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SLATER, ILENE J.

OH-71

59 pgs. w/ Index

PRCQ

Secretary to the Chairman of Citizens for Eisenhower in 1952; Secretary to Sherman Adams, 1953-57.

DESCRIPTION: Professional background prior to 1952; work with the Citizens for Eisenhower organization; going to work for Sherman Adams (incl. salary discussions, early days in Washington, Jim Lambie's functions); anecdote regarding Adams in New York; reactions to being asked to work for Adams; adjusting to Adams (incl. difficulties of job, the smoking problem); Adams' relationship with Eisenhower; anecdotes regarding Adams' telephone calls; record-keeping in the office (incl. telephone calls, letters, procedures, the office calendar); the office schedule; scheduling Adams' appointments; Adams' interactions with callers; demands of the office (incl. daily crises, volume and pressure of the work); Adams' support of staff; Adams' insistence on punctuality; Adams and political campaigning (incl. increased office activity, Gov. and Mrs. Adam's enjoyment of campaigning); anecdotes regarding Mrs. Adams; office procedures (incl. tracking correspondence responsibilities, anecdote regarding Slater and proofreading, handling the Adamses' social correspondence, Adams' habits concerning personal postage, stationery, and Christmas cards); anecdote regarding Adams' divorce of personal affairs from official affairs; general anecdotes about Adams (incl. use of wildlife stamps, love of classical music, interest in out-of-doors, shared interests with Mrs. Adams); Adams' attitude toward promptness; Adams' role in the White House and his relationship with Eisenhower; anecdote regarding Thomas E. Stephens; working relationships of the administrative staff; Slater's comments on Eisenhower appointees (incl. general observations on Harold Talbott, Adams, Emmet Hughes, E. Frederick Morrow); relationship between Adams and [James C.] Jim Hagerty; development of the secretary of the Cabinet post (incl. purpose of the position, appointment of Max Rabb, involvement with Adams); comments about [Andrew J.] Goodpaster's role and working conditions in the White House; functioning of the White House staff during Eisenhower's heart attack period (incl. headquarters' conditions in Denver, staff concerns); handling other Eisenhower absences from the White House; visitors to Adams' office (incl. Richard M. Nixon, Paul Dudley White, Lucius D. Clay); anecdote regarding several of Adams' grandsons; anecdote regarding Lady Astor. Name Index.

[Columbia University Oral History, interview by Ed Edwin, 1/31/68]