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NELSEN

**NELSEN, ANCHER**

**OH-146**

**35 pgs.**

**PRCQ (M)**

National Administrator of Rural Electrification Administration, 1953-56;  
Congressman from Minnesota, 1959-75.

DESCRIPTION: Personal background; on platform committee at the 1952 Republican National Convention; refused the position as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; asked for and received appointment as Administrator of the Real Electrification Administration (REA); ideas on the REA in accordance with those held by DDE; Georgia Power Contract; turned down chairmanship of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); some of his experiences in the REA; Walter Judd an early advocate for DDE in Minnesota; 1952 Minnesota delegation committed to Harold Stassen; early impressions of DDE; running and losing election for Minnesota governor; elected to Congress in 1958; Edward Thye; defeating Orville Freeman; Ezra Taft Benson's agricultural policies; politics of rural electrification; Milton Eisenhower; TVA, REA and the 1964 campaign; good support from the Bureau of the Budget during his time at REA; power cooperatives, privatization and other power issues; 100% parity controversy.

[Columbia Oral History Program, interview by Ed Edwin, April 10, 1970]