

Processed by: TB
Date: 11/4/85

MORSE

MORSE, TRUE D. (OH-40) 114 pages PRCQ(M)

Undersecretary of Agriculture, 1953-61

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1 [Oct. 9, 1967; pp 1-77] Early career in agriculture. Work for Doane Agricultural Service. Work after end of Eisenhower administration. Interest in sugar. Duties as Undersecretary: serving as Acting Secretary during absences of Ezra Taft Benson; service with Commodity Credit Corporation; work on various advisory boards. Extensive comments on Rural Development Program: problems of rural poverty and unemployment; farmers commuting to urban jobs; improvement of schools; George McLain and improvement of Tupelo, Miss. Congressional attitude toward price supports. Effect of cotton and tobacco allotments on small farmers. Trend from small family farms toward large commercial farms. Comments on Dwight D. Eisenhower: conduct of Cabinet meetings; Operation Alert; optimistic approach to problems; respect from Cabinet members. Pressure from organizations and governments: anecdote re complaints when government ran out of dried milk; requests from India and Israel for free food. Career staff and political appointees. Preparation of agricultural budget. Recruitment of Assistant Secretaries. Comments on Ezra Taft Benson; Earl Butz; Earl Coke. Pressures to make political appointments. Agriculture committees of Congress. PL 480: use of surplus food by poor countries. Agricultural attaches. U.S. Forest Service. Relations with Interior Department. Importance of new technology in farming. Use of surpluses. Price supports. Soil conservation work. Farm organizations: Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union; National Farmer's Organization. Impact of educational programs.

Interview #2 [Oct. 10, 1967; pp 78-114] Rural Development Program: migration from farms to cities; industrial skills of rural residents; studies in Arkansas; work of local Rural Development Committees. Negro labor problems. Senator James Eastland. Vocational education in agriculture. Cotton program. Soybeans. Crop forecasts. Use of computers. Obtaining data from other agencies. Agriculture research: role of private industry and universities. Mexican immigrants as agricultural laborers. Sugar Act: Cuban sugar; Congressmen Harold Cooley; lobbying by foreign countries during Sugar Act revisions; domestic sugar production. A name index is located at the end of the transcript.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, 1967]