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GLENNAN, T. KEITH: DIARY, 1959-1961

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The diary of Dr. T. Keith Glennan, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (1958-1961), was deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Dr. Glennan in May 1970.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: -1
Approximate number of pages: 470
Number of items: 1

An instrument of gift for the diary was signed by Dr. Glennan in June 1970. Literary property rights are retained by Dr. Glennan and his son, Thomas K., Jr., after him, until their deaths. At that time such rights pass to the United States. The deed of gift stipulated that the memoir (diary) be "sealed from research use for a period of ten years." After the expiration of the ten years Dr. Glennan, in a letter dated April 22, 1981, granted the Eisenhower Library permission to review his diary according to provisions of the standard deed of gift, with the following classes of documents to be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
2. Papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established on October 1, 1958, largely in response to what was perceived as a scientific and technological threat from the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the orbiting of Sputnik I on October 4, 1957. The first administrator of NASA, T. Keith Glennan, was nominated by President Eisenhower on August 8 and sworn in on August 19, 1958. As NASA's first administrator Dr. Glennan played an instrumental role in shaping the new agency and establishing the direction of its program.

During his first few months at NASA, Dr. Glennan was occupied primarily with the initial organization and consolidation of NASA's administrative structure, including the assimilation of Department of Defense projects and facilities into NASA. Dr. Glennan's diary reflects this early period of what was later to become a multi-billion dollar agency. The diary also contains references by Dr. Glennan to inter-service rivalries over responsibilities in the space program, NASA budgetary matters, development of NASA program priorities and long-range goals, NASA procurement and contracting policies, and Glennan's working relationships with members of congress and other members of the administration, as well as his contacts with people from industry and the academic community.

Part of the title "Events and Impressions as recalled by T. Keith Glennan . . .", implies that the record is a memoir. The first segment, consisting of a summary of major events for 1958 and 1959, could be accurately termed a memoir. The bulk of the record, however, is more a diary than a memoir, since it consists of daily summaries or descriptions of events as well as Glennan's thoughts during 1960 and January of 1961. Following the diary is a report by Dr. Glennan of his reactions to and thoughts concerning the development of NASA and the space program from 1961 to November 1963.

The bound carbon copy of the original diary received by the Library has been placed in security storage, with folderized photostatic copies available for research.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sept. 8, 1905 Born, Enderlin, North Dakota

June 20, 1931 Married Ruth Adams

1935-1939 Operations Manager, Paramount Pictures, Inc.

1939-1941 Studio Manager, Paramount Pictures, Inc.

1941-1942 Studio Manager, Samuel Goldwyn Studios

1942-1945 Director, U.S. Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory

1945-1947 Executive, Ansco, Binghampton, N.Y.

1947-1966 President, Case Institute of Technology

1950-1952 Member, Atomic Energy Commission

1958-1961 Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1965-1968 President, Associated Universities, Inc., New York

1968-1969 Assistant to Chairman, The Urban Coalition

1970-1973 Ambassador, U.S. Representative to IAEA

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