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HOWARD

HOWARD, KATHERINE G. (OH-255) 603 pages PRCQ (M)

Secretary, Republican National Committee, 1948-52; Member, Eisenhower's Campaign Policy and Strategy Committee, 1952; Deputy Administrator, Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA), 1953-54; Special Advisor to FCDA, 1954-57. U.S. delegate to NATO committee on civil defense, 1953-56; Deputy U.S. Commissioner General to the Brussels World Fair, 1957-58.

Interview #1. Personal political background: started work in Massachusetts; service on Republican National Committee. DDE's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination: isolationism versus internationalism in the GOP; her role in the fight over the contested Texas delegates; comments on her being secretary of the convention; the Langlie Fair Play Amendment. Working in the election campaign: women in the campaign; press relations with DDE; campaign incidents and strategy; trip through the South. The campaign train: DDE's personal magnetism; staff responsibilities; Nixon Fund incident; DDE's physician, Dr. H. Snyder; women and Mamie Eisenhower.

Interview #2. The 1952 Convention: moral issue and strategy over contested delegates (Texas, Georgia, Louisiana); floor fights over Brown and Langlie Amendments; nominating speeches; her recollections of reading the roll for the actual nomination. Comments on national nominating conventions in general: length of speeches; party platforms; federal monies for campaigns. 1952 Convention again: not a steal by wealthy Easterners; sectional interests becoming less important in national conventions; role of newsmen and television; importance and impact of city where convention is held.

Interview #3. Observations on being in the White House on Inauguration Day. Assistant Administrator of FCDA: DDE asking her; swearing in; first weeks on the job; educating the general public on civil defense; Operation Doorstep and atomic bomb tests; speaking engagements. Deputy Administrator of FCDA: nomination and confirmation; work on congressional liaison; responsibility for women's affairs; civil defense role in natural disasters (e.g., 1953 tornado in Vicksburg, Mississippi); Operation Alert; evacuation of cities and use of fallout shelters; relations with L. Strauss and Atomic Energy Commission. Personal relationship with the Eisenhowers, and White House social occasions. Sherman Adams. Resignation from FCDA, and part-time work as a consultant on civil defense questions.

Interview #4. Background on how and why NATO established. Observations on attending her first NATO committee meeting on Civil Defense (CD), 1953, and impressions of CD work in Holland and England. May 1954 NATO meeting on CD, and showing film on hydrogen bomb. Inspection of CD facilities in Germany, October 1954. Trip through Mediterranean countries in 1955—comment on CD activities (administration, training, first aid, shelters, number of women involved) in each: Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Italy. Spring 1956 NATO meeting on CD, and consultations

on CD matters with officials in several European countries: Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway. News story of her having a suitcase packed in readiness for possible evacuation.

Interview #5. Campaign train as a mobile campaign headquarters. Joining DDE's campaign staff. Day-by-day account of various incidents and experiences on the campaign train, including: plowing contest speech; reactions to DDE's appearances; Fred Seaton making out schedules; Mamie Eisenhower as a campaigner; tasks in the campaign: contact person for women's groups; Herald-Tribune Forum speech; DDE's birthday party.

Interview #6. Observations on campaign activities: Rachel Adams; Howard's letters to women leaders conveying DDE's regard for importance of women; last week of the campaign (New York, Chicago, Boston); DDE and Tom Dewey. Mamie Eisenhower. Final rally in Boston Garden. Henry Cabot Lodge's senate race. Comments on her resignation from FCDA, 1954.

Interview #7. Appointment as Deputy United States Commissioner General to the Brussels World Fair. Belgian plans for the fair. United States pavilion: them; exhibits; circarama. Howard's role: organized the American guides; responsibility for soliciting funds from business and industry to help support the U.S. effort; established "the continuing program for presenting distinguished American women" (includes comments on some of the women who gave talks). National Day Celebrations: Fourth of July gala at U.S. pavilion; other nations, and their pavilions and national days. Comments on important visitors to the U.S. pavilion. Summary: final dinner with Belgian royal family; closing the U.S. pavilion; effect of the fair on Belgium.

[Columbia Oral History Project Interviews by John T. Mason, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971]