public schools in your county. None of it was re-embursed. There were, there has never been any retribution to the situation. So no, I don't think the reopening of R.R. Moton...the buying of the museum...I think the museum is a good thing to have, I really do think its a good thing to have. I think it'll keep history alive.”