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STASSEN

STASSEN, HAROLD E.

OH-123

68 pgs. w/ IndexPRRCQ

Active in the Eisenhower campaign, 1952; Mutual Security Administration, 1953;
Director, Foreign Operations Administration, 1953-1955; Special Assistant to the President for Disarmament, 1955-1958.

DESCRIPTION: Political background; the 1948 political situation; Stassen's early awareness of Eisenhower; the political climate in 1951; questions of internationalism (incl. the Midwestern isolationist attitude, Stassen's views, involvement of the Governors' Conference); Eisenhower as a political possibility in 1948; preparing for 1952 (incl. condition of the Republican Party, Stassen's trip to Paris to talk with Eisenhower, results of that talk, Stassen's entry into the Presidential campaign, the foreign policy issue); the Convention (incl. strategies involving the Credentials Committee, first ballot maneuverings, the importance of Earl Warren and the California delegation, the role of the Stassen delegates, the Taft supporters, the roles played by Sherman Adams, Herbert Brownell, and Lucius D. Clay); Stassen's function in the post-convention campaign period; the Korean issue (incl. preparing the "go-to-Korea" speech, the strategic importance of the speech, Eisenhower's attitude toward the speech); writing the Eisenhower speeches (incl. the importance of tailoring speeches to the man, the problems of the speech involving Joseph R. McCarthy and George C. Marshall); comments on the Wisconsin election results and Stassen's own immediate activities; Eisenhower as party leader (incl. Stassen's counsel on the nature of political leadership, Eisenhower's failure to exert party control, the Arthur [E.] Summerfield incident, the Senator [William F.] Knowland--Governor Goodwin J. Knight incident, consequences of Eisenhower's failure to re-structure the party); Stassen's assessment of leadership trends in the Republican Party (incl. effects of the Bull Moose movement on Republican leadership, the rise in conservative leadership, the emergence of an internationally minded younger group in the late 30's, the swing to conservatism during World War II, the modernizing movement of the post-war years, the return to conservatism in the 50's, the case against a third party movement, effects of Eisenhower's heart attack on his leadership role); the Mutual Security Administration (incl. Stassen's appointment as director, priority problems of the post, dealing with Congress, foreign aid and the neutrality issue, differing analyses of international politics, India's importance in relation to China, working with senators Walter George, Harry F. Byrd, and [Robert A.] Taft, pros and cons of aiding the Communists, results of the Berlin Food Program, working with Senator [William F.] Knowland and other Congressional

figures, involving
American businessmen in foreign aid surveys, their effectiveness,
examples of innovative Foreign
Aid programs); the arms control issue (incl. the United States' lack of
clear policy, Stassen's
organization of a task group to study problems, resultant decisions,
proposals at the 1955 Summit
Meeting and subsequent conferences); Stassen as Disarmament Advisor
(incl. the 1955 Summit
Meeting, the "Open Skies" proposals, effects of the Summit on the Soviet
Union and the United
States, Stassen's dual position as White House Advisor and Deputy
Delegate to the United
Nations); the 1956 Vice-Presidential issue. (NAME INDEX)

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, April
4, 1967]