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SCRIBNER

SCRIBNER, FRED C., Jr.

(OH-235)

84 pages

PRCQ

Active in Republican Party national affairs and campaigns, 1940-present; General Counsel, Republican National Committee (RNC), 1952-55; General Counsel, 1955-57, Assistant Secretary, 1957, and Under Secretary, 1957-61, Department of the Treasury.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Activities in the 1952 Presidential campaign: political leanings of the RNC; changes made in RNC membership and choosing a new RNC chairman; working with delegates from his home state of Maine; work as General Counsel for RNC in the campaign. Activities with the Department of Treasury: relative status of General Counsel position in the Department's organization; difficulties of hiring lawyers to work in the Department; working with Under Secretary Chapman Rose and Secretary George Humphrey; testifying before Congressional committees; general comment on government's ability to handle recessions; circumstances of his appointment to the Treasury Department; Treasury's constant attempts to limit government expenditures. Work on Republican Party platform in 1956. Member of the Operations Coordinating Board (OCB) while Under Secretary of the Treasury: organization of the National Security Council (NSC); short comment on missiles and a discussion of putting a man on the moon; policy of massive retaliation. Personal recollections of DDE: how DDE delegated authority; DDE's interest in party affairs after retirement from the Presidency; DDE's role in Richard Nixon's campaign in 1960. Short observations re John Foster Dulles and Sherman Adams. His philosophy regarding rotation of top-level policy-makers in government, and the proper mix of career and non-career civil servants.

[Columbia Oral History Project interview by John T. Mason, Jr., 1972]