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KILLIAN

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PRCQ

Member, Technological Capabilities Panel (TCP); member, President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities (BCFIA); member, President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC); Special Assistant for Science and Technology, 1957-59

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. [November 9, 1969; pp 1-26] Comments on Defense Department officials Neil McElroy and Donald Quarles: their abilities; relations with Killian; interest in missile program; McElroy's role in creation of NASA; his social activities. Charles Wilson. Robert Lovett. TCP: creation; scope of study; cooperation of military services; final report; ICBM program feasibility study by von Neumann panel; importance of Strategic Air Command; developing support of scientific community; no consideration of satellites of bacteriological warfare. Allen Dulles and CIA: reasons for BCFIA; role of CIA director; Bay of Pigs.

Interview #2 [November 16, 1969; pp 27-74] Impact of TCP report; need for continuing review of weapons programs and technological assessment; DDE's interest in science; his anger at leaks of classified information; Gaither Report on civil defense; BCFIA; impact of Sputnik launch; early US efforts to develop satellite; scientific education in US and Russia; proposed linear accelerator; non-partisanship in PSAC; DDE's positive attitude; his confidence in scientific advice; reorganization of Defense Department, 1958; DDE's concern over inter-service rivalries; DDE's press conferences; pre-conference briefings; finding a successor to John Foster Dulles; Lewis Strauss and Oppenheimer case; PSAC interest in nuclear test ban and detection of tests; DDE's recovery from stroke, 1957; his Paris trip, Dec. 1957; Killian's easy access to DDE; DDE's personality.

Interview #3 [December 8, 1969; pp 75-95] Setting priorities for scientific research; conservative nature of PSAC; lack of study of urban problems; cutbacks on Defense research; dominant role of physicists on PSAC; support for medical sciences; role of private philanthropy; lack of support for humanities; controversy over social science research on foreign policy topics; theories on international relations; use of computer models.

Interview #4 [February 1, 1970; pp 96-136] TCP; BCFIA; Killian's appointment as Special Assistant for Science and Technology; reorganization of PSAC; meetings with DDE. Study of space program: creation of NASA; Lyndon Johnson. Creation of PSAC study panels: panel on nuclear test detection problem; panel on nuclear powered aircraft. Pre-press conference briefings of DDE. Study of research and development in Defense Department. Lack of politics in appointments to PSAC. DDE's interest in scientific research. Lewis Strauss nomination. Role and influence of Science Advisor: coordination with Cabinet members; reliance on PSAC studies; efforts to provide objective non-political advice; influence of government contractors; importance of scientific advice in government.

Interview #5 [February 16, 1970; pp 137-155] Role of science in foreign policy: NATO interest in science; UN consideration of nuclear test ban; Geneva Conference of Experts on Nuclear Tests, 1958; improving technical aid to underdeveloped countries; lack of science advice in State Department; need for scientific knowledge in foreign service; need for study of environmental problems.

Interview #6 [February 23, 1970; pp156-194] Science in government: fear that centralization of science would lead to loss of freedom of research; need for research and development teams in different departments; government support of university research; role of Bureau of the Budget; cutting back on costs unrelated to pure research; prevention of duplication of research; need for full-time agency vs. part-time commission to handle research projects; National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; National Science Foundation; AEC; PSAC independence from Science Advisor; lack of political pressure on PSAC; distinction between government grants and government contracts; need to coordinate government contracts to encourage research on important issues; need for more interest in environmental research.

Interview #7 [undated; pp 195-218] Science advice for the president; PSAC; lack of respect by laymen for scientific advice; debate over nuclear weapons and missile development; PSAC's lack of contact with Vice President Nixon; scientists involved in political process; 1964 campaign; decline in abilities of PSAC members. Distinction between scientists and engineers; their different approaches to problems; lack of preparation for persons involved in disarmament negotiations. Comments on Isadore Rabi, James Fisk, Edward Purcell.

Interview #8 [March 22, 1970; pp 219-248; note: pages 245-248 added after remaining interviews typed so page numbers of interviews 9-12 are off by 4] Impact of TCP study; US knowledge of Soviet missile developments; von Neumann committee and US missile developments; improvement of US intelligence gathering methods; U-2 spy plane; Richard Bissell of CIA; Bay of Pigs incident; Robert Cutler; DDE's use of NSC; Polaris missile and U-2 as innovations; rapport between TCP members; relations with Defense Department; Neil McElroy; US Air Force.

Interview #9 [April I, 1970; pp 245-268] Discussion by Killian and David Beckler of their work with PSAC while it was part of Office of Defense Mobilization, 1953-57: studies of mobilizing science for national defense; Robert Oppenheimer's work on PSAC; revoking of his security clearance. Background of TCP: March 1954 meetings with DDE; need to reduce danger of surprise attack; Beckler's records of meetings; organization of TCP; recruitment of staff; preparation of report; support from Air Force and White House; presentation to NSC; relations between government and scientific community.

Interview #10 [undated; pp 269-322] Discussion by Killian and Robert N. Kreidler of Killian's White house staff: creation of Federal Council for Science and Technology; cutbacks on government support of basic research; Fiore panel report on strengthening

science in US; George Kistiakowsky's interest in population control; agency reactions to Fiore report; presentation of Fiore report to Cabinet; presentation of Space report to NSC and Congress; Bureau of the Budget consideration of funding for scientific programs; Kistiakowsky panel on surprise attack; organization of NASA; Argus experiment to detect atmospheric nuclear explosions; briefing of Defense officials on scientific conclusions; National Defense Education Act; PSAC members and panels; McGeorge Bundy; attitudes of political scientists; debate over national computer center for defense information.

Interview #11 [July 16, 1970; pp 364-402] Discussion by Killian and William O. Baker of PSAC staff: study of military communications; long delay during Lebanon Crisis; need for unified system of circuit switching in Defense Department; intelligence communications; need for global coverage of events in real time; White House becoming military control center of US under Kennedy; Defense Communications Agency; problems caused by its connection to JCS. PSAC study of scientific and technical literature. Creation of PSAC panels. Study of need to improve science education and materials development: role of Advance Research Projects Agency; creation of research labs at various universities; development of special alloys for planes and missiles. Excitement at PSAC over scientific advances in late 1950's; DDE's interest in science; need for independent research by universities; need for pure research; National Science Foundation emphasis on applied research.

Interview #12 [July 16, 1970; pp 364-402] Discussion by Killian and James Fisk of PSAC staff. Geneva Conference of Experts on Nuclear Test Detection, July-August 1958: conference background; members of US delegation; British and Soviet delegations; Soviet attitudes toward negotiations; Soviet reaction to on-site inspection proposal; US awareness of Soviet technical knowledge; determination of minimum requirements for effective test monitoring; Earnest Lawrence; accuracy of seismological detection of underground explosions; AEC opposition to conference; breakdown of second series of talks in 1959; records kept by Fisk. Comments on PSAC: enthusiasm of members; positive impact of TCP study; need for scientific panels to study controversial problems. Reorganization of Defense Department. Sputnik.

A name index is located at the end of the transcript.

[Columbia University Oral History Project; interview by Stephen White, 1969-70]