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WHITMAN

WHITMAN, ANN C.

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Personal Secretary to the President, 1953-61

Description: Handling files during the campaign and pre-inaugural period; Betty Bonesteel; deciding where to file White House materials; retrieval of material from central files; Eisenhower's taping system; Eisenhower's temper; Eisenhower as an editor; the Military-Industrial Complex speech; editing Eisenhower's work; time management; access to the President; Eisenhower as a decision maker (the Lebanon and Little Rock situations); Eisenhower's leadership style; Eisenhower's honesty; Eisenhower as a chauvinist; Mamie Eisenhower as a hostess; Eisenhower-Whitman relationship; the Trumans' (Harry and Margaret) criticism of Eisenhower (including comments on Eisenhower's personality and Truman's calling of John Eisenhower home for the inauguration); Eisenhower's arguments with Whitman (topics including civil rights, religion); Eisenhower's "professional" baseball experience; Merle Miller's comments on Eisenhower; Eisenhower as a boss; Whitman's comments on Eisenhower's reaction to [John] Foster Dulles' death; Whitman's relationship with Nixon; personal costs of job (including comments on her divorce from Edmund S. "Whit" Whitman and her own personality); taking job with Nelson Rockefeller (including comments about Rockefeller's character); comments on Merriman Smith; comments on White House staff (including Harry Albright, [Andrew J.] Andy Goodpaster, [Thomas E.] Tom Stephens); White House work schedule; assessment of the Eisenhower Administration years; golf.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by Martin Mack Teasley, February 15, 1991]