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HOEGH

HOEGH, LEO ARTHUR

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97 pgs. w/Index

PRCQ

Governor of Iowa, 1954-57; Civil Defense Administrator, 1957-58; Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, 1958-61

DESCRIPTION: Educational background; early political experience; military background (incl. World War II service, anecdote concerning a briefing with Eisenhower, writing the division history); political and business career following the war (incl. terms as state attorney general and governor, practicing law, appointment as the federal Civil Defense Administrator); family information; organizing Iowa for Eisenhower (incl. strategies and results, antagonizing the national committee, selecting convention delegates, anecdotes regarding political maneuverings, importance of precinct-level elections, anecdote regarding importance of organization); evaluation of Eisenhower as an administrator and political chief (incl. Eisenhower's character, the value of Eisenhower's military background, Eisenhower's use of the National Security Council, speculations on how the Cuban, Berlin Wall, and Vietnam situations would have been handled by Eisenhower, the Lebanon operation, the Eisenhower plan for invading Cuba, the mishandling of the Cuban missile crisis); results of Eisenhower's insistence on thorough staff work (incl. anecdote concerning a Louisiana hurricane, importance of military training to civil defense, Hoegh's 24-hour duty policy, policies for reducing stockpiles of strategic raw materials); coordinating Civil Defense policies with other agencies in matters of non-military defense and defense mobilization; the National Plan for Civil and Defense Mobilization (incl. developing the plan, pro and con reactions, influence of plan); the National Fallout Shelter Program (incl. developing the plan, key provisions, anecdote regarding Texas Congressman Albert Thomas and appropriation monies, results of plan); planning for continuity of government in the event of an attack (incl. development of underground facilities, necessity for preserving governmental control, establishing chain-of-command directives); coordination-of-effort problems (incl. the one-agency-or-two controversy, the McKenzie reports, military involvement, the Civil Defense situation under the Kennedy administration, getting a plan approved); anecdote regarding the political aspects of appropriations; implementing a new alerting system; Eisenhower and the 1960 campaign (incl. anecdote regarding Eisenhower's concern about not being used, the religion factor, Eisenhower's support for Nixon, Eisenhower's lack of political motivation); country vs. politics (incl. Eisenhower's attitude as contrasted to Lyndon B. Johnson's attitude, the Vietnam situation, campaigning for Barry M. Goldwater, the Eisenhower attitude toward aggression, why Goldwater lost the election); why the 1960 Nixon campaign failed; Republican losses in the 1958 elections; anecdote regarding a speech during the Goldwater campaign; Hoegh's 1956 gubernatorial campaign (incl. factors contributing to his defeat, anecdote regarding a farmer and his vote, Iowa politics, state financial problems); the agricultural situation (incl. depressed farm prices, anecdote regarding a farm bill, Eisenhower's willingness to listen to opposing views, Eisenhower's grasp of agricultural problems, arguments for and against agricultural controls, Eisenhower as a fiscal conservative); sessions with Eisenhower (incl. necessity for being well prepared on a subject, Eisenhower's doodling,

Eisenhower's religious faith); Governors' Conferences (incl. purpose of conferences, liaison between federal administrators and governors); Civil Defense issues (incl. establishing rural civil defense programs, a surplus-rifle study); involvement in Cabinet sessions (incl. status of the Civil Defense Director, Eisenhower's control of his staff); Hoegh's comments about serving under Eisenhower (incl. assessment of Eisenhower as a leader, Eisenhower's insistence on thorough staff action, anecdote regarding the use of television in Cabinet meetings); anecdote regarding politics and a Senate committee; retaining correspondence files.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, October 11, 1967]