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LYONS

LYONS, EUGENE J. (OH-351) 90 pages Open

Assistant Postmaster General for Personnel, 1953-59; Assistant to the President for Personnel Management, 1959-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Comments re his work for a modern federal salary structure; decentralization of the postal service; DDE's veto message of the first federal pay bill (1955); his relationship with Sherman Adams; problems he faced as Assistant to the President for Personnel Management; his work with the Kennedy administration during the transition period; personnel problems in the Panama Canal Zone; the role of Panamanians in the operation of the canal; and President Kennedy's understanding of the functions of his (Lyons) office; comments re the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission serving as the personnel advisor to the President; and Cuban exiles invading Cuba.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #2. Personal background; comments re his selection for position with Post Office Department; his successful efforts to get a reorganized salary scale for Postal employees through Congress; his work on training and safety programs; his impressions of Arthur Summerfield; his efforts to decentralize the postal service; Larry O'Brien's administration of the postal service and personnel matters in the postal service; efforts to increase the number of minorities in the postal service; Summerfield's successful efforts to reduce the number of postal employees; and comments re selection of postmasters. Comments re his appointment as Special Assistant to the President for Personnel Management; his relationship with Rocco Siciliano; his responsibilities as director of personnel administration; and his development of the management and development program. Comments re Christian Herter, Jr. and Sr., Richard Nixon; Nelson Rockefeller; Maurice Stans; Lyndon Johnson; Everett Dirksen; Charles Halleck; Bryce Harlow; Sherman Adams; John Eisenhower; Andrew Goodpaster; Gerald Morgan; his campaign work for Nixon in 1960; and the Cabinet meeting (May 26, 1960) in which the U-2 incident was discussed.

[Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, Interview #1 by John E. Wickman, 1971; and interview #2 by Thomas F. Soapes, 1976]