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KROUT

KROUT, JOHN

(OH-381)

44 pages

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Professor of American History, Columbia University, 1922-; Dean of graduate faculty, Columbia University, 1949-51; Vice President and Provost of Columbia University, 1951-.

Interview #1. Personal Background: received A.B. from U. of Michigan in 1918; travelled to Columbia in 1919; received M.A. from Columbia in 1920; received Ph.D. from Columbia in 1925; becomes a history professor at Columbia upon reception of Ph.D. focusing on colonial period. Entrance into administration at Columbia during Eisenhower's presidency; temporary dean of the School of General Studies in 1948; dean of graduate faculties of philosophy, political science, and pure science in 1949-1951. Eisenhower's appointment as president of Columbia; many trustees desired a prominent public figure as president; Eisenhower's initial impressions of Columbia; trustees possibly attempting to set up Eisenhower's run for the presidency of the United States; Eisenhower's reluctance to get involved in politics; Eisenhower's appointment as commanding officer of NATO; Eisenhower's continuing interest in programs he helped to start at Columbia; criticisms of Eisenhower voiced by Columbia's faculty; evidence of an attempt to avoid political pressures seen in Eisenhower's trip to Heidelberg College; Eisenhower's dislike of fundraising for Columbia; Eisenhower's awareness of research being done at Columbia, especially physics; beginning the American Assembly; Eisenhower's interest in others' concerns regardless of their importance; Eisenhower's frustration with academic administrative style; Eisenhower's legacy at Columbia is neither positive nor negative; continued contact with Eisenhower, 1953-1969.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interviews by Thomas Soapes, April 27, 1977]