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DONOVAN

DONOVAN, ROBERT J. (OH-48) 52 pages PRCQ (M)

Journalist, New York Herald Tribune, 1937-63; chief, Washington Bureau, New York Herald Tribune, 1957-63; president, White House Correspondents' Association, 1954; author, Eisenhower: The Inside Story, 1956.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Donovan's newspaper career; Kevin McCann's request that Donovan write a book about the first three years of the Eisenhower administration; Donovan's reaction to McCann's request; Donovan's meeting with Sherman Adams about the possible Eisenhower book; conditions by which Donovan agreed to write the Eisenhower book; White House reaction to Donovan's book; Donovan's views on Sherman Adams; Donovan's views on Eisenhower; Eisenhower-Donovan relationship following publication of Donovan book; Congressional reaction to Donovan's book; reaction of Henry Luce of Time-Life to Donovan's book; Donovan's access to Cabinet records; Donovan's opinion of John Foster Dulles; Donovan's views of George Humphrey and his power on the President; Donovan's recollection of Adams leaving the White House and Eisenhower's attempts to save him; Eisenhower's relations with the press; comparison of Eisenhower's relations with the press with those of Kennedy and Johnson; Donovan's reasoning for not doing a sequel to his first Eisenhower book; Donovan's views on Nixon as Vice President; Eisenhower's third party concept; Donovan's impressions of whom Eisenhower was close to; Donovan's impressions of Eisenhower's views on civil rights; Donovan's assessment of Eisenhower's handling of Joseph McCarthy; Donovan's opinion as to main achievement of the Eisenhower administration; Eisenhower's decision to meet with Khrushchev in Geneva; discussion of Eisenhower's attitude toward intervention in Indochina; Donovan's recollections of James Hagerty; fairness of press toward Eisenhower; Eisenhower's syntax accessibility of White House staff members; Donovan's views on Eisenhower's Cabinet; Eisenhower's relationship with Congress; effect of illnesses on Eisenhower; Eisenhower's decision to run for a second term; Eisenhower's second term travels; modernization of Republican Party under Eisenhower; transition of presidency from Eisenhower to Kennedy; Eisenhower's assistance to his predecessors.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, 1968]