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HALL

HALL, LEONARD W.

(OH-478) 60 pages

OPEN

Chairman, Republican National Committee, 1953-57.

DESCRIPTION: Personal information; relationship with Theodore Roosevelt family; activity in Republican party, 1923 on; first meeting with Eisenhower; Eisenhower's effectiveness in testifying before Congress; 1948 Convention—Dewey; Eisenhower's relationship with Dewey; 1952 campaign; influence of Dewey in Eisenhower nomination; influence of Harry Darby, Frank Carlson, Herbert Brownell, Henry Cabot Lodge, Lucius Clay in convention and campaign; Brown Palace Hotel campaign strategy meeting; Eisenhower's feelings about separation of powers in governmental branches; Earl Warren's appointment as Chief Justice of Supreme Court; the California primary; Citizens for Ike and John Hay (Jock) Whitney; relationship between Citizens for Ike and Republican National Committee; patronage problems with South after election and influence of Senator Robert A. Taft; Ike—the Southern vote—civil rights—1952; Ike—the Democratic ethnic-labor vote; Robert Anderson as liaison between Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson; the Ike Bandwagon; job appointments and ethnic identification; Ike and a Catholic nominee for the Supreme Court; relationships among Herbert Brownell (political adviser to President), Leonard Hall (GOP national chairman), Arthur Summerfield (Postmaster General), and Sherman Adams; the building of the Republican party in the South; attempts to “modernize” Republican party structure; Eisenhower's work for the party; feelings about Joe McCarthy as a Republican; feelings about William Jenner; Robert Humphrey's 1958 letter on the “decline” of the Republican party; Ike's comment that Nixon should not run as vice-president (1956); anti-Nixon sentiments among Republicans: Sherman Adams, Citizens for Ike; Hall's belief that if Nixon had been dumped Adams would have been the V-P candidate; Adams' influence with Eisenhower, especially after heart attack; Adams' relationship with Congress; Eisenhower's admiration for rich business men; Eisenhower's view of the Presidency and his continuing concern with how to serve all the people; Eisenhower's perception of “chain of command” in party structure vs. the reality of 50 state organizations; Ike's political acumen as opposed to Ike the politician; Ike's aversion to a Goldwater nomination in '64; Eisenhower-Scranton; Scranton's position on running for President; Hall's retirement as chairman of RNC; selection of Meade Alcorn as chairman of convention organization (1956) and later national chairman; Hall's story of how Nixon received V-P nomination; Ike's giving Cabinet secretaries power to make all the department appointments; John Foster Dulles and Eisenhower; Eisenhower's failure to remove people he didn't want; Hall's observation on characters of Eisenhower and Al Smith.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by David Horrocks, May 19, 1975]