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CAKE

**CAKE, RALPH H.**

**OH-111**

**78 pp./w index**

**PRCQ(M)**

Republican National Committeeman from Oregon, 1940-52; active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1952; served on Panama Canal Board of Directors, 1967-69.

DESCRIPTION: INTERVIEW #1: Education and early legal career; involvement in Equitable Savings and Loan Association; father's political background; working as precinct worker at age nine; running for Oregon Republican National Committeeman in 1939; Senator Charles McNary; development of dams in the Columbia River basin; 1940 Republican National Convention; Wendell Wilkie; 1948 Oregon primary; Communism as a campaign issue; 1952 Republican National Convention; meeting Dwight D. Eisenhower at Columbia in 1948; Eisenhower's resistance to running for President; pre-convention campaigning for Eisenhower in 1952; support for Robert Taft.

INTERVIEW #2:

Meeting of the National Committee prior to the 1952 Republican National Convention; appointment of various convention committees; pro-Taft leanings of many committee members; finding enough delegates to vote for Eisenhower; Richard Nixon; the California delegation; Earl Warren and the promise of a Chief Justiceship; Eisenhower's calm during the convention; the period of time between the convention and the start of active campaigning; conflicts between state people and the National Committee on how to handle the campaign; working with Sherman Adams; pressures by various people and groups on the campaign; campaign organization; effectiveness of Citizens for Eisenhower; Eisenhower and Joseph McCarthy; the campaign train; expense of television in the campaign; direct reports back on the Democratic campaign train; appointment to the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Company; operation of the canal by the Corps of Engineers; relationship of Panamanians to the canal; study by the Atomic Energy Commission to build another canal using nuclear explosions; economic structure in Latin America; positive changes in Mexico; assessment of Eisenhower as a man and as President.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by John T. Mason, Jr., November 8, 1967 and July 22, 1969]