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PERSONS

PERSONS, GENERAL WILTON B. (OH-399) 23 pgs. Open

Active in Eisenhower campaign of 1952; Deputy Assistant to the President, 1953-58; The Assistant to the President, 1958-61.

DESCRIPTION: Persons' position as Congressional liaison; purpose of the Congressional Relations Office; Persons' involvement in policy making and legislation in Eisenhower's administration; Civil Rights legislation; Eisenhower's State of the Union address; department and agency testimony on proposed legislation; communication between Eisenhower and majority leaders Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn; liaisons between Congress and the White House; Bryce Harlow and Jack Martin; attempts to get around Bureau of the Budget recommendations; Eisenhower's involvement with congressional relations; Persons' contact with the bureau of the Budget; Roger Jones; Eisenhower administration's opinion of careerists in Bureau of the Budget who stayed on from Truman's administration; Joseph Dodge; Persons' involvement in advising Eisenhower on legislation requiring his signature or veto; Congressional liaison operations with Republican majorities and Democratic majorities; Persons as Assistant to Eisenhower (replacing Sherman Adams); Persons' involvement in formulating Eisenhower's program; Cabinet responsibilities in developing the President's program; Vice-President Richard Nixon's involvement in Eisenhower's programs; Roger Jones; Eisenhower's interest in domestic legislation; briefings of John F. Kennedy administration to ease transition; Eisenhower-Kennedy transition compared to Truman-Eisenhower transition; off the record comments.

[Interview by Stephen J. Wayne, May 29, 1974]