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WILLIS

WILLIS, CHARLES F., JR. (OH-86) 51 pages PRCQ

Founder of Citizens for Eisenhower and vice-chairman, 1951-52; Assistant to the President, 1953-55.

DESCRIPTION: Background information; Pearl Harbor and WWII; formation of Citizens for Eisenhower with Stan Rumbough; rally at Madison Square Garden; Willis' first meeting with DDE; integrating Citizens for Eisenhower and the Republican Party; subdivisions of Citizens for Eisenhower; Ike on the campaign train; preparations for campaign train; Eisenhower-Nixon bandwagon trucks; Tex McCrary; Willis' work as special assistant to the President; Eisenhower's position on Presidential appointments; recommendations from Capitol Hill; Eisenhower as a politician and his reaction to political pressure; personal opinion of patronage system; FBI checks on Presidential appointees; Joseph McCarthy's influence on FBI checks; Oppenheimer; Bobby Kennedy; Eisenhower's interest in employment of women and blacks; the White House staff system; Sherman Adams; Willis' opinion of Eisenhower; work schedules; continuity of government between administrations; U.S. Committee for the United Nations; work as advisor to Haiti on economics.

[Columbia Oral History Project interview by John T. Mason, Jr., March 15, 1968]