

Processed by: VJA
Date: 07/19/06

MASON

MASON, PAUL

OH-455

99 pp. w/index

PRQ

(This transcript is bound in *The Governor's Office Under Goodwin Knight*)

Expert on governmental procedure and organization, executive secretary for Governor Goodwin Knight, 1953-1958.

DESCRIPTION – Interview #1: Family background; education at Stanford; hired to work for the state legislature; writing about the legislature and legislation; Board of Equalization; appointment as chief of the Division of Drivers' Licenses at the Department of Motor Vehicles; first encounters with Goodwin Knight; political practice of cross-filing; non-partisanship; Knight's relationship with national politicians; prominent personalities on the Governor's office staff; clash between Knight and Richard Nixon over the Republican State Central Committee; the "Big Switch" William F. Knowland-Knight.

Interview #2: Structure and function of Knight's staff; legislative bickering and the California Water Plan; special session in 1956 to deal with the water issue; major sponsors for Knight's bills; water bills; negotiating with the Federal government on the San Luis Dam; William Bonelli; liquor lobby and liquor control; Artie Samish; tideland oil revenue; weekly legislative meetings with Knight; highway legislation; build-up to the Big Switch; intra-party feuding; Knight's aborted campaign against Nixon in 1961; California politics in the 1960s.

NAME & SUBJECT INDEX.

[Governmental History Documentation Project, Goodwin Knight/Edmund Brown, Sr. Era, Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, interviews by James H. Rowland, February 22 and March 16, 1979]