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FRANKE

FRANKE, WILLIAM B. (OH-182) 51 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1954-57; Under Secretary of the Navy, 1957-59;  
Secretary of the Navy, 1959-61.

Interview #1. Initial contact with DDE. Service on Doolittle Task Force to study the CIA. Service in the Department of the Navy: appointment as Assistant Secretary, in charge of financial management; testimony before Congress; preparing budgets (hearings, ship needs, closing naval yards, relations with the Bureau of the Budget); working with the Chief of Naval Operations and his staff; Polaris submarines, atomic aircraft carriers, and other ship requirements of the Navy, rivalry between the services; Admiral Rickover; judgment on value of having civilian secretaries of the service branches; necessity of interdepartmental communication. Short comments on period of Presidential transitions, Lebanon incident, and SEATO.

[Columbia Oral History Project interview by John T. Mason, Jr., 1972]