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LARMON

LARMON, SIGURD S. (OH-218) 92 pages PRCQ (M)

Active in Eisenhower campaign, 1951-52; member, U.S. Advisory Commission for United States Information Agency (USIA), 1954-69; personal friend of the Eisenhowers.

Interview #1. Personal background. First acquaintance with DDE when DDE was at Columbia University. The 1952 Presidential campaign: Bill Robinson's efforts to persuade DDE to run; working with Citizens for Eisenhower; Larmon's advertising staff working on the media campaign; DDE's devotion to duty as an influence on his decision to run; battle over which slates of delegates to seat at the Republican national convention; DDE opening the campaign in Abilene; DDE's television speeches; selection of a Vice-Presidential running mate. Comments on DDE speeches for Richard Nixon in the 1960 Presidential campaign.

Interview #2. General comments about 1952 campaign and 1953 inaugural. Work in 1953 on President's Commission on International Information Activities: report on libraries set up by U.S. in foreign countries; answering McCarthy's attacks on USIA. Work on USIA Advisory Commission: usefulness of overseas libraries; effectiveness of USIA. Eisenhower Fellowship Exchanges. Assessment of the People-to-People program. Anecdotes about DDE: his first ileitis attack; his speaking ability; relaxing at Gettysburg and Palm Springs; David Eisenhower. Larmon's work on a cleanup campaign in New York City. Comments on DDE speeches for Richard Nixon in the 1960 Presidential campaign. DDE's feelings towards politics, and the Presidency.

[Columbia Oral History Project Interviews by John T. Mason, Jr., 1970]