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CARLSON

CARLSON, FRANK (OH-488) 138 pages OPEN

Member, U.S. House of Representatives, 1935-47; Governor of Kansas, 1947-51; U.S. Senator, 1951-69; active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1952.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background; WWI service. Discussion of his start in politics; his campaign for congress; views of Senator Harry Darby; contributions to congress. Comments on improving care of mentally ill while governor. His encouragement of General Eisenhower to run for president; discussion of Senator Robert A. Taft; Carlson's campaign efforts for Eisenhower. Meeting to nominate vice presidential candidate. Taft's decision to help with campaign; meeting between Eisenhower and Taft to discuss campaign. Observations on Nixon's Checkers speech; DDE's reaction to speech; DDE/Nixon relationship. Briefly mentions campaigning with Eisenhower.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #2. Describes the beginning of the National Prayer Breakfast; briefly mentions DDE's relationship with Billy Graham. His reaction to 1952 congressional election results. Lengthy discussion of selection of cabinet members, particularly Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson. Legislative leadership meeting to discuss the Senator McCarthy situation; Carlson's appointment to Watkins committee. Further discussion of legislative leadership meetings dealing with postal operations and an executive order to reorganize the civil service. Mentions Milton Eisenhower's involvement in advising DDE. The selection of Senator William Knowland as Senate majority leader; Knowland's relations with Lyndon Johnson; Johnson's relations with Robert Taft. Discussion of accomplishments while in Senate; interaction with various Senators on the Senate Finance committee; Trip to Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba in 1959, for Foreign Relations Committee. Discussion of "Modern Republicanism" that Eisenhower administration was pushing. Carlson's "Modern Republicanism." 1956 Senatorial campaign against George Hart. Talks about friends in the Senate.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview #1 by Maclyn Burg, 1975; interview #2 by David Horrocks, 1975]