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HODGES

HODGES, LUTHER

OH-297

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PRCQ

Lieutenant Governor, North Carolina, 1952-53; Governor, 1954-60; Secretary of Commerce, 1961-65.

DESCRIPTION: Biographical material and business career; government service; the Little Rock School situation (incl. the Southern Governors Conference, appointment of a governors' committee, first attempts to reach Eisenhower, the meeting with the President, the agreement with Orval Faubus and its outcome); visiting the Soviet Union (incl. background to visit, experiences in Moscow, an anecdote involving Khrushchev and a tobacco factory); a governors' meeting with Eisenhower on unemployment practices; Hodges' experiences during his college years; business career with Marshall Field & Co.; general comments about the tobacco industry in North Carolina; background for the governor's job; anecdotes about his first days in the office; bringing industry into the state; implementing school desegregation; problems with the press; relationship with Sékou Touré, president of Guinea; an anecdote concerning John F. Kennedy, politics, and prejudice; Commerce Department work in the area of international trade; purpose and scope of the Research Triangle Foundation; relationship with and impressions of Adlai Stevenson.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Paul L. Hopper, Feb. 18, 1968]