

Processed by: KAS
Date: 11/5/81

McCANN

McCANN, KEVIN (OH-159) 163 pages PRCQ (M)

Member, staff of General Eisenhower, 1946-51; Special Assistant and Consultant to the President, 1953-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Reflections on first meeting with DDE in 1945; background on McCann's role in the Eisenhower administration. Discussion of the attempts made by both the Republicans and Democrats to persuade DDE to run for president in 1948 and DDE's reasons for refusing; Leonard Finder. McCann's work on DDE's 1946 speech to the CIO; observations on DDE's career at NATO and at Columbia University; George Patton. Sherman Adams' resignation from the White House staff; divisions on the White House staff over the Sherman Adams-Bernard Goldfine case; Adams' relationship with Wilton Persons; Maxwell Rabb's functions as Secretary to the Cabinet. Observations on DDE's desire to see that an accurate record of Cabinet discussions was kept; use of tape recorders in the White House. Discussion of how Cabinet meetings were conducted and DDE's intensity of concentration at Cabinet meetings. Changes in the White House staff after Adams' departure; Ann Whitman's role as DDE's personal secretary; McCann's opinion of Richard Nixon and his knowledge of the White House staff operations. Reflections on staff personnel including: Robert Cutler, Dillon Anderson, Andrew Goodpaster, and Gabriel Hauge. Brief discussions of the interstate highway system, Frederic Fox, Gordon Gray. James Hagerty's role as press secretary and his relationship with the news media; reporters covering the Eisenhower administration. Comments re DDE's decision to seek the presidency; Robert Montgomery's role in the Eisenhower administration; confidants and friends of DDE, especially DDE's correspondence with Swede Hazlett; Lucius Clay's work in DDE's campaign; Alfred Gruenther.

Interview #2. Comments re DDE's first meeting with John McCloy; DDE's friendship with Aksel Nielsen and Sid Richardson; Nelson Rockefeller's position as Under Secretary of HEW; Senator Frank Carlson and Senator Harry Darby. Discussion of the President's receptivity to new ideas; Operation Candor and Atoms for Peace speech; DDE's views on racial distinctions. Personal background.

[Columbia Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, 1966]