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McPHEE

McPHEE, HENRY ROEMER (OH-145) 59 pages PRCQ

Special Assistant to President's Economic Advisor, 1954-57; Assistant Special Counsel to the President, 1957-58; Associate Special Counsel to the President, 1958-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background and his appointment to the White House staff. Comments re: assessment of White House staff; the staff system; Sherman Adams; the Goldfine incident; why Adams stepped down; the transition to General Persons; DDE's relationship with Dulles. Responsibilities and duties as a member of the White House staff. Comments re DDE's: grasp of intricate economic questions; interest in good will with Canada and Mexico; temper. Comments re: the FBI and security checks on potential presidential appointments; loyalty and suitability of candidates; assessment of FBI investigations; J. Edgar Hoover; DDE's belief in the retirement-at-70 rule; assessment of White House and presidential security; discussions with DDE; assessment of the American press; presidential press relations and public relations; treatment of DDE by the press; speech writing; Nixon's role in staff meetings; how history might view the Eisenhower years; Suez crisis.

A name index appears at the end of transcript.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Don North, 1970]