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McCLURE

**McCLURE, STEWART**

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**OPEN**

Chief Clerk, Senate Committee on Labor, Education, and Welfare, 1955-1969, 1971-1973.

**DESCRIPTION:** Interview #1: Childhood and education; variety of jobs in the 1930s; New York City Coordinating Committee for Democratic Action; post-war American League for a Free Palestine; organizing the National Committee for an Effective Congress; 1948 elections; working for Guy Gillette as administrative assistant in Washington; duties of the job; Gillette and foreign relations; the Palestine issue; the Senate Rules Committee; Joseph McCarthy; Gillette's defeat in 1954 election; some observations on Gillette; Gillette and John Foster Dulles; Gillette and the structure of the Senate; tidelands oil controversy; the Agriculture Committee.

Interview #2: Description and staffing of Gillette's Senate office; how the office functioned; maintaining secrecy around foreign policy matters; media relations and communications with the press; relationship with staff from other Senate offices; Mark and Rose Gillette; office staff involvement in the 1954 election; importance of McCarthy in Gillette's defeat; going to work for Senator Lister Hill; the Labor Committee; the committee room and offices; staffing structure for the committee; Hill's support for the Salk vaccine.

Interview #3: Lister Hill's background and political career; Hill's abilities as a legislator; his extensive knowledge of his fellow senators; what it was like working for Hill; liberal congressmen from Alabama; civil rights issues; Hill and labor issues; assignment of JFK to the Labor Committee; interaction between committee staffers and the senators' staff; relations between the Democratic Labor Committee and the Republican administration; relations between Senate and House committees; LBJ as Senate majority leader; performance of various Senators on the committee.

Interview #4: Anecdote about a higher education bill; GI Bill and Federal money for public education in the 1950s; Sputnik spurred an emphasis on science and technology education; race issue impediment to providing Federal money to schools superseded by need for Federal dollars for science education; National Defense Education Act (NDEA) passage in the Senate; role of Eisenhower administration in passing the NDEA; lack of executive-legislative cooperation on education during Kennedy administration; Charles Lee and the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act; impact of Wayne Morse on the education committee; some observations on Morse.

Interview #5: Some observations on internal life of staff serving under Lister Hill; anecdotes about personalities and events during his time with the committee; lack of sense of security working on Senate committee; handling of the committee staff; anecdote about JFK on the Senate labor committee and a conflict of interest; Bob Brenkworth; more on JFK; distribution of subcommittee work; Landrum-Griffin conference.

Interview #6: Design and layout of the Dirksen office building; need for reevaluation of Senate committee staff functions and number of staff members; impact of the legislation passed by 89<sup>th</sup> Congress on committee staff work; events surrounding poverty programs and the War on Poverty; comparison of legislative liaison of the Johnson, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Nixon administrations; Lister Hill and the poverty programs; welfare and the Finance Committee; lobbying by the AFL-CIO and other unions; McClure memo to LBJ about congressional staff; Senate leadership in the 1960s; affect of creation of subcommittees on work of the committee chief clerk.

Interview #7: Being forced off of the Labor Committee staff when Jack Yarborough became chairman; some impressions of Yarborough; move to the Public Works Committee following the 1968 election; subcommittees under Public Works; anecdote regarding Fred Harris and a trip to Oklahoma; important work and projects of the committee; hurricane Camille relief; work of the committee staff; passage of the Disaster Relief Act; comparison of the Labor and Public Works Committees and their chairmen.

Interview #8: Events leading up to his return to the Labor Committee; changes he encountered in the new committee; changes he made to the staff; Harrison Williams as committee chairman; finding a position for Jeannette; difficult interaction with Smith; interference with how he ran his staff; forced out of his job into retirement; impact of Williams on the committee; general impressions of Williams; changes in the institution of the Senate from 1949-1973; changes in Senate staffing; qualities needed in a senate staff member.

[Senate Historical Office, interview by Donald A. Ritchie, December 8, 1982 to May 3, 1983]