

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 8/26/97

Tuttle

TUTTLE, ELBERT

OH-208

115 pp. w/Index

PRCQ

Active in the Republican Party in Georgia; General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, 1953-54; Judge, 5th Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1954-70.

DESCRIPTION: Biographical details (incl. education, newspaper work, marriage, military experiences); re-locating to Georgia (incl. establishing a law office, early political attitudes, participation in civil rights issues, the state of the Republican Party in Georgia prior to WWII, military service and post-war activities); the 1948 Republican convention (incl. the “new” Georgia Republicans, the Dewey delegation vs. the Taft delegation); the Eisenhower movement (incl. Atlanta’s first introduction to Eisenhower, Tuttle’s opposition to Sen. [Robert A.] Taft, Tuttle’s reservations about Eisenhower, organizing the Georgia group for Eisenhower, the Taft faction); concerns of the 1952 convention (incl. the contested seating of the Georgia delegations, the Morningside Heights meeting, the conference to select a vice-presidential candidate, bitter hostilities between the Taft-Eisenhower factions, the Harry Sommers’ incident); the campaign in the South (incl. Eisenhower’s speech in Atlanta, an anecdote involving Bobby Jones and Republican electors); the Department of the Treasury (incl. an anecdote concerning Tuttle’s first meeting with George Humphrey, acceptance of the position as general counsel to the Department, an anecdote concerning Treasury policy matters and Arthur Summerfield, an anecdote involving Tuttle and a White House phone call); responsibilities as general counsel (incl. comments about National Security Council meetings and [Robert] Bobby Cutler, work with the Planning Committee of the NSC, general observations concerning Humphrey’s open-mindedness); relationship with Sherman Adams (incl. an anecdote regarding other job offers, Tuttle’s feeling about government jobs); responsibilities as Republican state chairman; anecdotes involving Tuttle’s judicial appointment; the influence of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals (incl. the independence of the Republican appointees in civil rights issues, the politics of the southern Republican Party in the 1960’s, Southern legal traditions); civil rights issues (incl. Eisenhower’s attitude, effects of classifying people, Presidential responses to racial issues, the courts and voting rights, pressures exerted on judges, an anecdote concerning Tuttle and [William P.] Bill Rogers); an anecdote involving Tuttle and Atty. Gen. John Mitchell; the Supreme Court (incl. an anecdote concerning Earl Warren’s appointment as Chief Justice, Eisenhower’s later discontent over the appointment, the Court and the Bill of Rights, Tuttle’s assessment of the Warren appointment); Secretary George Humphrey (incl. comments about his economic philosophy, Eisenhower’s close personal friends, working with Humphrey); concerns involving Coleman Andrews; an anecdote regarding [Richard M.] Nixon and McCarthyism; comments about various personnel (incl. [Robert T.] Bob Stevens, Coleman Andrews, Marion Folsom, [W. Randolph] Burgess, [H. Chapman] Chappie Rose); [John Foster] Dulles’ reputation; NSC meetings (incl. Eisenhower’s participation, an anecdote concerning Nixon’s trip to the Far East); the Republican Party in the South (incl. party structure through 1960, changes in party philosophy following the 1960 elections, the two-party system in Georgia, results of the 1952 election in Georgia); accomplishments of the Eisenhower administration (incl. providing a time for national reflection, the quality of Supreme Court appointees and other judicial appointments, a sense of well being for the American people); Eisenhower’s failure to act aggressively in civil rights issues;

Eisenhower's support for his appointees; Tuttle's observations about Constitutional rights and the courts.

Addendum: Additional comments about some of Eisenhower's personal friends.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, June 26, 1970]