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SWING

**SWING, JOSEPH**

**OH-154**

**77 pgs.**

**PRCQ**

West Point classmate of Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1911-15; U.S. Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, 1954-61.

Description: Attended West Point and graduated in 1915; acquaintance with DDE at West Point; 44 ½ year military career from the Pershing expedition to the Korean War; commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> Army with the Korean War began; met Herbert Brownell in 1953 when Brownell was in California investigating the 'wetback' situation; Brownell had funds to use troops along the border to curtail illegal entry from Mexico; Swing horrified at use of soldiers for this purpose; potential for damaging international relations; his opinion that the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] should handle the problem; retired from military in 1954; asked to head INS; difficulties and interference from Congressmen; big ranchers and farmers; lack of discipline among INS employees; independence of and jealousy between border patrol sections; replacement of the Chief of Border Patrol with Gen. Frank Partridge; encouraged better relations with Mexican border patrol; illegal immigrant from Mexico; most just wanted jobs; illegal immigrants drifting into big cities; difficulties from labor unions; picking up illegal aliens and sending them back to their home countries; problems with local sheriffs who exploited government reimbursements for illegal aliens in their jails; John McCormack; Francis Walter; Emanuel Geller; immigration matters before Congress; McCarren-Walter Act; Orphan Bill; difficulties with private aid bills for individual aliens; setting up of overseas investigatory agencies; Senator James Eastland; reorganization of the INS headquarters; difficulties with international travel and the use of pre-inspection; the Confession Program set up in connection with the illegal entry of Chinese; Drew Pearson; dislike for immigration lawyers who hamper deportation; closure of Ellis Island; bill to allow entry of brothers and sisters with siblings in the country; seeing DDE at Fort Meade after West Point; serving as airborne advisor to DDE in North Africa; remainder of World War II in the South Pacific; necessity of military officers to be good politicians in order to get anything done; effectiveness of Brownell; INS able to move in and arrest without a warrant; exchange of [Igor] Sobolev; Max Rabb; the 'Show Clause' where an alien had to show reason why he should not be deported; issuance of identification cards that later became travel cards; start of the hostel program; Congressman John Rooney, chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee; working with J. Edgar Hoover.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, June 21, 1967]