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SALTONSTALL

SALTONSTALL, LEVERETT

OH-29

154 pp. w/Index

PRCQ

Senator from Massachusetts, 1944-67; served on the Armed Services Committee, Defense Subcommittee

DESCRIPTION: PART I: Senatorial assignments; early thoughts on a political career for Eisenhower (incl. question of party affiliation, Eisenhower's effect on people); general observations about primary campaign activities in 1952 (incl. the Lodge-Kennedy race in Massachusetts, Massachusetts' political bent, the New Hampshire primary); the Massachusetts delegation (incl. delegate behaviors, leadership and control, make-up of delegation, philosophical differences); working for Eisenhower (incl. campaigning on the West Coast, value of bringing in outside speakers, fund-raising activities); the attitude of the Senate toward [Robert A.] Taft; an anecdote involving an Eisenhower parade in Massachusetts; Taft's political character and philosophy; activities of the Senate policy committee; tensions in the Senate; comments about activities concerning the 1952 convention (incl. the controversy involving seating of the Texas delegations, handling a state delegation, pre-convention meetings with Eisenhower); political accommodations (incl. Saltonstall's personal experiences, the Taft-Eisenhower entente); comments about Sen. Joseph McCarthy; prospective Vice-Presidential candidates.

PART II: Money-raising for the GOP; further comments about prospective Vice-Presidential candidates; politics at the National Governors' Conferences; Eisenhower's plans for the turnover of administrations; comments about minority party leadership in the Senate; Eisenhower's attitude toward Congress; Saltonstall's relationship with President [Harry S.] Truman; Eisenhower's lack of interest in political activities and appointments; Senate reactions to Eisenhower's Cabinet appointees; the question of conflict of interest; controversy surrounding Charles E. Wilson's appointment; function of the liaison legislative group in the Defense Department; changes within the Defense Department from [James V.] Forrestal through Robert McNamara; Defense Department concerns (incl. Eisenhower's position on policies and budgeting, shortages within the military, inter-actions of the Armed Forces Committee and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, general comments about various military personalities).

PART III: Continued discussion of Defense Department problems (incl. the unification of the armed services, coordination of administrative details, U.S. involvement in global trouble spots); leadership meetings at the White House; comments regarding unobligated balances in departmental budgets; appropriations authority (incl. the roles of the Appropriations Committee and the Armed Services Committee in determining defense budgets, the positions taken by military officers testifying before Congress); military research groups (incl. Project VISTA, inter-service rivalries in research projects); the question of the impact of military spending on the U.S. economy; transitions within the Republican Party (incl. changes in the Senate following Taft's death, the leadership roles of William Knowland and Styles Bridges, differences of opinion between the legislative leadership and Eisenhower, working out the cranberry scare problem, [Wilton B.] Jerry Persons and Bryce Harlow as legislative contacts, comments about

Sherman Adams' position in the administration, results of Republican losses in the 1954, 1956, and 1958 elections); Eisenhower's relationship with Lyndon Baines Johnson; Richard Nixon as a party man; Eisenhower's relationship with the Republican National Committee; Barry Goldwater as a Presidential nominee; Nelson A. Rockefeller's activities during the Eisenhower administration; the St. Lawrence Seaway project; miscellaneous comments about [J. Robert] Oppenheimer, Eisenhower's character, the Bricker Amendment controversy, and the Charles Bohlen appointment.

Name Index.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, Part I, Jan. 11, 1967; Part II, Jan. 16, 1967, Part III, Jan. 17, 1967]