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BROWNELL

BROWNELL, HERBERT (OH-157) 347 pages PRCQ

Active in the Eisenhower Campaign, 1952; Attorney General of the United States, 1953-57.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Comments re his early activity in Republican politics; his work in the Dewey campaigns; his tenure as Republican National Chairman in 1944; his involvement in DDE's 1952 campaign for the Republican presidential nomination; his relationship with Senator Robert Taft; his 1952 conversation with DDE in Paris following the New Hampshire primary; and the Republican state convention in Texas.

Interview #2. Comments re DDE's Korea speech during the 1952 presidential campaign; campaign strategy used by DDE during 1952; use of television during the 1952 campaign; DDE's Abilene speech announcing his candidacy in 1952; DDE's relationship with General MacArthur; his appointment as Attorney General by DDE; the selection process for Cabinet nominees and other administration officials following the 1952 election; appointment of Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and the 1953 inauguration.

Interview #3. Comments re cabinet selections following the 1952 election; administrative changes made in the Justice Department; reform of the U.S. Attorney system; the Wetback situation; racial integration of the District of Columbia; the Civil Rights Act of 1957; Brown vs. Board of Education decision by the Supreme Court; the Texas Tidelands case; the Bricker Amendment; the Rosenberg case; establishment of the Internal Security Division; Joseph McCarthy; and the function of the F.B.I.

Interview #4. Comments re civil rights; the Little Rock crisis; Senator Knowland's help in passing the 1957 Civil Rights Act; Vice-President Nixon and Chief Justice Warren; Adam Clayton Powell; the Emmett Till murder case; U.S. prison system; wire-tapping; labor racketeering; narcotics; and Presidential incapacity legislation.

Interview #5. Comments re civil rights; threats on his life; Walter Reuther's opposition to the 1957 Civil Rights Act; Black Muslims; DDE's thoughts on his safety as President; John V. Lindsay; Hungarian refugee program; wire-tapping; areas of responsibility for the CIA and FBI; the McCarthy controversy; labor racketeering; Jimmy Hoffa; Dave Beck; Adam Clayton Powell; the Grunewald case; anti-trust activity; and DDE's personality and character. A name index for all five interviews is located at the end of interview #5.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews 1-3 by Ed Edwin, 1967, and interview 4 and 5 by Ed Edwin, 1968]