

**Lincoln Ragsdale Audio Transcriptions**  
**Changing Language of Civil Rights Advocacy in Arizona**  
**Speaking the Unspeakable Conference**  
**Saturday February 18, 2017, Tempe AZ**  
**Robert Spindler, Curator for Arizona Collection, ASU Libraries**

These transcribed excerpts are from the *Lincoln Ragsdale Emancipation Proclamation Audio Recordings* available online at <https://repository.asu.edu/items/17376>

**ASU 11/#8 at 00:19:35:**

**Austin Coleman:** On yesterday the youth council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Maricopa County Chapter, sat in and picketed El Rey's restaurant on South Central under the supervision of Mrs. Estelle Williamson their director. At this time we want to present to you a man who was a part of the all day sit in, Mr. Lincoln J. Ragsdale Vice President of the Maricopa County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Ragsdale will speak on The Stepped Up Integration Movement. Mr. Ragsdale.

**Lincoln Ragsdale:** The Stepped Up Integration Movement. Since the March on City Hall in Phoenix on July 26<sup>th</sup>, the negro has stepped up his demands, and he's gonna demand his rights. He wants his right to have a decent job, he wants the right to his children to receive a decent education, and to have and to own and maintain a decent home. Yesterday over 100 young people convened a sitin at a small Mexican restaurant on South Central Avenue. The purpose of the sit in and demonstration was one reason, to demonstrate to the people that everyone has the right to eat anyplace that he would want to eat. He has the right to go into any restaurant to tell a place of public accommodations. We were there all day. Reverend Brooks who came back from Washington DC, from the greatest march the world has ever know, where over 200,000 people demonstrated. Came in after driving for 48 hours and took his position, he took his place right alongside the other marchers out front. He walked inside and took his seat. The lady had turned off the cooler on us, the temperature was 110 degrees. But we stayed there and kept on waitin and prayin and askin God to give us the strength to hold out, knowin that we shall overcome. (21:35)

**ASU 7/#3: at 00:22:10**

**Lincoln Ragsdale:** As we approach Good Friday and Easter we think of Christ who died on the cross to set all men free. And we realize that we are all equal in the sight of God. The rich man, poor man, black man and white man are all the same in Jesus' sight. Yes we all brothers, but some people have forgotten that you and I are their black brothers. And they want to discriminate against us and tell us some places that we cannot go and certain jobs that we cannot hold because we are black. Yes Jesus died on the cross to set men free. And I wonder the Sunday morning what price are you willin to pay for your freedom? What price are you willin to pay for the freedom of your children? (23:04)

**ASU 8/#6 at 21:55**

**Austin Coleman:** The Vice President of the NCAAP toured Southern Arizona yesterday because of an incident that happened at Coolidge Arizona on last Sunday. We would like to give him an opportunity to explain this incident that happened in your state of Arizona, not in Alabama, but in Arizona. At this time the Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Lincoln Ragsdale.

**Lincoln Ragsdale:** Thank you Mr. Coleman. Yes things are bad in Arizona, just as bad as they are in Oklahoma or Texas, and in some places it's just like living in Mississippi. Let's take for instance down in Coolidge, Arizona, where if a negro were to stop in at the cafés or restaurants, they would refuse him because of his color. [22:53] I went down into Pinal County yesterday to investigate some of the problems that I face and you face as negroes. And down in Coolidge last Sunday morning a week ago, two negroes were arrested and charged with \$1,500 fines and bonds because they went into a restaurant not to eat in the restaurant, but to ask them to give them some food in their hands so they might go outside and eat. And while standing there that they were insulted by some of the white patrons. Things are awful bad in Arizona. They find that even down in Pinal County they marched last year because they couldn't work for the county. They wouldn't have the job opportunity that other people have in that same area. And I wonder this morning what are you doing to help change the situation? (31:00)