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THAYER

THAYER, WALTER N. (OH-272) 53 pages PRCQ

Active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1952; active in the Nixon campaign, 1960.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Working with the Citizens for Eisenhower organization: the 1952 Presidential campaign and advising the Citizens organization on political fund-raising; relationship between the Republican National Committee and the Citizens organization; influence of the citizens organization and its leaders on the development of the Republican party; why people supported the Citizens organization. The 1960 Presidential campaign, and DDE's support for Richard Nixon: Nixon's reasons for not immediately seeking DDE's vocal support; Thayer and Bill Paley helping to arrange a DDE speech supporting Nixon; drafting the speech; observation on the Kennedy-Nixon television debates. The formation in 1962 of the National Republican Citizens Committee. Milton Eisenhower's role in convening regular "study groups" to keep DDE informed of current issues in the post-Presidential years.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, 1967]