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KOHLER

KOHLER, WALTER

OH-143

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PRCQ

Governor of Wisconsin, 1951-56.

DESCRIPTION: Background and early political background including 1950 election as governor of Wisconsin; 1952 elections; reservations about Robert Taft's views of foreign relations; support for DDE; meeting DDE in France in 1951; 1952 Republican National Convention; Langley Amendment; 1952 Governor's Conference in Houston; meeting with Sherman Adams to discuss the upcoming Republican convention; the need to change the rules regarding the seating of contested delegates; Kohler's proposal on the contested delegates; governors' manifesto on contested delegates; DDE's difficulties with Joseph McCarthy during the campaign; meeting with McCarthy and DDE in Peoria on October 2, 1952; traveling together to campaign in Wisconsin; removal of controversial paragraph regarding McCarthy and George Marshall in DDE's speech; more on the 1952 campaign; elected for second term as governor in 1952; farm bills; Federal grants-in-aid to states; feelings about DDE and his relationship with governors; interstate highway system; running for McCarthy's vacant Senate seat in 1957; opposition to Kohler from the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO); CIO support for William Proxmire; losing the election; 1956 Republican National Convention; early situation in Vietnam.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Don North, December 2, 1970]