

Prepared by: MEB

ANDERSON

Date: 12/18/2009

ANDERSON, ROBERT B. OH

27 pp.

OPEN

Secretary of the Navy, 1953-54; Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1954-55; Secretary of the Treasury, 1957-61; lawyer; oil and gas developer.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Anderson's role in desegregation of the Navy facilities, beginning in 1953; low-key method of desegregation through "modernization" of facilities; desegregation in Charleston, SC; resistance among Navy commanders; Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's role; reason for choosing a low-key approach; credit due Eisenhower for desegregation of the military; Anderson's first meeting with Eisenhower in the late 1940s; his discussion of Federal Reserve Board and bond markets; Anderson's involvement in Democratic Party in Texas; Eisenhower's belief that Anderson should run for President, and Anderson's reluctance to do so; location of Treasury records from Anderson's tenure as Secretary; Eisenhower and the Republican Party; Eisenhower's belief that he should make decisions based on what was best for the nation; development of the Open Skies proposal, 1955; Eisenhower and the Cold War; importance of Presidential appointments; after end of interview, Parmet comments on Eisenhower's urging Anderson to run for President, Anderson's refusal to talk about his secret mission to the Middle East during the Suez Canal crisis, and Anderson's view of Eisenhower basically apolitical.

[Interview by Herbert Parmet, March 11, 1970]