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Date: 3/17/17

McPHEE

McPHEE, HENRY ROEMER (OH-563) 61 pages OPEN

Special Assistant to President's Economic Advisor, 1954-57; Assistant Special Counsel to the President, 1957-58; Associate Special Counsel to the President, 1958-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Background, education, and service as a Naval officer in the Pacific during WWII; comparison of British and American ships; attending Princeton after the war; studying law at Harvard; working for Governor Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey; the Republican party in New Jersey; joining a law firm in New Brunswick, New Jersey; moving to Washington and getting a job in the Federal Trade Commission; joining the Eisenhower White House staff in 1954; Gabriel Hauge.

Interview #2. Assigned by Hauge to review and make recommendations on statutes; Agricultural Adjustment Act; the Tariff Commission; the Operations Coordinating Board; the Trade Agreements Act; description of a routine day working in the White House; Gabriel Hauge; Clarence Randall; social life in Washington; working relationship with Hauge; closest associates among the White House Staff; beginning to work with Gerald Morgan as Assistant Special Counsel.

Interview #3. The 1956 campaign; the Answer Desk and Truth Squad roles in countering Adlai Stevenson; taking a leave of absence to work on the 1960 campaign; working extremely long hours during the 1956 campaign; description of how the Answer desk materials were assembled, including the role played by Hauge and Robert Cutler; working in the Special Counsel's office; board that advised the President on foreign activities; leaks of misinformation to the press; President Eisenhower and his Cabinet; Sherman Adams; intelligence and defense matters; visiting the Eisenhower after the Presidency; North Korea; Kennedy and the Berlin Wall; review of a military death sentence court martial case.

Interview #4. Refuting a claim that similarities in staff members reduced the range of solutions offered to the President; intellectual background of White House staff under Eisenhower; intellectual background of OCB; anecdotes about working with President Eisenhower; Eisenhower's views on a staff system; compatibility of staff; Jack Martin; leak of USIA information to *New York Times* in 1960; process for scheduling appointments with the President; Presidential transition.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, interview by Maclyn Burg, November 18, 1974; February 3, 1975; August 25, 1976; October 11, 1977]