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PETERSEN

PETERSEN, HOWARD C. (OH-227) 70 pages PRCQ

War Department official; member, board of directors, Panama Canal Company, 1953-68; chairman of fund-raising activities, Citizens for Eisenhower, 1952.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Service in the War Department, 1940-47. Comment on his opposition to the creation of a Department of Defense. His activities regarding international trade negotiations. Work as a director of the Panama Canal Company. Observations re Lucius Clay and the military occupation government of Germany, and the DDE-Douglas MacArthur relationship. Assessment of DDE's leadership as Chief of Staff. The 1952 Presidential campaign: why he supported DDE; his fund-raising activities during the campaign; enthusiasm for DDE at the Chicago convention. DDE as President: his actions towards Joseph McCarthy; his role as party leader; assessment of the DDE Administration.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John T. Mason, Jr., 1968]