

Prepared by: EWH
Date: 6/3/97

Cannon

CANNON, C. CRAIG

OH-77

97 pgs.

PRCQ

Aide to General Eisenhower, 1946-48 and 1950-52

DESCRIPTION: PART I: Biographical information; WWII service (incl. early assignments in England, running Eisenhower's British train, various assignments through 1945); working as an aide to Eisenhower (incl. Cannon's decision to become a career officer, routines of the chief-of-staff's office, transition to Columbia University, life at Ft. Meyer, changing staff members); Cannon's graduate work; assignment to SHAPE (incl. organizing the headquarters staff, Cannon's duties, organizing the Round Robin trip, anecdote concerning Gen. [Alfred M.] Gruenther, SACEUR personnel); political overtures; quality of Eisenhower's NATO staff members; anecdotes concerning the Cannons' personal relationship with the Eisenhowers.

PART II: General comments about the chief-of-staff's office; Eisenhower's trip to the Far East as chief of staff (incl. a stop on mainland China, a reunion with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Japan); political issues (incl. correspondence, recording conversations, Eisenhower's political feelings, Cannon's concerns about Eisenhower as a candidate, Cannon's impressions regarding the story of Truman's offer of the Presidency in 1948); Eisenhower's association with Congress (incl. comments about a picture of Eisenhower testifying, Eisenhower's relationship with congressmen); general comments and anecdotes concerning Eisenhower's relationship with WWII colleagues; office personnel during the chief-of-staff period (incl. resentments felt toward James Stack, inter-office relationships, relations among the Eisenhower brothers, other staff members); general comments about the move to Columbia University (incl. Eisenhower's reasons for taking the post, Cannon's duties during the transition period, anecdote involving Eisenhower and a christening, Eisenhower's relationship with Columbia faculty and staff, Eisenhower's continuing military responsibilities); Eisenhower's interest in painting; general political topics (incl. Eisenhower's political friends, the Leonard Finder letter, Eisenhower's decision to go to Columbia University, anecdote regarding the first inauguration); the SHAPE assignment (incl. Eisenhower's attitude toward returning to military duty, comments and anecdotes about various staff members); the Round Robin trip of 1951 (incl. dealing with the logistics of the trip,

anecdotes regarding each of the countries visited); political aspects of the SHAPE assignment (incl. the distinctions made between European and U.S. concerns and Eisenhower's personal affairs); anecdote concerning Eisenhower's death; Cannon's comments concerning the books of Merle Miller and Kay Summersby.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interviews by Dr. John E. Wickman and Dr. Don W. Wilson, October, 1969, and April 5, 1975]