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HAGERTY

HAGERTY, JAMES C. (OH-91) 572 pgs. w/Index PRCQ(M)

Press Secretary to the President, 1953-61

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME I, INTERVIEW I:

Biographical information covering the years 1909-1952 (incl. general information, newspaper background, political training); early acquaintance with Eisenhower; Eisenhower's popularity and the political parties; factions within the Republican Party; the Dewey candidacies; briefing Eisenhower for his first political press conference; pre-convention maneuverings (incl. Governor [Thomas E.] Dewey's role, the 1952 National Governors' Conference, [Robert A.] Taft backers, popular support for Eisenhower, the Fair Play Amendment issue); the Chicago convention (incl. the California delegation, anecdote regarding the choosing of the Vice-Presidential candidate, Eisenhower's call on Taft); Eisenhower's political acumen (incl. campaigning in the South, the Citizens' rallies, working for party unity); New York state politics; Presidential election determinants (incl. personality of candidates, domestic issues, foreign affairs); the Korean War issue; definition of the Hagerty-Eisenhower relationship; anecdotes regarding the trip to Korea (incl. rationale for visit, difficulties encountered, security problems); the Nixon Fund episode; the news media (incl. biased reporting, President Eisenhower's use of televised press conferences, the "honesty" of televised speech vs. print reporting, the evolution of the press conference).

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME I, INTERVIEW 2:

The Korean trip and its aftermath (incl. media representation, the importance of the trip, Eisenhower's military credibility, effects on the strength of the Administration, Eisenhower's philosophy on use of military power); the role of Presidents (from Wilson to Kennedy); the failure of the press to see the "big" picture in international affairs; world leaders' respect for Eisenhower; Eisenhower and the Korean problem (incl. strategies, conduct of war, effects of cease-fire agreement); Eisenhower's uses of armed force (incl. the Lebanon and Little Rock situations, the purpose of such force, Communist hot spots); a personal letter from Eisenhower to Hagerty detailing accomplishments of his Administration; making use of former U.S. Presidents; the modern Presidency (problems and responsibilities); the Eisenhower-MacArthur [Gen. Douglas A.] relationship (incl. the meeting on the subject of Korea, the nuclear question); the Indochina situation (incl. Eisenhower's assessment of the French position, support for the South Vietnamese government, other areas of Communist activity, effect on the 1960 Presidential debates); the 1960 campaign (incl. Eisenhower's role, strategies employed by both parties, the resolution of the religious issue, the impact of television on campaigning, the deterioration of party loyalties); the evolution of communications (incl. the effects on modern Presidential campaigning, voting machine use, the growth of the independent voter); anecdote regarding the first television debate; pro's and con's of public debates; U.S. concerns with Guatemala and the

rise of Castro in Cuba; development of Eisenhower's relationship with Khrushchev (incl. the Summit Meeting in Geneva, Nixon's visit to Moscow, Khrushchev's visit to the U.S., the U-2 incident); Hagerty's assessment of Khrushchev (incl. Khrushchev's understanding of world affairs, anecdote regarding a conversation with Khrushchev on the subject of a free press, anecdote concerning Khrushchev's interest in helicopters, personal feelings about Khrushchev and Russians generally, anecdotes regarding advance trip to Moscow for Eisenhower's proposed visit and Russian security); arranging foreign trips (incl. the advance party's responsibilities, Hagerty's relationship with local press clubs, comments on American attitudes abroad, purpose of the advance party, anecdote regarding Spanish trip scheduling, anecdotes concerning a state dinner in Taiwan and Eisenhower's interest in food, purpose of the White Sulphur Springs' meeting, results of Eisenhower's trips, anecdote regarding the Organization of American States' meeting in Panama, importance of protocol rankings); importance of pooling press secretaries' expertise; press problems (incl. handling press personnel, anecdote regarding the treatment of the advance party in Japan and the aftermath, press coverage and slanted news stories, anecdote concerning the Geneva Convention coverage, effect of television coverage); introducing television coverage into White House press conferences; print media vs. electronic media; anecdote regarding an advance party trip to West Germany.

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME II, INTERVIEW 3:

Eisenhower's relationship with Winston Churchill (incl. personal, close friendship between them, anecdotes concerning Bermuda Conference, Hagerty's comments on Churchill's command of the English language, anecdotes regarding a London dinner in 1960 and Churchill's hearing); Eisenhower's friendship with [Harold] Macmillan; anecdotes regarding Eisenhower's relationship with foreign leaders (incl. Churchill, Macmillan, Anthony Eden, Charles de Gaulle, Pierre Mendes-France, Mohammed Ayub Khan, other world leaders in general, Jawaharlal Nehru); private conversations with world leaders (incl. purpose of, importance of interpreters); the Atoms-for-Peace speech (anecdotes regarding the development of the speech and the production of copies of the final message); Heads-of-State conferences (difficulties involved in briefing the press and issuing communiqués); Hagerty's relationships with foreign press secretaries; American press secretaries vs. foreign press secretaries; Eisenhower's "Open Skies" proposal at the Geneva Convention; contrast in attitudes in treatment of news releases (American correspondents at home vs. American correspondents based overseas); the American role in the Hungarian crisis; American intervention in the Suez crisis; the effects of the Suez crisis on the 1956 elections; Hagerty's handling of press questions during a crisis period; the Presidential schedule (incl. comparison of various Presidents' working habits, Hagerty's workday schedule, various Presidents' relaxations, the effect of Eisenhower's military training on his life style); the Far East situation (incl. the 1955 resolution regarding Quemoy and Matsu, the American policy regarding the Free Republic of China, anecdote concerning Eisenhower's Taiwan visit in 1960).

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME II, INTERVIEW 4:

The civil rights issue (incl. Eisenhower's stand on constitutional principles and governmental relations, his personal feelings, headway made during the Eisenhower Administration, confrontation with Orval Faubus, reaction to Supreme Court decisions, E. Frederic Morrow, employment problems of Black Americans, the Committee on Government Contracts, anecdote

regarding Blacks and labor unions, Eisenhower's interactions with Martin Luther King, Adam Clayton Powell, and other Black leaders, the political climate regarding racial affairs during the 1950's and 60's, developments during the Little Rock episode, public reaction to Presidential actions, the evolutionary process of the civil rights movement in America); the Sherman Adams' affair (incl. assessment of his character and role in the Eisenhower Administration, his relationship with [Bernard] Goldfine and its consequences, conducting business in Washington, problems involved in accepting gratuities); comments regarding Adams' character and work ethics; anecdotes concerning Mrs. Rachael Adams; ramifications of Eisenhower's heart attack (incl. Eisenhower's concerns with the question of Presidential disability, problems involved with releasing the first news of the attack, getting Hagerty to Denver, importance of setting up a press schedule, consulting Dr. Paul Dudley White, the success of the medical press conference, keeping the world informed of Eisenhower's condition, after-effects of the attack, raising the public consciousness on heart illness); Eisenhower's second-term decision (incl. the press conference, family concerns, pro's and con's of running); [Thomas E.] Tom Stephens' role on the White House staff; Hagerty's "hunch" that Eisenhower would run for a second term; concerns during Eisenhower's illnesses (incl. problems involved with the ileitis operation, effects of the stroke); place of Eisenhower's personal friends in his life; Eisenhower as a patient; Eisenhower's concern for the health of his staff (incl. anecdote regarding Hagerty's physical check-up, general comments about importance of staff health and Presidential health).

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME III, INTERVIEW 5:

Stalin's death (incl. how such news is acquired, drafting the Presidential statement, handling the press, reactions to Stalin's death, the Russian internal power struggle); Nixon's Latin-American trip (incl. the Caracas' incident, Eisenhower's reaction, the Communist role in the affair); Latin American affairs (incl. Milton Eisenhower's reports, internal problems of Latin American countries, political leadership, the role of the United States in hemispheric relationships); Africa; Korea (incl. Eisenhower's relationship with Syngman Rhee and the Korean people, Seoul, taking Japanese reporters in Korea); problems involved in planning a Presidential trip (incl. ensuring fair treatment of American press, providing advance information and accommodations for American press, dealing with foreign press jealousies); the US-Egyptian relationship; the U.N. (incl. Eisenhower's relationship with Henry Cabot Lodge, Lodge's role as UN ambassador, Eisenhower's attitude toward the U.N.); Eisenhower and the Department of State (incl. the personal-professional relationship between Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles, working with Christian Herter, the role of a Cabinet officer, the emerging role of Presidential personal diplomacy); the effects of jet transportation on Presidential travels; the importance of observing other countries' customs (general comments and anecdotes); the People-to-People program (incl. Eisenhower's interest in the individual, using the media, anecdote regarding a televised soccer match and a world-wide audience, importance of international communications and understanding); the information programs--United States Information Agency (USIA), United States Information Service (USIS), and Voice of America (incl. Eisenhower's concern for content of Voice of America, use of information by foreign countries, weaknesses of services, upgrading the programs); election campaigns (incl. the influence of foreign affairs, the influence of television, the effects of economic conditions, the effects of McCarthyism on the 1954 elections, changes in politics--before and after World War II, the issue of the security risk problem); Eisenhower's relationship with Congress (incl. legislative record, Eisenhower's

personal popularity vs. the Republican party's popularity); Eisenhower's efforts to strengthen the Republican party; Nelson Rockefeller's work in the administration; Eisenhower role in Nixon's political plans (incl. the second term Vice-Presidency, the Presidential campaign of 1960); the 1956 Presidential campaign (incl. Eisenhower's attitude toward the campaign, his feelings about [Adlai] Stevenson, the Stevenson campaign strategies, Eisenhower's reaction to the election); comments about third party movements, major party re-alignments, and Eisenhower's views; the Congressional elections of 1958 (incl. Eisenhower's press conference following the election and its effects on Congress); political maneuverings in the New Jersey and New York parties.

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME IV, INTERVIEW 6:

The civil rights issue (incl. the death of Martin Luther King, news coverage); public information dissemination (incl. coordination of departments, handling reporters, news leaks, Eisenhower and the Defense Department); Eisenhower as a politician (incl. Congressional successes, the two-term amendment, changing Presidential responsibilities); Presidential press conferences (incl. the Press Secretary's role, pre-conference preparations, foreign press interest in the American Presidential press conference, purpose of the press conference, Eisenhower's relationship with reporters, the role of the American free press); news people (incl. difference between reporters and columnists, "bad apples," working with columnists, responsibilities of the press); government officials and media representatives (incl. their relationship in America vs. their relationship in foreign countries, the influence of the American system, Hagerty's personal experiences with foreign press clubs); the impact of American television on foreign governments; anecdote regarding Scott Reston and Eisenhower's syntax; televising Presidential press conferences (incl. problems of oral vs. written communication, sending copies of conference films to U.S. embassies, effects of films in other countries); White House public relations (incl. requests for TV air time, preparing the media for major speeches, anecdote regarding the Korean Armistice story, importance of preparing the media in advance, anecdote regarding the first satellite-in-orbit story); Eisenhower's press conference following the 1958 elections; maintaining press liaisons with the legislative branch, the National Republican Committee, and the Vice-President's office; Press Secretary problems (incl. the Budget deficit of 1958, the Defense Reorganization Act, weaknesses of the press corps, the press conference formula); political polls (incl. changing attitudes of American voters, influence of television, inaccuracies of poll questioning, example of skewed polls, Eisenhower's interest in polls, Hagerty's observations on polls and their uses).

DESCRIPTION: VOLUME IV, INTERVIEW 7:

The Cabinet (incl. purpose and format, Eisenhower's management of); Eisenhower as a decision-maker; Hagerty's access to information; Eisenhower's staff system (incl. structure, success of, inter-departmental rivalries, anecdote regarding Harold Stassen and the Secretary of State); Harold Stassen (incl. analysis of his character, anecdote regarding his opposition to Nixon's renomination for Vice-President, as a politician); Richard Nixon (incl. his influence as Vice-President, anecdote regarding Truman as Vice-President, the expanding role of the Vice-President under Eisenhower, the question of Presidential incapacitation); press reactions to Eisenhower's remark about Vice-Presidential decision-making; Eisenhower's reaction to the Lewis Strauss affair; the burden of Presidential responsibilities; the Harold [E.] Talbott case;

governmental officers (incl. ethical concerns, the problems of attracting qualified people, the example of Charles Wilson as Secretary of Defense, anecdote regarding Ezra Taft Benson, Hagerty's comments on the importance of admitting to mistakes); Eisenhower's relationship with labor leaders; politicians (incl. Eisenhower's feelings about their behaviors, relationship with former President Truman); Eisenhower's relationship with agricultural leaders; Eisenhower's relationship with business organizations; Eisenhower's relationship with the governors; Eisenhower and the Dienbienphu affair; the military-industrial complex speech; Eisenhower's attitude upon leaving the White House; Eisenhower's spiritual strength (incl. personal faith, rapport with world's spiritual leaders, relationship with Billy Graham, interactions with people generally of all faiths); the Gettysburg home; Eisenhower's relaxation techniques (incl. the role of sports for tension relief, his rapport with Milton Eisenhower, his fondness for travel, painting, and bridge, the importance of relaxation for a President, anecdote regarding Eisenhower's teaching Hagerty to cast a fishing rod, anecdote concerning Eisenhower's fishing in Argentina); Eisenhower's relationship with Robert L. Schulz; Eisenhower's concern with military services' rivalries; the 1960 campaign (inc. Eisenhower's role, the Republican strategy, the Kennedy campaign); Eisenhower and later Presidential candidates. Name Index.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by Ed Edwin, Interviews 1-2, March 2, 1967, and January 31, 1968; Interviews 3-4, February 2 and 6, 1968; Interview 5, February 9, 1968; Interviews 6-7, April 16 and 17, 1968.]