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PYLE/MASTERSON

PYLE, HOWARD K.

OH-120

134 pp. w/ Index

PRCQ

Administrative Assistant to the President, 1955-59

MASTERSON, CHARLES

Active in the Citizens for Eisenhower movement, 1952; Special Assistant in the White House, 1952-56

DESCRIPTION: PART I: PYLE: Biographical material and business background; experiences relative to his gubernatorial service; concerns regarding the federal--state relationship (incl. recommendations of the Kestnbaum Report, development of the Federal--State Action Committee; results of the commission's work); comments about Eisenhower as a leader; development of "Fact Papers"; observations concerning Sherman Adams' character; conclusions regarding the electorate drawn from research based on 1956 election results; the effectiveness of the Fact Papers and press conferences as communication devices (incl. purpose and use of the Fact Papers, effectiveness of the system, organization of material for press conferences, cooperation within the administration for gathering material, dissemination of the Fact Papers); comments about White House appointees; observations regarding Eisenhower's decision to stand for re-election; a comparison of generals Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur (incl. characters, appeal to general public, achievements, comments regarding MacArthur, the atomic bomb, and the Japanese national character); comments about Robert A. Taft; Pyle's 1952 campaign activities; reasons behind Pyle's loss of the governorship in 1954; political lessons; general observations about the capabilities of the White House staff.

PART II: MASTERSON AND PYLE: The Citizens for Eisenhower movement (incl. leadership, organization, and purpose, activities, relationship with the Republican National Committee); the interstate highway system (incl. background to the plan, role played by General Lucius Clay, purpose of the system); development of the "Fact Papers" (incl. an anecdote involving Sherman Adams, purpose and form, subject matter); the Speakers' Coordination project (incl. purpose, the system established); implementation of the Public Information Review service (incl. purpose, program established); the Fact Papers (incl. circulation and use of, value to members of the administration, Cabinet input, sources used to coordinate information, quality of material used, updating the issues covered, difficulties in reconciling conflicting statements, reasons for dropping the Fact Papers); problems faced by appointees and permanent White House staff during changing administrations; an anecdote involving Eisenhower's first White House staff meeting; an anecdote concerning Eisenhower's feelings about the Yalta decisions; the Eisenhower press conferences; the McCarthy issue; criticism concerning Eisenhower's decision-making process (incl. Eisenhower's attitude regarding Nixon in 1956, the charge that Eisenhower was too shielded by his staff); comments regarding gifts, officials, and influence (incl. an anecdote about Pyle's own experience, Adams and the Bernard Goldfine case); observations regarding Eisenhower's character (incl. his "mature" attitude toward decision-

making, his religious nature, several anecdotes); significant contributions of the Eisenhower administration; development of the Little Rock situation; pressures exerted by the inconsistency of public attitudes (incl. spending and non-spending programs, states' rights and federalism); miscellaneous comments (incl. Eisenhower's view of Presidential power, information officers generally, Sherman Adams' character and the Goldfine affair).

NAME INDEX.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, Part I, May 11, 1967; Part II, May 23, 1967]