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Date: 11/25/98

ROBERTS

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OH-310

72 pp.

PRCQ

White House journalist for 15 years.

DESCRIPTION: PART 1: Biographical information (associate director of Washington Journalism Center; covered White House for 15 years, 6 years with Eisenhower); Eisenhower's relations with the press as the President; attitude among the White House press corps; Eisenhower's tendency to provide leak-proof, unsubstantive answers; no behind the scene accessibility for the press corps with Ike; Eisenhower's vacations with friends; 1955 heart attack and reelection issue; people and events inside the hospital in Denver; Dwight and Mamie's personal relationship; Mamie's popularity among the media; details of the first live covered press conference given by DDE; Eisenhower and the Suez Crisis.

DESCRIPTION: PART 2: Eisenhower's stance on civil rights issues, Brown v. BOE, desegregation of schools should move slowly; Billy Graham's visits to the White House; Eisenhower as a non-politician, politically naive; Presidential gifts accepted by Eisenhower, concerns over taxing of the gifts; Sherman Adams' scandal and resignation; Eisenhower's trips of summitry and good-will; welcoming of Eisenhower, conquerer of Nazis, in foreign lands; US image strengthened abroad; story of Nixon's car being attacked during visit to Caracas; crowd control problems during Eisenhower's trip to New Delhi; Presidential flights and travels, Columbine; recalls trip back to Washington on Air Force 1 after JFK assassination in Dallas; importance of DDE's goodwill and summit trips; 1960 Paris summit meeting with Soviet Premier Khrushchev and U-2 incident; tragedy of the summit collapse, reactions to the summit and East-West relations; speeches and speechwriters used by Eisenhower; Eisenhower's final speech ("military industrial complex"); comparisons of Eisenhower to JFK and LBJ in their uses of speeches and speechwriters.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by David Berliner, Part I, November 20, 1972; Part II, December 20, 1972]