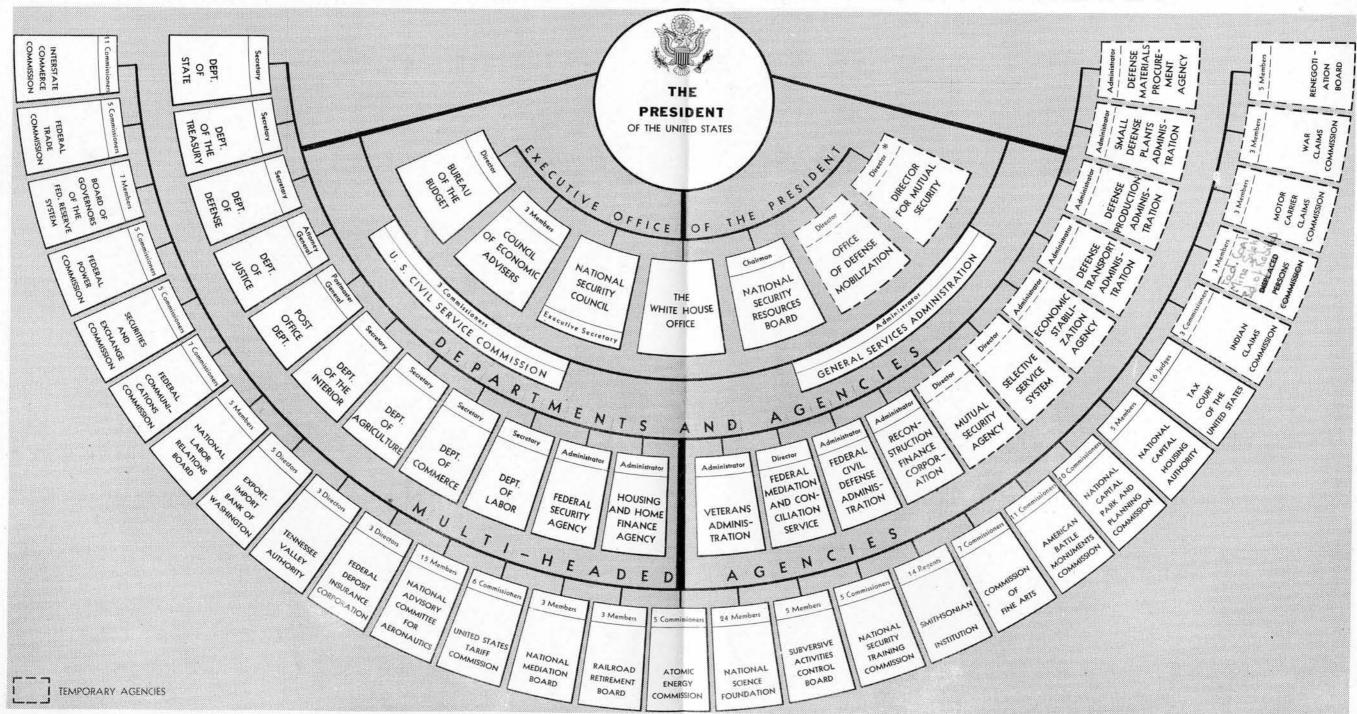
## EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT



<sup>\*</sup> Serves also as the Director of the Mutual Security Agency

Harold E. Stassen Director for Mutual Security February 10, 1953

There are more of these new cards of yours in the top right hand drawer and Mrs. HES has additional at 3312.

M.

DRAFT OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MORRIE KAPLAN OF THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN 1. I was with General Eisenhower in New York on the evening and early morning of his election and visited with him at that time. 2. It is my present plan to continue to serve as President of the University of Pennsylvania and to continue to assist General Eisenhower in every way I can in his new responsibility as President. There has been no agreement or understanding of any kind between General Eisenhower and myself for any position whatsoever. My early support of him, the transfer of my delegates to him to clinch the nomination at the end of the first ballot, and my work for him and with him since the nomination have all been based on my conviction that this was the best thing to do for the future of our country. I have no anxieties at the present time. I have never had a "strong desire to some day become President of the United

- 4. I have never had a "strong desire to some day become President of the United States." My very active campaign of 1948 was conducted because of my belief that President Truman's policies would lead to the loss of ground for the forces of freedom in the world situation with tragic consequences for America and because of my conviction that if nominated I could defeat him and establish a successful administration. I am thrilled that General Eisenhower has now accomplished what I was unable to do in 1948 and have a deep sinse of satisfaction and a confident outlook that he will give America the leadership so much needed at home and abroad.
- 5. It would not be proper for me to comment on a question of this kind. I assume you know of my very high regard for Governor Warren.

- 6. At approximately 8:30 P. M. when the returns indicated that he was decisively carrying Connecticut. It was at this time that I was interviewed by Robert Trout on CBS and stated that in my judgment he would be elected with the largest popular vote that any President had ever received. The reason for this conclusion was that Connecticut as an industrial state heavily unionized could not be carried unless a large proportion of members of authorized labor were voting for General Eisenhower notwithstanding the endorsements of his opponent. This fact, added to our knowledge of other strengths, made a very decisive victory evident. I should add that I was very confident of a decisive election ten days before election day.
- 7. Confidence in General Eisenhower and trust of his leadership was in my judgment the deciding factor. The very bad Truman record was the second reason. The specific issues revolved around the Korean War, foreign policy generally, inflation and corruption.
- 8. It is not proper for me to comment on this question.
- 9. The Democratic Party will still be a strong party with many city and state administrations and organizations and almost one-half of the membership of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. No one could make an intelligent prediction now of the relative position of the parties in 1956.
- 10. Because of the relationship which I have had in an advisory capacity with

  General Eisenhower, it is not proper for me to comment on this type of question.

  On this and on similar questions however I would caution that you should not take seriously any claims or stories or statements by columnists or writers or political leaders as to what General Eisenhower intends to do. He is very definitely a

leader. He makes up his own mind, makes his own announcements, and moves in accordance with his own principles and his own conscience.

## A TALK WITH PRESIDENT STASSEN

By request of Morrie Kaplan of the Daily Pennsylvanian

Question I. Have you spoken to or tried to contact Eisenhower since his election?

Answer: I was with General Eisenhower in New York on the evening and early morning of his election and visited with him at that time.

- Question 2. In view of the election results the rumor on campus is stronger than ever that you will be resigning from your post as President in the very near future. Would you care to comment on the validity or falseness of this rumor?
- Answer: It is my present plan to continue to serve as President of the University of Pennsylvania and to continue to assist General Eisenhouer in every way I can in his new responsibility as President.
- Question 3. Drew Pearson in his 'Washington Merry-Go-Round' column of October 26 picked you as the probable choice for Secretary of Labor. Has there been any agreement or understanding between you and Eisenhower to the effect that if he won the election you would receive the post of Secretary of Labor? Are you anxious to obtain the post?
- Answer: There has been no agreement or understanding of any kind between General Eisenhower and myself for any position whatsoever. My early support of him, the transfer of my delegates to him to clinch the nomination at the end of the first ballot, and my work for him and with him since the nomination have all been based on my conviction that this was the best thing to do for the future of our country. I have no anxieties at the present time!
- Question 4. Does Eisenhower's election in any way change your strong desires to someday become President of the United States? Do you think your chances for becoming President are now hampered in view of Eisenhower's election, especially since a strong campaign point in the '52 election has been the desire for a "change in parties".
- Answer: I have never had a "strong desire to some day become President of the United States." My very active campaign of 1948 was conducted because of my belief that President Truman's policies would lead to the loss of ground for the forces of freedom in the world situation with tragic consequences for America and because of my conviction that if nominated I could defeat him and establish a successful administration. I am thrilled that General Risenhower has now accomplished what I was unable to do in 1948 and have a deep sense of satisfaction and a confident outlook that he will give America the leadership so much needed at home and abroad.
- Question 5. Do you think Governor Warren will give up his Governorship to become Attorney General?

Page #2

Answer: It would not be proper for me to comment on a question of this kind.

I assume you know of my very high regard for Governor Warren.

Question 6. At what point during the returns of the voting do you think Eisenhower clinched the election?

Answer: At approximately 8:30 P. M. when the returns indicated that he was decisively carrying Connecticut. It was at this time that I was interviewed by Robert Trout on CBS and stated that in my judgment he would be elected with the largest popular vote that any President had ever received. The reason for this conclusion was that Connecticut as an industrial state heavily unionized could not be carried unless a large proportion of members of organized labor were voting for General Eisenhower notwithstanding the endorsements of his opponent. This fact, added to our knowledge of other strengths, made a very decisive victory evident. I should add that I was very confident of a decisive election ten days before election day.

Question 7. Which issue or point in the Presidential race do you think was the deciding factor in influencing the American people to vote for Eisenhouer?

Answer: Confidence in General Eisenhower and trust of his leadership was in my judgment the deciding factor. The very bad Truman record was the second reason. The specific issues revolved around the Korean War, foreign policy generally, inflation and corruption.

Question 8. Which men do you think Eisenhower will pick for his cabinet, and what posts do you think these men will receive?

Answer: It is not proper for me to comment on this question.

Question 9. Do you think the Democratic party has been broken in spirit, influencial and financial backing, and organization by Eisenhower's sweeping election, or do you feel the Democrats are still potentially strong enough to make a comeback in '56?

Answer: The Democratic Party will still be a strong party with many city and state administrations and organizations and almost one-half of the membership of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. No one could make an intelligent prediction now of the relative position of the parties in 1956.

Question 10. Do you think Eisenhower will try to arrange a meeting with Stalin in the near future? Do you believe anything will be gained by such a meeting?

Answer: Because of the relationship which I have had in an advisory capacity with General Eisenhower, it is not proper for me to comment on this type of question. On this and on similar questions however I would caution that you should not take seriously any claims or stories or statements by columnists or writers or political leaders as to what General Eisenhower intends to do. He is very definitely a leader. He makes up his own mind, makes his own announcements, and moves in accordance with his own principles and his own conscience.

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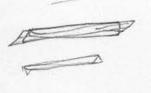
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