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SHANLEY, BERNARD: Diaries, 1951-57

Accession A78-31
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Electrostatic copies of the diaries of Bernard Shanley were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in August 1978 by Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.2
Approximate number of pages: 2,400
Approximate number of items: 7

Mr. Shanley has placed no restrictions on access to the diaries. Literary property rights are restricted by Seton Hall University.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The diaries in this collection were compiled by Bernard Shanley, a New Jersey lawyer who served as a deputy assistant and appointments secretary to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Shanley started the first diary in May 1951 when he became director of a volunteer group formed to support Harold Stassen's campaign for the presidency. Stassen's candidacy was viewed as a "holding action," a means of drawing delegates away from Robert Taft so Dwight D. Eisenhower could obtain the Republican nomination, although Stassen hoped to receive the nomination if a stalemate developed between Taft and Eisenhower. Many people among Stassen's followers, including Shanley himself, began to support Eisenhower as his campaign gathered momentum. Shanley eventually joined Eisenhower's campaign and, after the convention in which Eisenhower received the presidential nomination, traveled with Eisenhower on his campaign tours around the country. The diaries provide a detailed account of Shanley's activities in both the Stassen and Eisenhower campaigns and contain much information on the relationship between Stassen and Eisenhower.

When Eisenhower was inaugurated, Shanley was invited to join the White House staff as deputy assistant and special counsel to the President. Shanley's job was to help Sherman Adams oversee the operation of the White House staff. He also met with members of the public and acted as liaison with congress and other offices in the executive branch in order to determine what should be brought to the President's attention.

After two years as special counsel, Shanley became Eisenhower's appointments secretary. As such, his basic task was to arrange the President's schedule. He determined who was to see the President and helped to screen out undesirable visitors.

The diary entries which cover Shanley's years at the White House contain much information on the operations of the White House staff. As deputy assistant to the President, Shanley attended many staff meetings and he often entered summaries of the discussions into his diary. The discussions ranged over nearly all aspects of domestic policy and often pertained to foreign policy as well.

After Shanley became appointments secretary the diary entries became less detailed and contained more information on the President's schedule. Shanley included information on important visitors who saw the President, and the reaction of both the President and himself to the individuals.

In addition to describing his official duties, Shanley included information on other members of the White House staff and their activities. The diaries contain descriptions of his colleagues and their personalities and how Shanley related to them. There is also much information on parties and social functions attended by the White House staff, and several references to Shanley's private life and his law practice. The last diary ends in November 1957 when Shanley left the White House to run, unsuccessfully, for the U.S. Senate from New Jersey.

Shanley used a tape recorder when preparing the diary entries. In the evenings after work he dictated an account of the events of the day and then gave the tape to his secretary to be transcribed. The typed entries remained in their original form for many years. After Eisenhower died in 1969 Shanley edited the diary to remove repetitious material and had it retyped to form a continuous series of volumes. At the same time he wrote an introduction in which he summarized his relationship with President Eisenhower and told several anecdotes which illustrated Eisenhower's personality.

Shanley donated the final, revised versions of his diaries to Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. The diaries herein described are electrostatic copies which were given to Eisenhower Library by Seton Hall University at Shanley's request.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	I. Preface [Shanley opinion of Eisenhower; anecdotes illustrative of Eisenhower's personality] II. The Delaying Action [May 1951-July 1952] [Shanley's work for Harold Stassen campaign; state and national politics; Eisenhower candidacy] III. The Eisenhower Campaign of 1952 [Sept.-Nov. 1952] [Shanley's work for Eisenhower campaign; Eisenhower's campaign tours] IV. The White House Days [Nov. 1952-June 1953] [Shanley's work at the White House; operation of White House staff; staff and cabinet meetings; foreign and domestic policy; personnel; politics; social activities]
2	V. The White House Years [July-Aug. 1953 [<u>Ibid.</u>] VI. The White House Years [Sept. 1953-Dec. 1954] [<u>Ibid.</u>]
3	VII. The White House Years [Jan. 1955-Nov. 1957] [Shanley's work as appointments secretary; important visitors who saw Eisenhower; influential congressman]

END OF CONTAINER LIST