

RICHARD M. BISSELL JR. PAPERS  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS SERIES  
1954 - 1994; 2 Boxes

Following his departure from government service, Richard M. Bissell Jr. was a sought after subject for oral history interviews. Repositories of historical materials sought his remembrances of both events and individuals tied to significant government actions of which he was a part or into which he had insight during his varied career as a public employee.

This series contains Bissell's personal copies of the oral history interviews he did beginning in 1966 specifically for repositories of historical records. The published copies of these interviews may be found in their respective sponsoring repositories. Interviewing repositories include the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library (now the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum), the Harry S. Truman Library (now the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum), the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the John F. Kennedy Library (now the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum), Columbia University, Georgetown University and Princeton University. Topics addressed in the oral histories filed here include but are not limited to Bissell's personal background, the European Recovery Program (ERP) ("Marshall Plan"), United States foreign policy, the U-2 aircraft, the Bay of Pigs invasion, John Foster Dulles and Allen Welsh Dulles, Guatemala and other topics.

The series is arranged in two sections; the oral history draft copies are separate from related correspondence and supporting documentation. Both the oral histories and the correspondence and accompanying supporting documentation are arranged in reverse chronological order.

In some cases the oral history folders include Bissell's personal copies of signed deeds of gift and correspondence concerning the oral history interviews. Researchers may discover edits as it is typically accepted practice to allow an oral history candidate to amend grammatical errors or sentence faults in his comments before the release of the transcript.

The correspondence and supporting documentation section of this series contains background information on the supporting institutions, further information on the topics addressed within the oral history interviews (sometimes in the form of correspondence between Bissell and the sponsoring institutions as well as between Bissell and others), and correspondence between Bissell and the sponsoring institutions regarding the facilitation of the interviews. Examples include correspondence concerning the editing of the interviews, a letter from Robert F. Kennedy to Bissell requesting his participation in an oral history program at the John F. Kennedy Library and a 1954 publication of a John Foster Dulles speech before the Council on Foreign Relations.

Researchers should also consult the Interviews Series of this collection for documentation concerning more informal interviews Bissell held with individuals and with organizations not specifically affiliated with historical repositories.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.    Contents

### [Oral Histories]

- 1    Oral History Interview – Richard M. Bissell Jr., September 11, 1990 [Foreign Affairs Oral History Program, Georgetown University] [Background; Marshall Plan; Committee for European Economic Cooperation; Averell Harriman and President's Committee on Foreign Aid; Paul Hoffman; Operations of Plan; Public Advisory Committee; Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC); European Payments Union (EPU); Lincoln Gordon]

[Harry S. Truman Library Institute – Transcript of Conference on the Making of Foreign Policy in the Truman Administration, Spring 1980] (1) – (2)

[Oral History Interview with Richard M. Bissell Jr., East Hartford, Connecticut, 1971. Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri, May, 1983] [full list of subjects discussed available from Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum – oral history interviews]

[Oral History Interview OH- #382 with Richard M. Bissell by Dr. Thomas Soapes on November 9, 1976, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library] [full list of subjects discussed available from Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum – oral history interviews]

[Oral History Interview – Columbia University, June 5, 1967, Subject: U-2 & Oral History Interview – Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, November 9, 1976, Subject: Guatemala, Bay of Pigs, U-2] [full list of subjects discussed available from Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum – oral history interviews]

Oral History Interviews with Richard M. Bissell, East Hartford Connecticut, April 25, 1967 and July 25, 1967 by Joseph E. O'Connor for the John F. Kennedy Library [first meeting with John F. Kennedy; Cuba; Bay of Pigs and aftermath]

[John Foster Dulles Oral History Project, Princeton University Library Transcript of a Recorded Interview with Richard M. Bissell Jr., September 7, 1966] [Viet Nam (U.S. intervention after the fall of Dien Bien Phu); Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO); U-2, detailed discussion of the program's development and operation; Suez; official relations between John Foster Dulles and Allen Welsh Dulles and between the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the State Department; the McCarthy era; Guatemala; Cuba; CIA participation in NSC meetings; relations with the USSR]

[Correspondence and Supporting Documentation]

- John Foster Dulles & Allen W. Dulles (Dulles Oral History) (1) – (3) [contains two headings: “Allen Welsh Dulles” (with subheadings “Leonard Mosley” and “R. Harris Smith”) and “John Foster Dulles”; correspondence with researchers regarding John Foster Dulles and Allen Welsh Dulles; manuscript review requests; correspondence regarding Princeton University’s John Foster Dulles oral history; analysis of John Foster Dulles Speech of January 13, 1954, on security policy; text of John Foster Dulles speech before the Council on Foreign Relations, January 12, 1954]
- Eisenhower Oral History Project (1) [background information concerning the Eisenhower Presidential Library]
- 2 Eisenhower Oral History Project (2) [Columbia University; donation of Bissell’s personal papers; correspondence concerning interview]
- Kennedy Oral History Project - “Hold File” (1) – (2) [death of Richard M. Bissell Jr., oral history restrictions; information regarding the Bay of Pigs report (Maxwell Taylor); design and administration of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library; donation of Bissell’s personal papers; Club of Rome; oral history deed of gift correspondence; request for an oral history interview with Bissell; Robert F. Kennedy request for Bissell’s participation in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library’s oral history program]
- Kennedy - Permission Requests for Use of JFK Oral History (1) – (4)
- Truman Oral History [death of Richard M. Bissell Jr., oral history status and disposition of his papers; oral history agreement; transcript editing; “Remarks of Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General of the United States, on the Occasion of the 1980 Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation Ceremony: ‘Always Do Right’”; Conference on the Conduct of Foreign Policy in the Truman Administration; solicitation of Richard M. Bissell Jr.’s personal papers; Richard M. Bissell Jr. oral history interview; European Recovery Program conference]

END OF CONTAINER LIST