

Prepared by: EAQ  
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FINCH

FINCH, ROBERT H. (OH-20) 69 pgs. w/Name Index PRCQ (M)

Vice-Chairman of Los Angeles county Central Republican Committee, 1954-56; Administrative Assistant to Vice-President Nixon, 1958-1960; Campaign Director for 1960 Nixon presidential campaign, 1960; Chairman of senatorial campaign for George Murphy, 1964; Lieutenant Governor of California 1967-1969.

#### DESCRIPTION:

Personal background; introduction to Richard Nixon; Marshall Plan; conversations with Nixon regarding House Un-American Committee; work on Nixon campaign in 1956; administrative assistant for Nixon in 1958; work on Nixon's 1960 presidential campaign and 1962 California gubernatorial campaign; work on George Murphy's 1964 Senate campaign; Finch elected Lieutenant Governor of California in 1966; impact of Marshall Plan on Nixon's political position; House Un-American Committee abuses and Nixon's suggested remedies; Nixon's decision to run for Senate and campaign against Helen Gahagan Douglas; Earl Warren's late endorsement of Nixon in campaign; impressions of Nixon's political potential; Republican party in Los Angeles; Nixon's decision to run for president in 1960; 1958 California election with William Knowland for Governor and Goodwin Knight for Senator; Nixon's relationship with Knight and Knowland; party politics in California; Nixon's preparations for 1960 presidential election; Nelson A. Rockefeller; Rockefeller's withdrawal from the race; Democratic nomination of John F. Kennedy; Wisconsin primary; impact of Catholic voters on the election; Nixon and Civil Rights legislation; Nixon's functions as vice-president to Eisenhower; Herb Klein; Pierre Salinger; Nixon's opinion polls; Jim Bassett; Nixon's use of advisors; Nixon-Rockefeller agreement; Nixon's platform; Henry Cabot Lodge; Nixon-Eisenhower relationship during 1960 convention; Eisenhower's role in Nixon presidential campaign; debate with Kennedy; Vincent Peal's speech; Reformation Sunday sermons; Nixon's religious background; Nixon's refusal to launch attacks on Kennedy's family and personal background; Kennedy's purported first marriage; Nixon's conduct during the presidential campaign, Eisenhower's remark about Nixon's role in his administration; Nixon's opinion of Eisenhower as president and party leader; Finch's opinion of Eisenhower as party leader; Eisenhower's trip to New York for Nixon's campaign; Nixon's travels as vice-president; Nixon's campaign strategies; final week telethon in Detroit; 1960 election night; question of tampered election results; Nixon's reaction to losing the 1960 presidential election.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, June 19, 1967]