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STEPHENS

**STEPHENS, THOMAS E.            OH-161            100 pp. w/Index            PRCQ**

Appointments Secretary to General Eisenhower, 1952-53; Special Counsel to the President and Appointments Secretary, 1953-61.

DESCRIPTION: Childhood in Ireland; immigration to the U.S.; education; first experiences in politics in New York during the depression; managing Herbert Brownell's and Pete Curran's campaigns; Corporation Counsel in legislative division; work as an administrative assistant in City Hall; military service in the Air Force in WWII; invitation from Brownell to go to Washington, DC after the war to head the campaign division of the Republican National Committee; taking the position of secretary to the Republican State Committee in New York in 1949; Henry Cabot Lodge and the drive to get Dwight D. Eisenhower to run for President; becoming DDE's appointments secretary; 1952 campaign and the campaign train; 1952 Republican National Convention; job as the DDE's appointment secretary; DDE's heart attack and the decision to run for reelection; anecdotes about DDE; description of his first meeting with DDE; more on the 1952 campaign and convention; Sherman Adams; the paint-by-numbers paintings done by DDE associates; anecdotes about the advance trip to Japan; James Hagerty's reaction to the events of the Japan trip; screening people for Presidential audiences; anecdotes about clergymen meeting with DDE; the Rosenberg case; anecdotes about the Bermuda Conference and Winston Churchill; stag dinners; more anecdotes about DDE; anecdotes from Gwen Stephens; Moscow trip; more anecdotes about DDE; meeting the artist, Thomas Stephens; countering the impression that the Eisenhower Administration was dull; anecdotes about working at the White House; DDE's personal acquaintance with world leaders; trip to Germany; visits to countries where the press was state-controlled.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, January 12, 1968]