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HAGERTY

HAGERTY, JAMES C.

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PRCQ

Press Secretary to the President, 1953-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Briefing Eisenhower at the start of the 1952 campaign; role of Thomas Dewey in gathering pre-nomination support; Earl Warren and the California delegation; Eisenhower's interest in domestic affairs; civil rights; conference between Eisenhower and Orval Faubus; Federal intervention in the Little Rock school crisis; Max Rabb; the President and civil rights legislation; Hagerty's appointment as press secretary; Eisenhower's handling of the Joseph McCarthy situation; political climate of the Cold War era; Sherman Adams and the White House staff system; Eisenhower's health; 1955 heart attack; newspapers and columnists that Eisenhower routinely read; how press conferences were conducted; Eisenhower's handling of press conference; film and television coverage of press conference; first televised press conference; responsibilities of the press secretary relating to press conferences; Eisenhower's understanding of the political process; Eisenhower's appeal to the average person; Eisenhower's political skills; the 1956 election; Eisenhower and Robert Taft; the oil industry; Defense Department spending; Sherman Adams and Bernard Goldfine; Cold War; Nikita Khrushchev; U-2 spy plane; foreign policy in the Middle East.

Interview #2: Meetings with Korean leaders; meetings with American military leaders in Korea; Singman Rhee; ending the Korean War; relationship between Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles; Eisenhower's control over foreign policy; Eisenhower's contacts with world leaders; the French and Indochina; relationship between the President and the Vice President; Richard Nixon's nomination in 1952; Nixon controversy during the campaign; Nixon's role during the Eisenhower administration; 1960 campaign strategy of Nixon appealing to Republicans and Eisenhower appealing to independents and Democrats; factors in Nixon's loss in 1960; American commitment to Chiang Kai-shek; predictions on the future of Asia from 1959 or 1960; Cabinet meetings.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Herbert Parmet, April 9 and 11, 1969]