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STANS

STANS, MAURICE H.

(OH-46)

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PRCQ

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Financial consultant to Postmaster General, 1953-55; Deputy Postmaster, 1955-57; Deputy Director, 1957-58; and Director, 1958-61, Bureau of the Budget.

DESCRIPTION: Childhood in Minnesota; attending the University of Chicago; work as an accountant for Alexander Grant and Co; enlisted as a budget analyst for the House Appropriations Committee at end of Truman administration; wrote report on Post Office budget; recommendation for Post Office research; consultant job to modernize Post Office financial system; appointment as Deputy Postmaster General; initial contact with President Eisenhower; postal reforms; Arthur Summerfield; how Summerfield handled unfortunate situations; political activities and government officials; bringing modern business practices to Post Office department; work as acting Postmaster General; Cabinet meetings; giving speeches; problems encountered during his time as Deputy Director; experiment in facsimile mail and electronic devices; postal rate increases; Post Office budget and revenues and Congressional appropriations; financial structure of the Post Office; McCarthyism and the Post Office; move from Post Office to Bureau of the Budget; evaluation of Eisenhower as President; reaction of the public to Eisenhower; Eisenhower's contacts with Cabinet members; description of the job and duties of Director of the Budget; management of the Commerce Department; staff of the Bureau of the Budget; keeping current on major subjects and policy issues; reasons for his success as Budget Director; working with the President; 'Stans' Law' on effective budgeting; senators and representatives from committee that he worked with; weekly meetings with the National Security Council; membership of the NSC; working with the Treasury Department; process of setting up a budget; working with Eisenhower to balance the budget; working with agencies on budget requests; review and appeals process; Congressional legislation; daily schedule; achieving the necessary cuts in the 1960 Budget; Arthur Flemming and the HEW budget; funding for medical research; foreign aid; competition with Soviet foreign aid programs; stimulation of free enterprise in other countries; lack of fiscal discipline in the 1960s; differences between Congressional advocates of spending and of economy; differences between Eisenhower in 1953 and Kennedy in 1961 in their approaches to the budget; assessment of Richard Nixon; the Stans Foundation; interest in African safaris.

NAME INDEX

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview John T. Mason, Jr., January 20, 1968]