

Processed by: DAD  
Date: 9/10/74

KEATING

KEATING, KENNETH B. (OH-197) 127 pages PRCQ (M)

Congressman, 1947-59, and Senator, 1959-65, from New York; served on Judiciary and Space Committees.

Interview #1. The 1952 presidential campaign: DDE's chances of being elected; Keating at the Republican convention. DDE's relationship with Congress, and Keating's support of DDE's programs. Civil Rights Act of 1957. Comments re work on Space Act of 1958, and the "missile gap" controversy of 1960. Decision to run for the Senate in 1958.

Interview #2. Short comments: civil rights controversy over trial by jury; DDE's control over Congress as a lame duck president; the presidential disability amendment; District of Columbia voting rights amendment; need for reforming parliamentary procedures in Congress; formation of NASA and space competition with the Russians; campaign contributions and campaign ethics.

Interview #3. Keating's senatorial campaign of 1958: DDE's influence on people to vote for Keating; campaign techniques; use of a campaign manager and campaign staff; coordination of efforts with Nelson Rockefeller's race for governor; effects of television on the campaign; campaign spending, and handling of contributions; physical strain on candidates.

Interview #4. Contrasts power and importance of a senator with that of a congressman. Making speeches. Observations on the priority given to the U.S. space program. Proposal for a presidential item veto. How to handle nationwide strikes. Opinion re Senate confirmation of presidential appointees. Comments on DDE's extensive world-wide travels in 1959-60.

[Columbia Oral History Project Interviews by John T. Mason, Jr., 1968]