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ABILENE, KANSAS

SMYLIE, ROBERT E.: Papers, 1948-62
[microfilm]

Accession 70-91
Processed by: JWL, TB
Date completed: February 2003

The papers of Robert E. Smylie were loaned to the Eisenhower Library for microfilming by the Idaho State Historical Society in April 1970.

Number of reels of microfilm: 3

The original papers of Robert E. Smylie are at the Idaho State Historical Society in Boise, Idaho. Permission to quote from any of the documents must be obtained from the Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Robert E. Smylie was born in 1914 at Marcus, Iowa and moved to Idaho in 1933. He graduated from the College of Idaho in 1938 and received a law degree from George Washington University in 1942. After serving in World War II he entered law practice in Boise and became active in Republican politics. He was appointed Assistant Attorney General of Idaho in 1947 and became Attorney General shortly thereafter upon the death of the incumbent. In 1950 he was elected Attorney General in his own right. During the 1952 campaign Smylie actively supported Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was acquainted with Edward Bermingham, a member of Eisenhower's campaign staff, and frequently submitted reports to Bermingham on Republican activities in the Rocky Mountain states. He also helped make arrangements for Eisenhower's campaign visit to Idaho in August 1952.

In 1954 Smylie was elected governor of Idaho and served three terms (1955-1967). As a Republican governor, Smylie had frequent contacts with the Eisenhower administration. He was a member of the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and also supported the Eisenhower administration in opposing federal development of the Hells Canyon area. After leaving office Smylie returned to private law practice in Boise.

Smylie's official records as Governor of Idaho were turned over to the Idaho State Archives at the end of his administration. This collection contains 28 boxes and consists mostly of his official correspondence with state agencies and the general public. In 1969 Smylie donated his personal papers to the Idaho State Historical Society. This collection consists of 34 boxes of correspondence and subject files covering his entire public career. An inventory of both collections is available at the Eisenhower Library.

While processing the Smylie papers, the staff at the Idaho State Historical Society found several folders of political correspondence concerning Republican affairs at the state and national level. In March 1970 the Eisenhower Library arranged to borrow the folders so they could be microfilmed. The Library staff arranged the documents in chronological order and reproduced them on three reels of microfilm. The original documents were then returned to the Idaho State Historical Society. They appear to be the files labeled "Correspondence: Political and some personal" and "Political Campaigns: 1954" in boxes 2 and 3 of the Smylie papers.

The bulk of the microfilmed correspondence pertains to Smylie's interest in state and local government and politics in Idaho. There is considerable information on the Idaho Republican Central Committee and efforts to obtain national-level speakers for Idaho events. Relatively little correspondence relates to national politics. Most of this concerns Smylie's work for Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1952 campaign, including his political reports to Edward Bermingham. There is also considerable information on Idaho's participation in the 1960 Republican National Convention. There is no correspondence on Smylie's work for the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Reel No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	November 1948-April 23, 1954 [Idaho Young Republican Clubs; 1949 report on Idaho state government reorganization; 1950 campaign for attorney general; 1951 Hells Canyon legislation; DDE campaign visit to Boise, Aug 1952; Edward Bermingham; advisor to DDE campaign staff; political reports to Bermingham; 1952 campaign expenses; candidacy for governor in 1954]
2		April 23, 1954-December 5, 1958 [1954 campaign for governor; M.D. Beal article re 1954 election in Idaho; Mormon involvement in Idaho politics; routine correspondence with national Republican leaders; Ed Bermingham; Idaho politics, education and agriculture; 1958 campaign; 1958 reports by RNC on women in government]
3		December 5, 1958-January 11, 1962 [Idaho politics and state government; endorsements for new Idaho wheat commission, 1959; 1960 campaign; Thruston Morton; Nelson Rockefeller; Richard Nixon; Idaho delegation to 1960 Republican National Convention]

END OF CONTAINER LIST