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PERSONS, WILTON B.: Papers, 1960-61

Accession A76-38  
Processed by: RS, TB  
Date Completed: January 1993

The Papers of Wilton B. Persons were loaned to the Eisenhower Library by General Persons in 1976. The original documents were returned to General Persons after being copied by the Library staff.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: -1  
Approximate number of pages: 250  
Approximate number of items: 200

An instrument of gift for these papers was executed by Wilton Persons Jr., in December 1992. Literary property rights in the unpublished writings of Wilton Persons Sr. have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers that are security-classified until such classification can be removed.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Wilton B. Persons served as Deputy Assistant to the President from January 20, 1953 until his appointment as Assistant to the President on October 7, 1958, succeeding Sherman Adams in that position. Following the 1960 Presidential election Persons was heavily involved as President Eisenhower's representative in the transition of government between the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. He met frequently with Clark Clifford, President-elect Kennedy's transition representative, to work out the details for a smooth transfer of government.

The Persons papers, consisting of photocopies of correspondence, memoranda and briefing reports, primarily covers the transition period from November 1960 to January 1961, although it also contains a few items pertaining to the Truman-Eisenhower transition. Documented within the collection are the meetings between Persons and Clark Clifford covering the mechanics of the transfer of power, as well as other meetings between the Eisenhower administration officials and representatives of the incoming Kennedy administration. The collection also contains a record of President Eisenhower's meeting with Kennedy on December 6, 1960 and January 19, 1961.

Among the topics covered by the transition material, in addition to the mechanics of transfer, are nuclear test ban, the balance of payments question, White House personnel, staff functions, Department of Defense matters, the Food for Peace program, foreign affairs, Laos, Cuba, limited war, and fiscal and monetary policies. In addition to Persons, the collection also documents the transition activities of Andrew Goodpaster, Theodore Sorenson, James Hagerty, Pierre Salinger, David Kendall, Mike Feldman, and George Kistiakowski. All but a small segment of this collection is duplicated in the Presidential Transition Series of Dwight D. Eisenhower's Papers as President (the Ann Whitman file).

## CONTAINER LIST

Box No.    Contents

- 1        Memoranda for the Record (1) [Nov. 3-16, 1960] [Persons' first meeting with Clark Clifford re mechanics of transition]
- Memoranda for the Record (2) [Nov. 17-18, 1960] [Persons' second meeting with Clifford re mechanics of transition; nuclear test suspension; UN; balance of payments question]
- Memoranda for the Record (3) [Nov. 18-Dec. 1, 1960] [additional meetings with Clifford; White House personnel; preparatory arrangements for DDE-JFK meeting of Dec. 6, 1960; meeting of Goodpaster with T. Sorenson re staff function and operation; meeting of Persons with Sorenson]
- Memoranda for the Record (4) [Dec. 5-9, 1960] [DDE-JFK meeting of Dec. 6 re foreign affairs, balance of payments, Defense Dept. matters; Persons meeting with JFK and R. Anderson re balance of payments; Persons meeting with Clifford re transfer of government; J. Hagerty meeting with P. Salinger; D. Kendall meeting with T. Sorenson and M. Feldman]
- Memoranda for the Record (5) [Dec. 10-28, 1960] [John J. McCloy; budgetary matters; Persons meeting with Clifford Dec. 15; Kistiakowsky meeting with Neustadt; Commerce Dept.]
- Memoranda for the Record (6) [Jan. 3-13, 1961] [Persons meeting with Clifford Dec. 28; personnel matters; Gov. Flores of Guam; G. McGovern and the Food for Peace Program]
- Memoranda for the Record (7) [Jan. 13-16, 1961] [index to foreign affairs policy briefing book; Dept. of Agriculture; Persons meeting with Clifford Jan. 10; Tracy Voorhees; U.S. Advisory Comm. on Foreign Information Program]
- Memoranda for the Record (8) [Jan. 17-19, 1961] [DDE-JFK meeting of Jan. 19 re Laos, Cuba, limited war, fiscal and monetary policies; Bureau of the Budget; Persons meeting with Clifford Jan. 16]

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