

Processed by: VJA
Date: 12/09/05

WILCOX

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OH-498

240 pp. w/index

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Chief of Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 1947-1955; Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, 1955-1961

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Personal and family background; college and graduate school; advanced study in Europe; impressions of Mussolini's impact on Italy; League of Nations; impressions of Hitler and Berlin in 1937; internationalism and isolationism in America; position with the political science department at the University of Louisville; move to Washington, D.C. and the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; Nelson Rockefeller; living in Washington during wartime; working for the Office of Civilian Defense; position at the Bureau of the Budget; service in the Navy; working for the Legislative Reference Service at the Library of Congress; consultant to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; United Nations (UN) conference in Spring 1945; splitting his time between Legislative Reference Service and Senate Foreign Relations Committee; staffing the Foreign Relations Committee prior to 1946; effect of the Legislative Reorganization Act; State Department reaction to professional staff on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; formation of a bipartisan staff; study by the Legislative Reference Service on Soviet foreign policy.

Interview #2: Working with Senator Arthur Vandenberg; Vandenberg's influence in the Senate regarding foreign policy; foreign policy in the Truman Administration; Vandenberg's use of the Foreign Relations Committee; educating the American public on foreign policy issues; Congress and the Marshall Plan; Senate loyalty to multilateral action through the UN; background of the Vandenberg Resolution; negotiation of the North Atlantic Treaty and establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); executive agreements and Senate control over foreign policy; outcome of the 1948 election; Tom Connally's relationship with Vandenberg; Connally's working relationship with the committee; contrasts between Connally and Vandenberg; trend away from bipartisanship after Vandenberg; Dean Acheson's relationship with Congress; relationships between other committees and committee chairmen; working with other Senate committees.

Interview #3: Millard Tydings' subcommittee to investigate Joseph McCarthy; McCarthy charges against individuals; no validity to McCarthy's charges; personal impressions of McCarthy; report of the Tydings subcommittee; McCarthy's interest in foreign affairs after 1953; Government Operations Committee; investigation of the United States Information Agency; atmosphere in Senate after McCarthy's censure; McCarthy's impact on foreign policy and the State Department; function of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee in hearings regarding Douglas MacArthur; assessment of Richard Russell; impressions of Brien McMahon; working with various senators; assessing which senators could best follow-up on specific topics; Alexander Wiley; Wiley's support of the St. Lawrence Seaway; Wiley's opposition to the Bricker Amendment; foreign travel useful to members of the Foreign Relations Committee; role of John Foster Dulles and his

abilities as Secretary of State; relationship between Dulles and members of Senate; Wiley's staff assistant, Julius Cahn; chairmanship of Walter George; support for George in Eisenhower administration; Theodore Green; move to position as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs in 1955; accomplishments during post war years on the committee; development of professional staff; disappointments over subcommittees; setbacks in concept of bipartisanship; need for legislative and executive branches to work together; personal political affiliation.

Interview #4: Relationship between Dean Acheson and Arthur Vandenburg; workload of the committee in the early days; relationship between the committee and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); awareness among members of the committee of covert activities; Allen Dulles; difference in viewing international problems in the State Department instead of in the committee; annoyance in State Department with members of Congress; differences in dealing with House and Senate Foreign Affairs Committees; impressions of Henry Cabot Lodge; difficulty for Senators in making the transition from legislative to executive branch; Congressional members as United Nations delegates; dissatisfaction with UN responses to change; Nikita Khrushchev's shoe-pounding incident; influence of newly-admitted third-world countries on the UN; decision to leave the State Department; dean of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; desire to make the school one of the best in the country; application of congressional experience in creating Conduct of Foreign Policy course, fellowships, and internships; changes in the role of the Foreign Relations Committee; changes in the House and Senate; bipartisanship and foreign policy; evaluation of J. William Fulbright; distrust between legislative and executive branches; making changes in proposed legislation; Walter George's balancing of national security and the expectations of his constituents; changes in the North Atlantic Treaty proposed by senators; management of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Interview #5: Necessity for support from political parties; common problems in Presidential transition periods; role of bipartisanship in Jimmy Carter's major foreign policy victories; role of Congress in foreign policy development; foreign affairs committees in other countries; lifting the arms embargo on Turkey; importance of Congress in educating the public; Washington press corps; proposed appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican; SALT II [Strategic Arms Limitation Talks]; Congress, the State Department, and diplomacy.

[Senate Historical Office, interview by Donald A. Ritchie, February 1, 10, March 21, April 13, and June 13, 1984]