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McPHEE, HENRY ROEMER

(OH-564)

22 Pages

Open

Special Assistant to President's Economic Advisor, 1954-57; Assistant Special Counsel to the President, 1957-58' Associate Special Counsel to the President, 1958-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Discussion of positions while in the White House, while also discussing political background before entering White House. Discussion of McPhee's decision to leave the White House. Following, McPhee discusses his relationship with the Bureau of the Budget (BOB) and his opinions on the role of the BOB in programming, clearance, and in enrolled enactments. His role was reviewing bills as they came to the President from BOB. For example, he mentions he directly reviewed cases related to international civil aviation, but otherwise, he worked with people like Gerald Morgan, General Persons, or Sherman Adams. Also, McPhee mentions the role of the President reviewing and signing bills that brought to the attention of the Special Counsel. Next, he discusses the role of the President in programming, which he admits was at a minimum. The interviewers bring up McPhee's role as the contact point between the White House and Legislative Reference. Jim Hyde brings up George Reedy's book, The Twilight of the Presidency, and asks McPhee opinions over the thesis. Ideas on how a President's staff is supposed to run is discussed. McPhee brings up Tom Stephens, Appointment Secretary to Eisenhower, and his role in access to the President. The role of Special Counsel Office once Gerald Persons is head of the Congressional Liaison is discussed. Next, McPhee opinionates on suspicions of political loyalties of the civil servants in the BOB. Then, McPhee opinionates on the role of the Special Counsel's Office in the Nixon Administration. McPhee discusses if he feels the OMB is a negative outfit, and then the interview is concluded.

[Interview by Stephen Wayne, 1974]