

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 1/6/2000

HARDEMAN

HARDEMAN, D.B.

OH 213

146 pp. w/ Index

PRCQ

Active in the Stevenson campaign in Texas, 1952; Member, Democratic National Committee, 1953-54

DESCRIPTION: PART I: Biographical material; condition of the Texas Democratic Party; political activities working for the Democratic National Committee and Adlai Stevenson's 1956 campaign; anecdotes involving Carl Vinson; the Florida primary campaign of 1956; Stevenson's 1952 campaign (incl. comments and anecdotes concerning the Texas staff, the visit to Uvalde and John Nance Garner, Stevenson's bodyguard, effects of the Tidelands controversy, management aspects of the campaign, Stevenson's appeal to voters, the negative impact of Stevenson's wit, the divorce question, Stevenson's contributions to political campaigning); Texas politicians, cross filing, and party loyalties; anecdotes involving [Samuel] Sam Rayburn.

PART II: Rayburn's opinion of vice-presidential contenders Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy, and Estes Kefauver; political anecdotes from a dinner party; Stevenson's account of a visit with Winston Churchill; a comment about Stevenson's character; Kefauver as a political contender; Stevenson's speech-writing habits; the integration question (incl. an anecdote involving Florida's mixed-meeting laws, Stevenson's handling of the issue); changes in Stevenson's political aspirations during two campaign seasons; the value of Eisenhower's health and the Suez invasion as campaign issues; the effects of Stevenson's strontium-90 speech; the struggle for party control in Texas; the Rayburn-Johnson association (incl. differences in political problems, "father-son" relationship); Rayburn's opinion of the Eisenhowers; philosophy behind the Rayburn-Johnson cooperation with Eisenhower; the Tidelands issue (incl. the proposed state-federal compromise, Stevenson's position, legislative action by the Eisenhower administration, Texas attitudes); Rayburn's power position in Texas; the Allan Shivers-Price Daniel rivalry (incl. comments about personalities, political positions, issues); working for the Democratic Committee; an anecdote involving a Stevenson speech at the University of Texas; working with Hale Boggs; comments about Robert Sykes; Southern political attitudes, historically and during the Stevenson campaigns; an anecdote relating how John Sparkman became the vice-presidential candidate in 1952; comments about the United Auto Workers' political organization; an anecdote involving Stevenson and Melvyn Douglas; researching for a Rayburn biography; working in Rayburn's office; Rayburn and the 1960 Democratic nomination (incl. his backing of Johnson, his opinion of Kennedy, his feelings about Stevenson's chances, pre-convention maneuverings); Rayburn's political attitude; Rayburn's main disagreements with the Eisenhower administration; Rayburn's relationships with the Eisenhower lobbyists (incl. the men he liked, his friendship with Robert B. Anderson, his dislike of John Foster Dulles and Sherman Adams); the [Joseph] Joe Martin-Charles Halleck feud (incl. Rayburn's role, the cause of the quarrel); the Rayburn-Martin friendship; the Rayburn-Halleck friendship; two anecdotes involving Rayburn and Richard Nixon; Rayburn's view of the values of negotiation vs. confrontation; Rayburn's feelings about Eisenhower's farm policy; several humorous anecdotes

involving Stevenson; comments about the race question (incl. an anecdote about a mixed race meeting in Miami, some Rayburn observations about race issues); general comments about individuals associated with Stevenson (incl. character sketches, attitudes, personal relationships, anecdotes).

NAME INDEX.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, Part I, Dec. 27, 1969; Part II, Jan. 3, 1970]