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HAMPTON

HAMPTON, ROBERT                      OH-44                      58 pgs. w/ Index                      PRRCQ

Department of State Official, 1950-55 and 1957-58; Department of the Air Force (Manpower, Personnel and Organization), 1955-57; Special Assistant in the White House and Staff Assistant to the President, 1958-61.

DESCRIPTION: General summary of biographical information and work experiences; serving as staff assistant to Secretary of State [John Foster] Dulles (incl. responsibilities, assessment of Dulles' character); recruitment to the White House (incl. interview with [Sherman] Adams, assessment of Adams' character); White House appointments (incl. processing Presidential appointees, the appointment process generally, career vs. non-career appointees, shortage of political appointees during the Eisenhower administration, Eisenhower's attitude); Eisenhower's contribution to intergovernmental relations; the importance of appointing young people to federal positions; problems encountered with appointments; general competency of the Eisenhower staff; Adams' ability as an administrator; anecdote regarding an incompetent appointee; general aspects of the appointment process (incl. Senate confirmation, background investigation, clearance with the National Committee, average number of appointments made per year); following the appointment procedure through a hypothetical case; misconceptions involving the appointment process; the necessity for systemizing the appointment process (incl. proliferation of governmental agencies, time constraints, research requirements, volume of paperwork); incident illustrating the importance of political integrity in the appointment process; assignment to the Department of the Air Force (incl. responsibilities as Assistant Deputy for Manpower, Personnel and Organization, problems involved with the changing nature of the military organization); the changing nature of Foreign Service work; the Civil Service Commission appointment (incl. nature of the work, terms of service, the stability of federal employment practices vs. state employment practices); problems inherent in federal vs. local control of revenues and programs.  
NAME INDEX.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Paul Hopper, May 12, 1967]