

Oral History Interview
Rev. Ray I. Witter
August 28, 1964

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MR. BARBASH: Rev. Witter, based on your weekend visits and the amount of time that you spent at the Eisenhower home, do you think you could give us a rough idea of what Ida Eisenhower was like, what sort of a woman she was?

REV. WITTER: Well, she was a woman to know her, you can see why the boys [her sons] respect her as they do today. She had a talent of management in the home, the boys had their work assigned, while there were no sisters or daughters in the home, those boys had their share of the work, no matter what it was, whether it was baking or washing dishes or cleaning up floors. They had their work assigned to them, cleaning up and everything and they could do it. I remember one time the boys stated how they put the dishes away—one would stand at the dishpan, the other at the drying pan, another at the cupboard and they would toss the dishes over like a ball, one to another, and they made fun out of play but Aunt idea was a great cook and she was very able to manage the household and command respect from her boys, from her family, and there was cooperation in the home between the husband and the wife. I'd never know them to disagree, at least, among others when I was there, but she kept her house in good order and she controlled the boys as I would say in short.

Historical Note: Rev. Ray I. Witter was a first cousin to Dwight D. Eisenhower. His mother was a sister to David Eisenhower, Dwight's father.