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ABILENE, KANSAS

STEELE, JOHN L.: Papers, 1955-68

Accession 93-3

Processed by: TB

Date Completed: February 2001

The papers of John L. Steele were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Steele in November 1992.

Linear feet:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	250
Approximate number of items:	40

Mr. Steele signed an instrument of gift for his papers on November 30, 1992. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Steele in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been retained by Mr. Steele until his death and thereafter pass to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

John L. Steele was a journalist who reported political events in Washington, DC, for many years. During the 1940s and early 1950s he worked for United Press International and covered Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1952 presidential campaign. In 1953 he went to work for the Time-Life News Service. From 1955 to 1958 he was White House reporter for Time magazine. From 1958 to 1969 he served as chief of the Washington Bureau of Time-Life News Service.

The papers of John Steele consist of rough drafts of his political reports relating to Dwight D. Eisenhower. All of the documents are electrostatic copies provided to the Eisenhower Library by Mr. Steele, who has retained the original drafts. The rough drafts sometimes give the names of Steele's sources which were edited out of the published version since the sources had spoken off-the-record. James Hagerty and Bernard Shanley of the White House staff were frequent contacts, as well as members of Congress and officials of the Republican National Committee.

Steele's reports cover a wide range of political subjects. There are frequent discussions of President Eisenhower's health and management style, his political activities, and the 1956 campaign. After Eisenhower retired, Steele continued to report on his activities at Gettysburg. These later reports include information on the 1964 campaign and Eisenhower's assessment of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Of particular interest is a report of a June 1967 interview in which Eisenhower claimed that his appointments of Earl Warren and William Brennan to the Supreme Court had been mistakes.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.    Contents

- 1        1955 [Republican politics in Washington and Indiana; reaction to Democratic chairman Paul Butler comments re DDE's and Mamie's health; efforts to get DDE to run in 1956]
- 1956 (1) [DDE's press conference of Jan. 25, 1956; Milton Eisenhower; changes in DDE's habits following heart attack; DDE's decision to run for re-election]
- 1956 (2) [rumored proposal for three vice-presidents; Republican convention; DDE's personality]
- 1957-59 [Clifford Case interview; foreign policy; DDE interview re Little Rock; DDE's letter-writing style]
- 1961-68 (1) [White House dinner for press, Jan 1961; DDE interviews re possible 1964 GOP presidential candidates; Barry Goldwater]
- 1961-68 (2) [1964 campaign; DDE interviews re LBJ, foreign policy, retirement at Gettysburg, Supreme Court appointments, need for presidents with more than legislative experience, Bay of Pigs]

END OF CONTAINER LIST