

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Melvin Dakin

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0008

**IDENTIFICATION:** [1908 - 2002] Assistant to LSU President Harold Stokes, 1948-50; LSU Law Professor Emeritus

**INTERVIEWER:** Susie Crews

**SERIES:** University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

**INTERVIEW DATE:** November 16, 1978

**FOCUS DATES:** 1937-1951

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 8**

War service with SEC; returned to LSU, 1946; LSU President, Harold Stoke, recruited Dakin as assistant, 1948; Stoke tried to make Board of Supervisors non-partisan and reduce agricultural and athletic influence on LSU; Stoke's appointment; Stoke's personnel appointments; Richard Russell, Cecil Taylor; Pel Mel and the "Stormy Affair"; religion on campus; comparison of Hebert and Hodges; Hebert's fiscal reforms; Dan Borth; Stoke's conflicts with the Board of Supervisors regarding athletics; demise of *Southern Review*; origins of campus street names; denies university role in Charles Hyneman's departure; Stoke's and Middleton's approaches to budgeting; 1939 commencement; growth of the university in the 1930s; law school debates regarding French Civil Code vs. common law; James Broussard; rapid expansion as source of scandals; James B. Trant; John Hunter's inauguration as Pres. of LSU; Paul Hebert's national reputation and activities.

**TAPES:** 1 (T8)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 32 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 47 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** Copyright retained by interviewee and his heirs