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MCCABE

MCCABE, EDWARD A.

(OH-505)

47 pgs.

OPEN

Associate Special Counsel and Administrative Assistant to the President, 1956-61

DESCRIPTION: Involvement with the McConnell House Labor Committee (1954; investigation of financial activity in labor unions); Wilton Persons, Sherman Adams, the White House staff; the role of James Mitchell, Secretary of Labor, in labor legislation; the Landrum-Griffin legislation; getting the legislation through Congress; labor legislation as a political issue; adversarial positions of Labor and Commerce Departments over labor legislation; Mitchell as emissary to union movement; the writing of Landrum-Griffin; early attempts to amend the Taft-Hartley Act; Congressional investigations of union misconduct and financial mismanagement; legislative proposals for labor reform, 1958; Mitchell's drafting of the Landrum-Griffin Act; Mitchell's inability to work with Congressional leaders on labor reform; McCabe's responsibilities in developing the strategy and tactics to produce the final bill; Mitchell's attempt to remove McCabe from this position; dynamics of the Mitchell-McCabe relationship; Mitchell and the publicity concerning the signing of the Landrum-Griffin Act; McCabe's assessment of Mitchell's value to the Republican Party; Eisenhower's continuing interest in developing labor legislation; concern for growing public awareness of labor mismanagement; meetings with Republican legislative leaders; Eisenhower's intervention in the Kennedy-Ives bill; the President's television address; McCabe's writing of Eisenhower's speech; key issues; Eisenhower's editing; success of speech; tactics for getting the bill through the House; Senator Karl Mundt; the conference committee (including structuring the committee; McCabe's role; procedures); Speaker [Sam] Rayburn and the House vote; Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson and the Senate vote; tactics; outcome; Rayburn, Johnson, and the Texas vote; tactics used to avoid the Democrat-Republican issue; [Charles] Charlie Halleck and John McCormack; picking the right spokesmen for the bill (including traditional procedures; the bipartisan issue; [Robert P.] Landrum and [Phillip M.] Griffin; the Carroll Kearns substitute bill; by-passing senior committee members); the changing perspective on Eisenhower's involvement with issues as President; McCabe's assessment of strengths and weaknesses of McAdams' book, Power and Politics in Labor Legislation; lobbying House members; the House vote; Presidential vetoes following the 1958 elections; work of the White House legislative staff (Bryce Harlow, Jack Anderson, Clyde Wheeler, McCabe); Robert Gray as legislative liaison with business groups; tactics for working with business community supporters; union support before the final vote; contributions made by Phil Landrum and Bob Griffin.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Oral History, interview by R. Alton Lee, University of South Dakota, May 11, 1987]