

**Guide to the Oral History of
GLEASON, JAMES P. (1921–2008)**

Biographical/Historical Notes

James P. Gleason was a Montgomery County Council Member and County Executive. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following the war, he attended Georgetown University and earned his law degree in 1950. In 1951, he served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Richard Nixon. He also served as an Assistant Administrator in charge of congressional relations for NASA from 1958 to 1961, at which time he began practicing law. He was involved in planning the Metro System and became Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in 1968. That same year, he was appointed to the Montgomery County Council. Gleason became Montgomery County's first County Executive in 1970, and he served two terms in that position. During his tenure, he was responsible for transitioning Montgomery County away from the County Manager system. He also established new departments, including the Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Protection, as well as various new commissions and services within the county.

Interview - Interviewed June 18, 1987, June 25, 1987, and July 20, 1987 by Jeannine Jeffs for MCA.

Subject

A Woman's Place
Capital improvement programs
County Manager system
Fire and Rescue Services
Georgetown University
Intergovernmental relations
Maryland – Politics and Government
Maryland Association of Counties
Metro System
Montgomery County (Md.) – Charter Movement
Montgomery County (Md.) – County Council
Montgomery County (Md.) – County Executive
Montgomery County (Md.) – Department of Community and Economic Development
Montgomery County (Md.) – Department of Environmental Protection
Montgomery County (Md.) – Department of Transportation
Montgomery County (Md.) – History project
Montgomery County (Md.) – Office of Consumer Affairs
Montgomery County (Md.) – Police Department
Montgomery County (Md.) – Politics and Government
Relationship with County Council
Sewage treatment facility
Sewer moratorium
Volunteer Fire Department

Subject Names

Hussman, Bill
Knowland, William
Nixon, Richard
Scull, David

Table of Contents/Index - Not available for these interviews.