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AIKEN

AIKEN, GEORGE (OH-28) 32 pages PRCQ to Col.

Senator from Vermont, 1941-63; primarily on agriculture.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Aiken's first awareness of the existence of Eisenhower; Eisenhower's choice of political party; Aiken's choice between Eisenhower and Taft; Aiken's role in the 1952 presidential campaign; his job as an agricultural consultant to the President; Aiken's major concerns regarding agricultural policy; comments re the shifting support for agricultural legislation from Truman and the farm organizations; the growth and causes of the agricultural surpluses of the 1940s and 50s; Eisenhower's objective for the farmer during his campaign; comments re Ezra Taft Benson; comments re major projects Aiken was involved in as chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee such as the agricultural attaches reform, PL 480, and the Small Watershed Act; problems Aiken encountered as minority leader of the Agricultural Committee; the effect of a rising standard of living upon population growth and agricultural surpluses; Aiken's work on the Space Committee and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; additional comments re governmental reorganization; relations between the executive and legislative branches of government; Aiken's opinion of Eisenhower as a politician; the effect of the loss of Senator Taft as majority leader upon the Eisenhower Administration.

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