

David Eisenhower Writing Book About Grandfather's Character

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By THOMAS LASK JUL 8 1976

David Eisenhower is writing an "intimate character study" of his grandfather entitled, "Going Home to Glory: Dwight D. Eisenhower," Random House has acquired the rights to the book, which a spokesman for the publisher says will examine not so much how but why power flowed to the general so suddenly and in such quantity.

"It will re-examine the Eisenhower years and the kind of perspective that should be applied to the general," Mr. Eisenhower said by telephone from California. "One aspect of the study will be the general's approach to power and how he used it."

He indicated that there was a gap between the public and the private man.

"He was reserved and reti-

cent," Mr. Eisenhower said. "He had trained himself so carefully how he should think about things that he did not know his own feelings. The book will try to get behind the exterior of the man to answer the questions he couldn't answer himself."

To the young man — the general died three days before his grandson's 21st birthday — the President was stern and forbidding, a disciplinarian. But Mr. Eisenhower said he was able to convey his personal warmth to the public in spite of his reticence and lack of ease in social situations.

In his reading he came across the phrase "obvious humanity" applied to the President and he said he would like to develop that idea.

"I will include the impressions I had of him, but the more I leave myself out of the book the better."

The timing of the book is just right for him, Mr. Eisenhower explained. "I just got out of law school, and I've always been ambitious in the writing field. The idea sort of occurred to me."

The book is now in the organizational stage. He is reading all the background material he can find. He hopes to have all his research done by next February or March, but has not set a date to complete the work. Nor is he taking leave of the law. "I want to do the book," Mr. Eisenhower said, "and this is the right time to do it."