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DOUGLAS

DOUGLAS, JAMES H. JR. (OH-288) 53 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

Under Secretary, 1953-57, and Secretary, 1957-59, Department of the Air Force; Deputy Secretary of Defense, 1959-61.

Interview #1. Appointment as Under Secretary of the Air Force. Impressions of Charles Wilson. Comments on his work in the Department of the Air Force: the Air Force share of the budget; B-52s; military intelligence estimates versus CIA intelligence estimates; getting along with Congress; DDE's views on military budgets. Missile development: rivalry among the services—Thor versus Jupiter; intermediate range missiles in Turkey; U.S. reaction to Soviet space achievements question of Soviet capabilities as compared to their intentions. U-2 spy plane. Establishment of the U.S. Air Force Academy: selection of site; selection of an architect, and controversy over the chapel; its impact on education. DDE as a decision-maker (e.g., whether or not to have high flights over Berlin). Problems created by a military-industrial complex. Work on National Strategic Target List, and Integrated Operations Plan.

[Columbia Oral History Project interview by T.H. Baker, 1972]