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GRAY

GRAY, GORDON

(OH-73)

341 pages

PRCQ

Assistant Secretary and Secretary of the Army 1947-50; chairman, Psychological Strategy Board, 1950-53; Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, 1955-57; director, Office of Defense Mobilization, 1957-58; Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, 1958-61; member, President's Foreign Intelligence Board; president, University of North Carolina; member, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1 [December 7, 1966; pp. 1-52] Early Career as lawyer and newspaper publisher in NC; Democratic campaign, 1936; service in NC Senate. World War II service: infantry school at Fort Benning; Omar Bradley's staff in Europe. Post-war service in NC Senate. Appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Army; William Draper; James Forrestal; Louis Johnson; Harry Truman; Gray's appointment as Secretary of the Army; early organization of the Defense Department; committee reports on federalizing the National Guard and on uniform code of military justice; need to strengthen position of Defense Secretary; Robert McNamara. Unification of intelligence services: DIA; CIA; wasting money on intelligence work; President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities; JFK giving additional authority to CIA director; Frank Wisner; spending intelligence funds on geodetic surveys. Gray's appointment as President of University of North Carolina; Mrs. Gray's support of sororities. Appointment to Psychological Strategy Board. Philosophy on running a university; integration at UNC; lack of contacts between students and presidents at big colleges.

Interview #2 [January 27, 1967; pp. 53-106] Early life; schooling; Yale Law School; law firm of Carter, Ledyard and Milburn in New York City; William H. Jackson; Jackson Committee; Gray's return to NC after father's death. Desegregation of the army; Omar Bradley; Army tolerance of officers who were not West Point graduates; civilian control of the military; J. Lawton Collins; Al Gruenther and Army response to NSC policy paper; problems with disagreements between services and JCS; Kilbourne Johnson; anecdote re criticism of Gray's performance at Officer's Candidate School; replacement of draft with lottery system. Gray's interest in intelligence during Korean War; Soviet ruthlessness; improvement in intelligence gathering methods; problems of interpretation; Cuban missile crisis; efforts to have Gray become head of CIA; President's Foreign Intelligence Board; industrial intelligence and internal security. [Note-pages 107-121 eliminated due to garbled tape; discussion repeated in Interview #9]

Interview #3 [January 27, 1967; pp 122-140] National Trust for Historic Preservation: early history; membership; efforts to obtain federal matching funds; acquisition of historic properties; effect of urban renewal; role of Interior and HUD departments.

Interview #4 [February 7, 1967; pp 141-183] Special Assistant to Truman to study foreign economic policy, 1950; recruitment of staff; plans to hold public meetings; State Department efforts to rewrite report. President of UNC: Frank Graham; development of academic freedom; Communists on campus; loyalty oaths; board of trustees; black students; lack of support from state legislature; improving administration; codification of university regulations; qualifications for admission; need for university to be concerned with welfare of state; development program; department chairmen; faculty salaries; “publish or perish” concept; J. Penrose Harland; encouragement of private research; government support of research; problem of classified research; public relations; student responsibilities.

Interview #5 [March 7, 1967; pp 184-221] Oppenheimer case: hearings by Personnel Security Board; efforts to be fair to Oppenheimer; leak of proceedings to NY Times by Oppenheimer’s attorney; peculiar attitude of Dr. Arthur Evans; Chavelier incident; Gray’s review of proceedings prior to deciding against Oppenheimer. Gray’s scrapbooks. Military service by college-age men.

Interview #6 [May 23, 1967; pp 222-239] Gray’s interest in teaching; desire to return to government service, 1953-54; reduction in importance of service secretaries after 1949 amendments to National Security Act; importance of Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; role of Secretary of Defense in developing national security policy; NSC as advisory panel rather than decision-making panel; DDE and JFK’s use of NSC; role of special assistant for national security affairs.

Interview #7 [July 19, 1967; pp 240-277] Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs: 1955 Geneva conference; liaison with State Department; military assistance programs; aid to NATO; briefing Secretary of Defense on NSC matters; providing military advice to State Department during international conferences; relations with JCS and CIA; Defense Department knowledge of covert operations. Office of Defense Mobilization: early history and duties; stockpiling program; Symington hearings; entrenched bureaucracy; granting amortization certificates to Idaho Power Company; imports which threaten national security; oil; watches; reduction of strategic stockpile requirements; merging of ODM and FCDA; civil defense. Special papers; James Lay; lack of use of NSC by JFK and LBJ; McGeorge Bundy; Andrew Goodpaster; background of Bay of Pigs.

Interview #8 [October 10, 1967; pp 278-302] Commission for Financing Hospital Care. Comments on FDR; John Foster Dulles; Dulles’ opposition to Jackson Committee ideas; Dulles’ offer of State Department position to Gray; Sherman Adams; Andrew Goodpaster; Gray and Goodpaster’s roles in reporting intelligence matters to DDE; Eisenhower-Kennedy transition; McGeorge Bundy; Brookings institution work on transition; Robert McNamara; Maxwell Rabb; James Webb and Gray’s appointment as special assistant to Truman, 1950; study of foreign economic policy.

Interview #9 [November 30, 1967; pp 303-341] Reorganization of the army: World War II regulations; hearings on 1950 legislation; J. Lawton Collins as Chief of Staff; dispute

over language of legislation re strengthening civilian control of the army, limiting service of officers in the Department of the Army, and duties of the Corps of Engineers; H. Struve Hensel and study of army organization by Rockefeller Commission. NATO: arguments between members; DeGaulle; Gray's desire to give nuclear weapons to France. US sales of military weapons to foreign countries.

A name index is located at the end of the transcript.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Paul Hopper, 1966-67]