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BURKE

BURKE, JAMES V., JR. (OH-173) 54 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

General Counsel, Department of Defense, 1959-61.

Interview #1. Comments on his appointment as General Counsel. Security problems, and the defection to Russia of W.H. Martin and B.F. Mitchell in 1960. Division of projects between NASA and Defense Department. Impressions of Defense Secretaries Neil McElroy and Thomas Gates, and other key civilian and military personnel in the Department. The military-industrial complex, and possible conflicts of interest. Use of the doctrine on “executive privilege.” Anecdotes about and impressions of DDE as President and politician. Anecdotes about Khrushchev’s visits to U.S. Transition of his office, 1961. The “missile gap” controversy in 1960, and leaks of security information.

[Columbia University Oral History Project interview by John Luter, 1972]