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RABB

RABB, MAXWELL M.

(OH-479)

34 pages

Open

Secretary of the Cabinet, White House Staff, 1953-58

DESCRIPTION: Extensive comments on Eisenhower's Cabinet and the Cabinet Secretariat: creation of the Secretariat; stature of individual cabinet members; Rabb's duties; discussion and decision-making at Cabinet meetings; preparation of agenda for meetings; coordination between departments; role of Sub-Cabinet; use of charts at Cabinet meetings; taking minutes of meetings; reluctance of Cabinet members to discuss problems of their agencies; examples of problems: civil defense, internal security, water desalinization; importance of Cabinet papers; relations with Staff Secretariat. Preparation of book by Robert J. Donovan [Eisenhower: The Inside Story, 1956]. Rabb's role in civil rights and refugee matters. Refugee Relief Act of 1953: negotiations with House and Senate Judiciary Committees; Rabb's meetings with Senators Pat McCarran, Everett Dirksen, John Marshall Butler and William Langer.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview by David Horrocks, 1975]