

directly affects the activities of their particular departments.

Another group of people, somewhat younger, are likewise important in the administration. The ones that come instantly to mind are:

My brother, Milton Eisenhower, president, Penn State College

Henry Cabot Lodge, American representative to the United Nations

Herbert Brownell, attorney general

Harold Stassen, director for Mutual Security

Joseph Dodge, director of the budget

Oveta Hobby, secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

Sherman Adams, head of the White House staff

Charles Halleck, Republican leader in the House of Representatives

Richard Nixon, vice-president

Senator William Knowland, of California

Robert Stevens, secretary of the army

Robert Anderson, secretary of the navy

Robert Cutler, my administrative assistant and director of the National Security Council

C. D. Jackson, my administrative assistant for psychological warfare activities

Dr. Arthur Flemming, director of defense mobilization

Philip Young, chairman of the Civil Service Commission

To this list, I could add a great many others. But most of them are individuals who, by reason of their very specialized assignments, do not figure prominently in councils and decisions of really broad scope—for example, Jerry Persons and his group of assistants, Dr. Hauge, and Tom Stephens.¹

Of the list I have just named, I should remark as a general impression that none of them has really disappointed me; on the contrary, they have performed both individually and as a group beyond my original expectations. At this minute, I am not going to attempt to set down my opinion of the qualifications and personalities of each. It would take far too long. However, in a few cases, I do want to make some record of my current impressions.

So far as my brother Milton is concerned, I am, of course, a prejudiced witness. However, I have no hesitancy in saying I believe him to be the most knowledgeable and widely informed of all the people with whom I deal. He is a great character and personality, a humanitarian, and a truly capable organizer and leader. So far as I am concerned, he is at this moment the most highly qualified man in the United States to be president. This most emphatically makes no exception of me.²

I would not, of course, offer to Milton—and he would not accept—any position in the government. He does, however, consult frequently with various members of the government and is my most intimate general adviser. He has been of invaluable assistance in helping develop our reorganizational plans and has consented to make a visit as my personal representative to South America, to take place during his vacation period this coming summer.

Next to Milton in general all-round capability (and I am speaking of capabili-

ties now with particular reference to governmental service), I would place Henry Cabot Lodge. He is well-educated, widely experienced, quick, shrewd, and possessed of a fine personality. He has long been in politics and is therefore apt to form judgments somewhat more colored by political considerations than would an individual whose background is more like Milton's. However, he is, by instinct and upbringing, an honorable man—and remains so even in political argument and discussion. He is doing a particularly good job in the United Nations, where his quickness of wit and his great ability and extemporaneous debate serve us very well indeed.

He has been quite unpopular with certain sections of the Republican party—especially the so-called reactionary wing. There is no question, however, that he represents the general stream of American thinking far better than does an individual such as Senator Malone or any other of that particular school.

Herb Brownell. Here is a man with long experience in politics, especially in the conduct of political campaigns. It would be natural to suppose that he would become hardboiled, and that the code by which he lives could scarcely be classified as one of high moral quality. The contrary seems to be true—certainly he has never suggested or proposed to me any action which could be considered in the slightest degree dishonest or unethical. His reputation with others seems to match my own high opinion of his capabilities as a lawyer, his qualities as a leader, and his character as a man. I am devoted to him and am perfectly confident that he would make an outstanding president of the United States.

Charlie Halleck. This man is a different type. He is a Phi Beta Kappa, which means at least that he is highly intelligent and mentally adept. He has had a reputation as being a ruthless politician, but I find him not only considerate and kind but a real team player. He does believe in discipline in an organization, and he has no patience whatsoever with the individuals that "stray off the reservation" when it comes to a matter of Republican regularity. He is charming company and, so far as I can determine, of exemplary tactfulness. Perhaps my opinion can be best expressed by merely stating the fact that he was high on my list of acceptable vice-presidents when my opinion was asked last July. And, since that time, he has steadily grown in my estimation.

Arthur Flemming and Philip Young. These two individuals are highly knowledgeable concerning governmental function and organization. Both are very well educated, Flemming now being the president of Ohio Wesleyan, on leave—while Phil Young has just served several years as the dean of the business school of Columbia University. I consider both to be invaluable in the administration and respect highly the counsel and advice I get from them. They both seem to possess executive ability in an extraordinary degree and, all in all, it is difficult indeed to class anybody above them except in the single quality of broad experience. (Both are relatively young men.)

For the moment, I shall not attempt to go further in my descriptions of the individuals I have named herein, since the mere fact that I have named them implies correctly that I have for them real admiration and respect.

Over and beyond this list, there are others in business or in state governments

JUNE 18, 1954

At luncheon, Mr. Hoover told me that he had received from Mr. Adenauer an invitation to visit Germany. I told him that my first reaction was favorable—that I could see no possible objection on the part of the administration to such a visit. However, on this matter I would want, I told him, to consult with the secretary of state and would let him know the result.

I pointed out that American travelers were constantly covering the world on governmental and in private capacities and that I had on several occasions sent individuals as my personal representatives in different regions. However, it was my understanding, I told him, that he was to go purely in his private capacity and because, as he remarked, he was representative of a certain phase of our national life.

Upon returning from lunch, I discussed the matter with Foster Dulles over the phone and then telephoned to Mr. Hoover to tell him that we saw no objection to his acceptance.

He merely remarked that he would let me know in a day or two what he thought the "set-up" should be. This remark I do not understand, but I assume he wants authority to tell Mr. Adenauer that he discussed the matter with me before accepting.

The year that had started out so well was fraying by midsummer, and Eisenhower may have told himself that such was the way with American domestic politics, or the world, or both. In the spring of 1954 there was the McCarthy problem to turn off expectations at home and Dienbienphu to blot out any triumph abroad. Perhaps the experience recalled to him, although he may not have read about it, the various experiences of an earlier president, John Quincy Adams, who in an enormous diary was accustomed to relate some triumph or other and then to tell, time after time, how the occasion of the moment was so marvelous that surely some dastardly event would emerge to wreck it. Old puritan that he was, Adams was susceptible to this sort of speculation, and sure enough, something always came along.

By the summer, McCarthy was on the skids—though one could not be sure. Dienbienphu, however, did not go away, and the place fell to the North Vietnamese communists on May 7, 1954, the day before the Geneva Conference held its first plenary session on Indochina. Thereafter the communists waited out a favorable solution. Undersecretary of State Bedell Smith explained their tactics well. "They have a big fish on the hook," he reported to Dulles on May 20, "and intend to play it out." The operation took time but by early July the French premier of the moment, Pierre Mendes-France, was ready to give up and jump into the net. He had given himself a deadline of four weeks, July 20, to end the war or resign.

JULY 10, 1954

I had a long conversation with Foster Dulles, who agrees in principle and is going to see how we can implement the idea. I requested Dulles to make certain that both Mendes-France and Eden understand the reason for our reluctance to come back to the Geneva Conference. We do not want to have an apparent parting of the ways among us occur in the spotlight of the Geneva Conference.

Helen Eakin Eisenhower, wife of Milton, died on July 10, and the president and Mamie went up to State College, Pennsylvania, for the funeral.

JULY 13, 1954

A group of federal associates, Mamie and I, went to Helen's funeral at State College. Went by plane (Constellation) to Martinsburg (thirty-five minutes). Then by car to State College (one hour and ten minutes). Four P.M.—back in office. (DDE DIARY SERIES, Box 7, DDE DIARY JULY 1954)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1954 — 8:30 AM

1. Syngman Rhee Amendment to the Extension of Trade Agreements Act (Secretary Dulles) *(Hunt)*
2. Report on Status of Legislation in Senate Finance Committee (Senator Millikin) ✓
3. Senate Report (Senator Snowland) ✓
4. House Report (Speaker Martin) ✓



Legislative leadership conference, June 28, 1954, 8:30 A.M.

RELIGION), to send an appeal to President Eisenhower. They asked him to make a speech in a major Southern city, to "use the weight of your great office to point out to the people of the South the moral nature of the problem." They also asked Vice President Richard M. Nixon to make a tour of the South. And the Negroes revealed that their appeal to the White House had the seconding of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Courage in Florida

While sparks of violence flew from the issue of bus segregation in Montgomery and Atlanta, a calm and remarkably candid voice came out of Florida's hilly capital of Tallahassee (whose own transit service has been suspended to avoid outbreaks).

Handsome, wavy-haired LeRoy Collins, 47 beginning an unprecedented second term* as Florida's chief executive, faced squarely up to the explosive question in his inaugural address last week. "I am convinced that the average white citizen does not object to non-segregated seating in buses—any more than he objects to riding the same elevators with Negroes or patronizing the same stores. He does resent some of the methods being used to achieve certain ends. Boycotts, ultimatums, and peremptory demands can never achieve what persuasion, peaceful petition, and normal judicial procedures can do for the Negro race . . ."

The Law: Collins added: "It will give us no good whatever to defy the United States Supreme Court. Actually, the Court is an essential institution for the preservation of our form of government. It is little short of rebellion and anarchy to suggest that any state can secede and quarantine itself against the effect of a decision of the United States Supreme Court . . ."

"It is not easy to say, but it is nevertheless true and I feel that I should stand up and say it. The Supreme Court decisions are the law of the land. And the nation's strength, and Florida's strength, are bottomed upon the basic premise that ours is a land of law."

Friends said that Collins had sweated through draft after draft of the inaugural speech, some of them even stronger than the final version. But this was what he wanted to say. And the reaction was more favorable than he could have expected. Legislative leaders said openly they agreed. And while newspaper editorials differed in varying degrees, most everyone was impressed with Collins' "courage."

Florida's constitution prohibits a governor's suing himself. But the State Supreme Court ruled last year that the ban need not apply to parties like Collins, who was elected in 1954 to the late Dan McCarty's unexpired four years.

January 21, 1957



Ike with George Allen: A chance to relax—and to blow off steam

THE MEN AROUND IKE

The Inner Circle Shrinks

It has become almost an axiom of U.S. politics that, as a President continues in office, the circle of the men about him on whom he truly and deeply relies for advice shrinks more and more.

It was true of Woodrow Wilson who, toward the end, relied principally on Col. Edward M. House; it was true of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who more and more was inclined to trust the judgment of Harry Hopkins, and it was true of Harry S. Truman who—for all his predilection for making snap decisions—leaned most heavily on Dean Acheson.

The explanation for this is simple. As any President continues in the most mandraining, exhausting political office in the world, he learns to conserve his time and his energies by keeping the number of his intimates down to the very few whom he instinctively trusts, whose thinking is most closely attuned to his, whose responses echo his own.

As President Eisenhower moves into his second term, it is becoming clear that he, too, has found all this true.

The President relies now for real advice on governmental matters on a handful of men in, or close to, his official family in Washington; the number of men with whom he can really relax has become even fewer.

These few friends (there are three) are the men with whom he doesn't have to "act like the President" every minute, who don't make demands on him, who don't leak items to the newspapers. They have no axes to grind. Since all three

happen to be successful businessmen (for whose judgment the President has a great deal of respect), Mr. Eisenhower sometimes used them to test out new ideas. And since all are discreet, he feels free to blow off steam to them.

Friend of Presidents: Perhaps the closest of these friends is George E. Allen, Washington attorney and corporation director who also was friend to Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman. The President first met Allen in wartime London (when Allen was on a Red Cross mission), and was charmed by his most outgoing personality. The two men now have nearby farms at Gettysburg (where both breed Aberdeen Angus cattle), and they frequently swim together in the White House pool.

Next oldest of Mr. Eisenhower's close personal friends is William E. Robinson, president of the Coca-Cola Co., and former business manager of The New York Herald Tribune. The President and Robinson also met in Europe, after the liberation of Paris, when Robinson (then still with The Herald Tribune) went over to see about re-establishing publication of The Trib's Paris edition.

Third is Clifford J. Roberts, New York banker and chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club, whose friendship with the President dates back to 1948, when Mr. Eisenhower joined the Augusta club.

In addition to other facets of their friendship, Robinson and Roberts are frequent golfing and bridge companions of the President. They often fly between

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

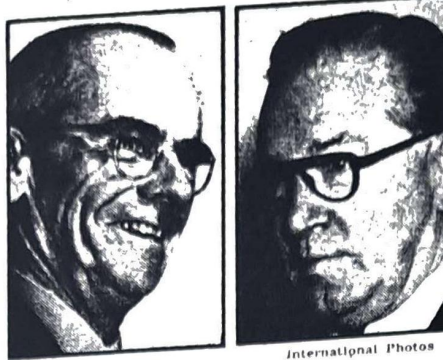
Washington and Augusta with President Eisenhower, and think nothing of making the 90-minute flight to get in a couple of rubbers of bridge.

If Allen, Robinson, and Roberts are simply friends of the President (though this in itself is an important function) there are two men who for Mr. Eisenhower—span the two worlds of the personal and official.

Brother and Friend: They are men for whom he has deep personal attachments—and from whom he not only accepts but seeks suggestions: One is his younger brother, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower (now president of Johns Hopkins University); the other is his longtime friend, Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther (now president of the American Red Cross).

Of his brother, President Eisenhower has often said that he is "the brains" of the family. Knowledgeable in many fields (education, foreign affairs, agriculture, government administration), Milton Eisenhower commutes to Washington at least once a week and almost invariably turns up—in Denver, Key West, Augusta, or Gettysburg—when a big decision is in the making.

As for Gruenther (once the President's chief of staff at SHAPE, and one of the few friends who consistently beats him at bridge), Mr. Eisenhower's regard for his knowledge of the European defense picture and for his razor-sharp analytical mind is so great that official Washington



Intimates Roberts and Robinson

regards it as only a question of time before he is drafted for a top-level government office.

As part of his job, the President naturally must confer constantly with the members of his staff and his Cabinet. Yet here, too, he inevitably has come to spend more and more time with fewer and fewer men. Some of them are personal friends (like Treasury Secretary George Humphrey), but not all.

During the early months of his first term, high-ranking Washington politicians complained that Mr. Eisenhower listened to too many advisers on any given question. That no longer is true.

It has been apparent since his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention last August that the President has sharply in mind the role he wants to play in the nation and in the Republican Party for the next four years; it is now

becoming apparent just which men he tends to rely on to help shape that image.

Unlike his immediate predecessors, for President Eisenhower there will be no one-assistant operation, though the diminutive figure of dour, white-haired Sherman Adams dominates the scene.

Adams is, in some ways, the most influential figure in the circle of men about the President, not only because he is boss of the biggest executive staff in the history of the White House (now nearly 1,500 employees), but because of strength of his ice-cold personality.

The President consults Adams privately on domestic matters; for foreign affairs he relies heavily on Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (who remains one of the most powerful men in the Cabinet), and for defense production, on Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson.

Powerful as Dulles remains as an adviser, however, his stature—by comparison—has diminished as that of the President has increased.

There are ten or a dozen other men in his official family with whom the President may consult several times a week. He turns to Secretary Humphrey and administrative assistant Gabriel Hauge for advice on fiscal and economic matters (though he frequently differs with Humphrey on military appropriations); to press secretary James C. Hagerty for advice on public relations (though Hagerty is not as influential as he once was).

They Also Consult: Others on whom the President relies are Robert Cutler, special assistant for National Security Affairs; Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., U.S. Representative to the United Nations; and Arthur Larson, new director of the U.S. Information Agency.

The importance of these men is not to be underestimated; but also significant at the beginning of Mr. Eisenhower's second term are the men who are gradually slipping into the background, among them: Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson, and Attorney General Herbert Brownell.

It is clear that Mr. Eisenhower is following the road of history: As he grows ever more confident of his power in the world's greatest elective office, he becomes more and more a man to himself.

CIVIL RIGHTS:

The Word From Johnson

At a secret meeting in the Senate Office Building last week, Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas broke the news to his fellow Southerners: There will be civil-rights legislation enacted at this session of Congress even if they filibuster themselves to exhaustion.

These were the blunt details, Johnson laid them down:
►A bipartisan majority will blast a

Snow Business

Newsmen planning to cover President Eisenhower's inspection trip to the drought-blighted Southwest and Midwest, where farmers have been praying for rain, were advised by the White House last week to come prepared for snow, sleet, and hail.

It was good advice. In a week of crazy weather, snow stained by dust storms blew out of the Texas Panhandle across the Northern Plains eastward to the Ohio valley. Seventy-mile-an-hour winds dumped a foot of snow, piled up 5-foot drifts that jammed traffic, crippled airlines, and closed schools.

The storm moved into New York State, New England, and eastern Canada, chased by a scourge of cold air from the Arctic.

One unperturbed by the snow was 70-year-old Dr. Paul Dudley White, President Eisenhower's heart specialist who spryly shoveled his walks at Boston. White's advice: People could do with more snow-shoveling to avoid becoming softies.



Dr. White: Fie on softies

1955, an ileitis episode in 1956, and a slight stroke in 1957. Despite the remonstrances of some critics and political advisors to abjure golf or at least conceal his participation in it,⁴⁴ Eisenhower let the relaxations become part of the image, perhaps recognizing that a golfing Ike was a more reassuring symbol than a harried chief executive presiding over circumstances so unsettled that the fairways were off limits. And the Gallup Poll, in support, found that the majority of the public had no objection to the time he spent on golf courses.⁴⁵

The eyewitness accounts of his behavior at meetings uniformly point to an energetic, restless temperament. Though he subjected himself to the passive context of regular long meetings and more tightly packed, longer work schedules than he chose to publicize, his physical comportment in meetings revealed his force and drive. His concentration was intense: his excess energy spilled over as he would doodle, finger his glasses, swivel in his chair, and look at other speakers with piercing bright blue eyes that innumerable observers sensed as windows to an inner dynamism.

National Security Advisor Dillon Anderson was one of many people who described the way Eisenhower would get up and pace the floor in an informal meeting as his enthusiasm mounted. "He was a man of a lot of native animal energy, which came out when a subject stirred him up, and he used to get up and walk the floor." Anderson, a dignified Texas banker who chaired Eisenhower's National Security Council staff briefly in 1955 and 1956, found himself nonplussed to be looking up at a striding president. "When he would get up, I would get up, and he would say, 'God damn it, sit down' and I would sit back down. Finally I got to where I could be comfortable sitting down in a room where the President of the United States was not seated." Visiting Eisenhower in 1960, his last year in office, Anderson noted the same energy and restless stride. His several illnesses and the approach of his seventieth birthday had not made him placid.⁴⁶

In earlier years Eisenhower's dynamism was even more visible. When William Robinson initiated negotiations with Eisenhower after the war about writing a memoir, Eisenhower seemed "to get on fire" as Robinson talked about how an account of Eisenhower's wartime leadership would make a fundamental contribution to maintaining postwar allied unity. Robinson reported to his boss,

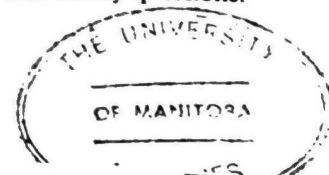
He would, every few minutes, arise from the chair in which he was sitting and stride up and down the office, talking about his limitations at one moment and in the next outlining the manner in which he would like to be of service, the things he would like to say, the guidance he would like to give historians in setting forth the facts of his mission in Europe. He was completely free, unguarded to the point even of indiscretion. There was no pose, no pretence, no attempt to establish anything for the record, no attempt to build an impression of any kind. He was natural, alive, alert, spirited, and gave the impression of having an intense amount of unloosened energy, both intellectual and physical. . . . His high spirit and his great emotional potentiality might conceivably develop a highly unbalanced entity in a person of lesser intellectual capacity.⁴⁷

White House appointment lists carefully document everyone with whom the president met and state whether these meetings were on or off the record. They cover his official weekday working hours—usually from 8 A.M. to 5 or 5:30 P.M.—and often record Saturday and Sunday work, as well as evening activities, including entertainment of state guests and "stag dinners" for prominent citizens. They show a steady level of activity (excluding periods when he was ill or on a real rather than working vacation) through the end of his second term.

The official lists fail to record his informal workday.⁴⁸ Most days he had business breakfasts at 7:30, often with confidants such as his brother Milton or Lucius Clay. By then he had read several newspapers, even examining items tucked away on the business pages. Both his press secretary and the men who briefed him on intelligence reports recognized that, although Eisenhower often chided his associates for wasting time reading the newspapers, he frequently tripped them up by mentioning information they had not noticed in the morning's news.

Even before rising his mind often was at work. Eisenhower told his boyhood friend "Swede" Hazlett that he had never wholly been able to overcome the annoyance of a wartime habit of waking very early in the morning, but he felt that the abbreviated sleep was a healthy sign.

Ever since the hectic days of the North African campaign, I find that when I have weighty matters on my mind I wake up extremely early, apparently because a rested mind is anxious to begin grappling with knotty questions.



Adams's resignation and his replacement with the more easy going Wilton Persons coincides with the period of the so-called New Eisenhower. One close inside observer, Elmer Staats, who was deputy director of the Bureau of the Budget and executive secretary of the Operations Coordinating Board, holds that this White House staff substitution, combined with Dulles's departure, produced a livelier, better informed Eisenhower. Staats noted that in contrast to Adams, Persons would not say "I will talk to the President about this matter and let you know," but rather "Let's have a discussion." Then, Staats continued, "there was the opportunity for everyone to argue their position directly before the President."⁶⁹

Persons himself reports that he brought more people into Eisenhower's office than Adams had and provided the president with details of information Adams would not have brought to his attention. He attributes this, however, to his own political style, derived from a lifetime of congressional lobbying. He felt that visitors whose loyalty and morale would be boosted by a personal meeting with Eisenhower should get to see the president if time permitted. And he felt that by providing Eisenhower with information beyond that required for decision making he could add to Eisenhower's political credibility by reducing the number of his "don't know" replies at press conferences.⁷⁰

Even with Adams serving him, however, Eisenhower drew for advice on many White House aides, other administration members, and friends and acquaintances for what appears to have been as rich—if not as palpably contrived—a flow of face-to-face conversation, questioning, and thinking out loud as occurred under Roosevelt. By the same token the key aides freely exchanged tactical and substantive ideas with each other and not only at Adams's behest.

Press Secretary Hagerty had particularly close access to Eisenhower, because Eisenhower valued his views and appreciated his many sources of off-the-record information. Moreover, Hagerty traveled with Eisenhower to the president's public appearances, and in the course of doing so, had numerous opportunities to chat informally with him. Hagerty's diary provides many illustrations of how the president continually sought his and other aides' ideas and mined them for information. His reports accord with the Nixon observation that Eisenhower frequently

engaged in "mindstretching" ruminations, tossing out ideas he did not necessarily plan to act on:

With people he knew well and trusted, Eisenhower liked to think out loud. He would sometimes make what would seem to be completely outlandish and politically naive remarks, just to test them, perhaps even believing in some of them momentarily. He was very bold, imaginative and uninhibited in suggesting and discussing new and completely unconventional approaches to problems. Yet he probably was one of the most deliberate and careful Presidents the country had ever had where action was concerned.^{*71}

Milton Eisenhower was probably the single most important influence in the informal organization of the Eisenhower White House. Since he could be completely trusted, he served as a superlative sounding board. During the 1950s as president first of Pennsylvania State University and then of Johns Hopkins University, Milton arranged with the trustees of both institutions to devote four days a week to university business, and the remaining to serving three days as aide to his brother. When in Washington, he often met with his brother at times not covered by the appointment log—at breakfast and in the evenings or by a back door to the Oval Office. He wrote numerous advisory letters to Eisenhower, typing them himself when he felt they were too sensitive to pass through a secretary. And the two brothers were connected by a secure direct telephone line, insuring that their conversations would not be monitored.^{†72}

Informal, regularly-held stag dinners constituted another of Eisenhower's advisory resources. Guest lists of dozens of such events are available and reveal the close attention paid to the choice of guests and even to seating arrangements. Those best represented at these dinners

^{*}The passage continues: "Because of his military experience, he was always thinking in terms of alternatives, attack and counter-attack. This was true of every problem he handled. I cannot, for instance, imagine him countenancing the plan for the 1961 rebel attack against Cuba without air power before asking: 'What is our position if the landings fail?' . . ." (But) he could be very enthusiastic about half-baked ideas in the discussion."

[†]Milton Eisenhower was at least as important to his brother as Robert Kennedy was to John F. Kennedy. The contrast between the tactful, low visibility modus operandi of the Eisenhower brothers and the controversial public approach and teamwork of the Kennedys epitomizes the differences between the Eisenhower mode of seeking results without apparent controversy and the Kennedy emphasis on establishing the president and his team as visibly tough, "hard ball" political operators.

he watched as a strange blue UFO streaked directly towards his plane and only avoided collision by flipping aside at the last minute. The pilot had watched it climb vertically, turn and sweep back towards the plane as if attacking. He switched off his lights and dived.

The UFO also dived to 2,000 feet, missed the F51 plane, circled around the Laredo Air Force Base and then turned away swiftly, disappearing into the night on a straight vertical climb.

When he landed, the Air Force pilot was visibly frightened by his encounter and made a report to United States Air Force intelligence officers.

LAYNE, MEADE

A director of the Borderland Sciences Research Foundation in California, around 1949 he wrote memos relating to information received concerning crashed and retrieved flying saucers. It was a subsequent director of the foundation, Mr Reilly Crabb, who released one of the memos, quoted in the book *The Roswell Incident* by Charles Berlitz and William Moore (see References and Background Material). The memo states that a disc 'was shaped like a turtle's back, with a cabin space some fifteen feet in diameter. The bodies of six occupants were seared and the interior of the disc had been badly damaged by intense heat.' The memo goes on to add, 'An autopsy on one body showed that it resembled a normal human body except in size.'

LEE, JOHN

In March 1984 Major Sir Patrick Wall, M.P. (now President of **BUFORA**) tabled a question to the then Secretary of State for Defence regarding landings of UFOs between 1980 and 1983.

His reply came from John Lee, the Defence Under-Secretary for Procurement, who stated that landings were not separately identified from other reports, though there had been over 1,500 overall in the years concerned reported to the Ministry of Defence. He went on to add, 'The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.'

LEMON, GENE

A glowing UFO was seen by thousands of people crossing the state of West Virginia on the night of 12 September 1952. At Sutton several witnesses thought that they had seen it land on a nearby hill. There was Mrs Kathleen May, her three young sons, and a seventeen-year-old National Guardsman, Gene Lemon.

They climbed the hill towards where they believed the object had landed and Lemon turned on a torch to sweep the area. They noticed a malodorous, suffocating smell. As they approached the spot where they believed the landing to have taken place they saw two shining eyes and turned the torch on them, thinking they would discover something like a racoon in a tree.

In fact what they saw was a huge creature nine feet tall with a glistening red face and protruding eyes a foot apart. The monster glowed dully green and started moving towards them, making an odd hissing noise.

The witnesses fled down the hill and immediately phoned the local sheriff. They soon noticed that some oily, unpleasant substances had covered the boys' faces and their throats began to swell up. During the night Gene Lemon became seriously ill, suffering the same inflamed throat as the other boys but also went into fits and convulsions. Later it was established that the effects had been similar to an attack of mustard gas as used in the trench warfare of the First World War.

The sheriff had been unable to investigate the claim as his dogs refused to go anywhere near the location. After sunrise that morning a strange machine was seen taking off from the hilltop and subsequent investigation found landing traces in the form of flattened grass.

Such a story may be difficult to accept, although it is worth bearing in mind that it is one of many, but the Air Force's own appraisal of the claims seems to stretch credibility even further: they believe that the glowing object seen across West Virginia and by the family was a meteor, that it only appeared to be landing when it went past the hill, that the glowing eyes seen by the group was a large owl perched in the tree, that a giant figure was an illusion given by the undergrowth, that the illnesses were brought on by fright and shock and that the grass landing traces were caused by the people who went to investigate the case.

LENTICULAR CLOUDS

Lenticular clouds are a perfectly natural cloud formation but can be so striking as to cause reports of UFO sightings. They are disc-shaped and often metallic grey and although quite often appearing singly can also appear in large clusters. They are an impressive sight, looking like hovering flying saucers.

The fact that they stay around for much longer than the average flying saucer usually identifies them and photographs of them, while remarkable, also pick out their cloud-like characteristics. However, if they are part of an overall experience which includes the witness's own agitated state of mind, then they can unfairly enhance a witness's report and indeed confuse the true substance of the claims.

LEON, DR PADRON

In June 1976 Dr Padron Leon was travelling by taxi to treat a patient in the early hours of the evening on the island of Grand Canary. In the taxi with him was the patient's son, Santiago del Pino.

As the taxi rounded a bend in the road they were confronted by a transparent globe hovering just off the ground. It seems to have been approximately thirty-five feet in diameter at this time, and inside two very tall entities were seen operating machinery.

The taxi's radio cut out and the witnesses experienced a feeling of severe cold, Dr Leon reported in his statement to the Spanish Air Ministry.