

## Civil Rights

### Change Is Coming

#### George Andrews III, Page, U.S. House of Representatives

Reflections on the changing southern attitudes towards civil rights legislation.

*Interview recorded September 24, 2009.*

They were talking and Ray said, "Your dad told me," he said, "it's coming." He—give you an example of the attitude there's a—I won't name him—but a very prominent banker in Dothan wrote dad a letter right before 1964 or 1963 right before they got in the civil rights bill. And said, "If the civil rights bill passes Congress I will do everything I can within my power to defeat you." As if he could stop it! But, I mean, that in, you know, to a great extent was—there were a lot of people who felt that way. And my dad told Ray, he said, "You know," he said, "I was brought up to believe one way. That's the way it was. That's the way my parents lived. That's the way my grandfather lived." My grandfather—my great-grandfather—my great-grandfather is buried in Clayton, Alabama, a little town in Barbour County, with the Confederate Cross on his gravemark. He fought in the Civil War, I mean, all over. We were raised the way we were taught to be raised, but he said, "Ray, it's coming. It's the law. It's going to be the law. The South is going to have to learn to accept it." And Ray said, "I was just amazed." He said, "You know, I mean, that was almost blasphemous." Of course we all feel differently now.