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FLANDERS

FLANDERS, RALPH (OH-27) 54 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

Senator from Vermont, 1946-58; leader of move to censure Senator Joseph McCarthy.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. World opinion of McCarthy's activities; Senator Tyding's investigation of McCarthy; the Republican Party's attitude toward McCarthy; Flander's three speeches to the Senate re McCarthy; comments re David Schine and Irving Peress; the appointment of the committee to investigate McCarthy; Eisenhower's involvement in the McCarthy affair; Republican reaction to Flander's appeal for an investigation; comments re the charges against McCarthy; the relationship between McCarthy and Senator Watkins; correspondence received by Flanders during the McCarthy investigation; comments re the two party system in American politics; comments re Senator Saltonstall; the effect of McCarthy's activities upon FBI investigations of communists; Flander's exposure on television; Flander's opinion of McCarthy; comments re bipolarization in the Republican Party.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #2. The attitude of leading Republican politicians particularly Senator Bridges, towards Flanders; comments re Senatorial courtesy; Nixon's role in the McCarthy affair; comments re Senator Knowland, Senator William Jenner, and Senator Robert Taft; the relationship between Taft and the White House; additional comments re Senator Watkins; the role of prominent Democrats, such as John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, in the McCarthy investigation; comments re Johnson's abilities as Senate floor leader.

[Columbia Oral History Project interview by Ed Edwin, 1967]