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O'ROURKE

O'Rourke, Dennis

OH-43

42 pp.w/Index

PRCQ

General counsel, Holly Sugar Corp.; worked with Department of Agriculture on sugar legislation

DESCRIPTION: Professional background; federal regulation of the sugar industry; working with the Department of Agriculture; Secretary [Ezra Taft] Benson's distancing himself from sugar affairs; impressions of the Eisenhower administration (incl. ethical standards, reluctance of the administration to influence the legislative process, the goal of the American sugar producers for a larger share of the domestic market, sugar diplomacy); working with the legislative leadership (incl. committee contacts, the influence of Rep. Harold Cooley); the foreign vs. domestic question of sugar legislation (incl. the cleavage between refiners and producers, the involvement of various transportation modes, the questions of international politics and economic conditions, the effect of the Cuban embargo on sugar supplies, the need for a proper balance between foreign and domestic trade in sugar); the relationship between the government and the sugar industry (incl. the provision of the Sugar Act regarding price, the rationale behind this protective arrangement, setting crop quotas and marketing allotments, controls exerted by the Dept. of Agriculture); [pp. 28-35 under seal] attitude taken by the Dept. of Agriculture in dealing with sugar concerns; the professional competence of the Dept. of Agriculture personnel; O'Rourke's impressions of Eisenhower's concept of governing (incl. the delegation of authority, the separation of legislative and executive powers); the Eisenhower administration's attitude toward business. NAME INDEX

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, Oct. 10, 1967]