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PITTENGER

Pittenger, Richard M.

OH-88

38 pp. w/Index

PRCQ

Vice-President of Farmers Insurance Group, 1948-; active in press affairs at the 1952 Houston Governors' Conference and the Republican National Convention

DESCRIPTION: Professional background; the 1952 National Governors' Conference in Houston (incl. some of the personalities involved, Pittenger's role at the Conference, details of the plan for protesting the "Taft steal of Texas"); Eisenhower's political position at this point; the role of the press in Eisenhower's success; dynamics of the 1952 National Governors' Conference; preparation for Eisenhower's appearance at the Lake George conference; an anecdote concerning Dan Thornton's loss of a Cabinet appointment; Pittenger's participation in the 1952 Republican Convention; the 1952 campaign (incl. Pittenger's early impressions of Eisenhower, an anecdote concerning Eisenhower and the "I will go to Korea" speech, comments on the public appeal of Eisenhower and [Adlai E.] Stevenson); Eisenhower's perception of the press; an anecdote involving Eisenhower and golf; observations about Earl Warren as a political figure; an anecdote concerning Howard Pyle, unions, and the press; California politics (incl. comments about Richard M. Nixon, William F. Knowland, and Goodwin Knight); general observations about Sherman Adams, official gift giving, and Eisenhower's relationship with the governors' conferences.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, June 28, 1967]