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SEAMANS

SEAMANS, ROBERT C., Jr. (OH-313) 162 pages PRCQ

Associated with National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA); Associate Administrator, 1960-65, and Deputy Administrator, 1965-68, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Observations re his first year with NASA: his appointment as NASA's associate administrator; Eisenhower Administration's budget for NASA, 1961; the Wiesner Report, and NASA's transition to the Kennedy Administration; decisions regarding a communications satellite program. Administrative history of NASA: establishment of an Office of Programming; manned space flight projects under Brainerd Holmes; problems with Holmes, and the Apollo program; the reorganization of 1963; importance of High Dryden as deputy administrator; NASA Administrator James E. Webb and Seamans reorganizing NASA after Dryden's resignation in 1965.

Interview #2. NASA's relationship with Congress: Seamans' appearances before Congressional committees; bipartisan support for NASA; special comments on Albert Thomas and Margaret Chase Smith. Importance of Hugh Dryden, and NASA reorganization after Dryden's resignation; Apollo 204 fire: how NASA handled the investigation; his testimony before Congress; NASA's relationship with North American, the prime contractor for the Apollo spacecraft. Appointment as deputy administrator. Comments on the Large Launch Vehicle Planning Group's decisions re Saturn I, Saturn V, and Titan III. The Source Selection Board, and how NASA chose prime contractors. Short comments on the Department of Defense-NASA relationship, "All-up Systems Testing," and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Interview #3. Establishing his responsibilities as deputy administrator. Reorganization impetus from the Apollo 204 fire. Comments on various NASA projects: JPL and Ranger, and NASA's relationship with JPL; Hughes Aircraft and Surveyor; General Dynamics and Centaur; Boeing and Lunar Orbiter. Short observations on Apollo Applications (AAP), Tiros and Nimbus weather satellites, navigation and observatory satellites, and NASA's work in electronics.

[NASA Historical Office, interviews by Eugene M. Emme and William Putnam, 1968]