

Prepared by: EWH  
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TODD

**TODD, WEBSTER B.**

**OH-207**

**90 pgs. w/ Index**

**PRCQ**

Active in New Jersey politics and the Eisenhower campaign of 1952; Director, Office of Economic Affairs, U.S. Mission to NATO and European regional organizations, 1953-54.

DESCRIPTION: Biographical material; early political interests; the Kingsbury ordnance plant; involvement with the 1940 [Wendell] Willkie campaign; business activities following the war; the 1952 campaign (incl. anecdote concerning Sen. [Robert A.] Taft, first impressions of Eisenhower, comparison of the Eisenhower-Taft personalities, money and politics, acquaintance with Bernard M. Shanley, comments about [Herbert, Jr.] Herb Brownell's capabilities); appointment as director of the economic mission to NATO (incl. anecdote involving [Harold E.] Stassen and the Paris office personnel, the left wing question, Todd's Senate hearings, anecdote regarding [Marshal Josip Broz] Tito); the economic mission (incl. purpose of, politics of, key diplomats involved, working with trade barriers and the European Payments Union, working with the French and British, the European attitude toward capitalism, American attitudes toward European unification, aid involving France-Indochina); general observations (incl. the 1953 Bermuda meeting, the Rosenberg affair, the issue of massive retaliation, the Bricker Amendment, the Indochina problem); progress of the economic mission (incl. difficulties of cutting trade barriers, problems encountered in working with the French, politics of the OEEC [Organization for European Economic Cooperation]); individuals involved with the Paris mission; management problems (incl. concerns with Communist sympathizers, questions concerning handling of mission funds, controversy in the Italian office, anecdote involving Yugoslavian aid); general observations about various personalities (incl. David Bruce, Douglas Dillon, Harold Stassen, [John Foster] Dulles, [Charles E.] Wilson, George Humphrey); involvement in the senatorial campaign of [Clifford] Case; early political experiences; Todd's relationship with the Rockefellers; general political comments (incl. an anecdote concerning the 1953 inauguration, politics as a team effort); the 1956 campaign; anecdote concerning Adlai [E.] Stevenson and the 1952 election; remarks concerning Eisenhower and [Richard M.] Nixon (incl. the 1960 campaign, the selection of Nixon for Vice-President in 1956, the Presidential role in choosing a successor); political activities involving Nixon following 1960.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Richard, October 26, 1972]