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LODGE

LODGE, JOHN DAVIS

(OH-144)

198 pages

PRCQ

Ambassador on Special Presidential missions to Puerto Rico, Panama, and Costa Rica, 1953; Ambassador to Spain, 1955-61.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. His career as an actor; service in the Navy during World War II; Salerno operations. Comments re his 1946 campaign for Congress from Connecticut; Truman Doctrine; Connecticut governor Chester Bowles and Lodge's gubernatorial race against him; Commission for the Civilian Uses of Atomic Energy.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #2. Discussion of his election as governor of Connecticut; controversy over Connecticut Throughway; split in Connecticut Republican Party. Comments re his tenure as governor; patronage system for appointing minor court judges; educational system in Connecticut. Comparison U.S.-British forms of government. His veto of the gambling bill; defeat for second term as governor; possibility of running for U.S. Senate in 1952. Lengthy discussion of DDE's nomination, Robert Taft, Republican National Convention, the Fair Play Resolution, campaigning for DDE in Connecticut. Special presidential mission to Panama and Costa Rica; United Fruit Company; Ambassador to Spain.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #3. Appointment by DDE as Ambassador to Spain; State Department briefings and meetings with John Foster Dulles prior to departure; Pentagon briefing re Spanish bases and pipeline. Military and economic aid to Spain; origin of U.S. bases in Spain; Spanish domestic situation. Lengthy discussion of Catholic Church in Spain. Franco and Jewish refugees during World War II; Norwegian opposition to Spanish entry into NATO; the European Common Market; Spanish agriculture and industry; DDE's visit with Franco in December 1959.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #4. Possible successors to Franco; informality in forms of address; philosophy as Ambassador; Spain's Arab background; continued British presence in Gibraltar; Gibraltar's loss of strategic importance; U.S. position on Gibraltar. Hitler's attempt to use Gibraltar as bribe so Franco would allow German troops to cross Spain. Franco's attitude toward the U.S.; role of Falangists in Spain; Franco's desire for Spain to join the United Nations. A name index is located at the end of the transcript.

[Columbia Oral History Project interviews by John T. Mason, Jr., 1967-69]