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Date: 9/27/88

FLEMMING

FLEMMING, ARTHUR S.

(OH-504)

88 pages

OPEN

Member, First and Second Hoover Commissions, 1947-49 and 1953-58; President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization, 1953-61; Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, 1953-57; Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, 1958-61; President's Commission on Civil Rights, 1975-81.

DESCRIPTION: 1956 Suez Crisis and role of the Office of Defense Mobilization in developing emergency reserve oil plan; Eisenhower's views on the Suez Crisis the day hostilities broke out; Eisenhower's decisiveness and control of situation during the crisis.

Flemming's role and experiences with ODM during Truman Administration; Eisenhower's selection of Fleming as ODM Director; inter-agency organization to administer 1956 oil reserve plan; Eisenhower's use of the NSC during 1954 Indochina Crisis; Eisenhower as "consultative manager"—his decision making style in the NSC and the cabinet; Eisenhower's use of the cabinet; Defense Department budget.

First Hoover Commission and the creation of the Department of Defense; creation of Joint Chiefs of Staff; Eisenhower's expectations of his Secretary of Defense; Fleming's appraisals of Wilson, McElroy and Gates as Defense secretaries.

NSC organization under Eisenhower; Bobby Cutler's roles and duties as Special Assistant for National Security Affairs; Fleming's appraisal of Cutler in Special Assistant's role; NSC Planning Board; Operations Coordinating Board; Cutler-Sherman Adams relationship; Fleming's appraisal of Adams; Goldfine Affair; Fleming on shortcomings of recent NSC organization and operations.

Flemming's background for job as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Fleming's management style as head of HEW; relationships of HEW with constituent groups; expansion of Social Security disability program under Eisenhower; health care for the aged; Eisenhower's views of health care as a social insurance matter Fleming's conflict with Budget Bureau, House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee on health insurance proposals.

1960 presidential campaign; Fleming's role in the Nixon campaign; Eisenhower's limited role in the campaign; Nixon's ideas on social issues and his implementation of these ideas as president.

Elliot Richardson and genesis of National Defense Education Act; HEW's implementation of NDEA under Fleming; Marion Folsom as head of HEW; Eisenhower's response to proposed expansion of NDEA; cabinet debate on expansion of NDEA; Fleming on Greenstein's The Hidden Hand Presidency.

Brown vs. Board of Education; background to Civil Rights Commission; changes in Civil Rights Commission since 1981; evasion of integration by "private" Virginia schools; "noncompliance" with civil rights laws and court decisions since 1980.

Food and Drug Administration; 1959 cranberry scare; Rachel Carson and hearing on Delaney Clause; HEW as consumer advocacy agency; National Institutes of Health; chemotherapy research at NIH; “holdovers” from Democratic administrations in HEW bureaucracy; Eisenhower and the career civil service ; demoralization and loss of talent in civil service since 1977.

Senator Taft and creation of HEW; HEW staff and staffing; impact of pressure groups on the administration of HEW, 1958-61; Oveta Culp Hobby; HEW and civil rights; HEW since 1961.

NAMES

Adams, Sherman
Anderson, Dillon
Burroughs, Robert
Carson, Rachel
Carter, Jimmy
Cohen, Wilbur
Folsom, Marion
Forrestal, James
Gates, Thomas
Goldfine, Bernard
Goodpaster, Andrew
Gray, Gordon
Hobby, Oveta Culp
Kissinger, Henry
Lippman, Walter
McElroy, Neil
Mills, Wilbur
Miles, Rufus
Nixon, Richard
Radford, Arthur
Reagan, Ronald
Ribicoff, Abraham
Richardson, Elliot
Ridgway, Matthew
Stans, Maurice
Switzer, Mary
Taft, Robert
Truman, Harry S
Wilson, Charles E. (GE)
Wilson, Charles E. (GM)

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interview by James Leyerzapf, 1988]