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ALCORN

ALCORN, H. MEADE, JR. (OH-163) 161 pages PRCQ

Active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1951-52; Service on the Republican National Committee, 1953-61, including Vice Chairman, 1956-57, Chairman, 1957-59, and General Counsel, 1959-60.

Interview #1. Personal background on entrance into politics. Active in Eisenhower's nomination and election campaigns, 1952: Chairman, Connecticut Citizens for Eisenhower: convention floor leader under direction of Sherman Adams; comments generally on state delegations to national political conventions, and first meeting with Eisenhower (prior to DDE's decision to run for president); DDE as a Republican; why Alcorn did not support Robert Taft in 1952. DDE as president: effect of his military training on how he ran the office; impressions of DDE's Cabinet, and Cabinet meetings. Anecdote of an incident involving John Foster Dulles and Richard Nixon. The Sherman Adams-Bernard Goldfine affair: political motivations behind the attacks on Adams; DDE telling Alcorn to get Adams' resignation; assessment of the impact of the affair on Adams and the Republican party.

Interview #2. His selection as Chairman of the Republican National Committee. "Operation Dixie": his idea to build up the Republican party in the South in an attempt to provide a choice to voters regardless of their race. Ezra Taft Benson as Secretary of Agriculture. Harold Stassen's "Dump Nixon" attempt in 1956. Conservative wing of the Republican party: DDE's role in the choice of the 1964 Republican presidential candidate; Barry Goldwater, and his ambition to be president. Richard Nixon's conduct: during the 1960 campaign; during DDE's several illnesses while president.

NOTE: According to the wishes expressed by Mr. Alcorn at the time of his interviews, the following pages are presently under seal: 75-88, 94-117, 126-127, and 153-155.

[COHP interviews by Ed Edwin, 1967]