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ROGERS

ROGERS, WILLIAM P.
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51 pgs. w/

Deputy Attorney General of the United States, 1953-57; Attorney
General of the
United States, 1957-61

DESCRIPTION: Early career as assistant district attorney under Thomas E. Dewey; lessons learned from Dewey; changing perceptions of prosecutors; insights into human nature; use of wire tapping; military service; working for D.A. Frank Hogan; appointment as counsel for Senate Investigating Subcommittee (Truman Committee); successful investigations (the Aramco Oil Co. and price-gouging; Air Force General Bennett Myers and corruption in contract-awarding); remaining as counsel under Democratic-controlled Senate; role of the counsel in relation to the committee; rules of conduct for the counsel and the committee; examples of hearings conducted; reputation of committee; constitutional limitations to and scope of committee investigations; Rogers' assessment of public officials; going into private practice; reasons for joining the Eisenhower nomination movement; assessment of Senator Taft's character; Rogers' appointment to handle contested delegate cases (incl. results of the Texas and Louisiana conventions, researching historical precedents, formulating a procedure, preparation of case and appearance before the credentials committee of the national convention, controversy over allowing television and press coverage of the hearings, adoption of the "Fair Play Amendment," value of television usage); first meeting with Eisenhower; the shifting of the Minnesota delegation to secure Eisenhower's nomination; alleged animosity between [Richard M.] Nixon and [Earl I.] Warren (incl. divisions within the California delegation, voting on Fair Play Amendment, voting for Warren on first ballot, the Supreme Court nomination); Rogers' relationship with Nixon (incl. the Alger Hiss case, traveling together during the election campaign); appointment as Deputy Attorney General; the controversy over the Nixon Fund (incl. pressures on Nixon to resign from the ticket, crowd and press reactions, Nixon's television speech and the results); Rogers' perception of the need for political "mystique" (Nixon's and Robert Kennedy's possession of it; [Hubert] Humphrey's and [Eugene] McCarthy's lack of it); responsibilities of the Deputy Attorney General (incl. recommending appointments, reporting on legislative matters, serving as liaison with

Congress); relationship with [Herbert] Herb Brownell; the Deputy's responsibilities to the White House; the problems involved in finding the right people for key jobs (examples: Stanley Barnes and Warren Olney); the Administration's emphasis on honesty and integrity in government (the functioning of the Parole Board cited as a particular example); the components of success. NAME INDEX

[Columbia University Oral History, interview by John T. Mason, Jr., June 28, 1968]