

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

McELROY, NEIL H.: Papers, 1948-62

Accessions 64-23, 72-37, 72-37/1 & 01-17  
Processed by: DAD & TB  
Date Completed: July 2001

The papers of Neil H. McElroy, executive of Proctor & Gamble, Inc., Chairman of the White House Conference on Education, and Secretary of Defense, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in April 1964 and April and May 1972 by Mr. McElroy. A small accretion was received from the Proctor & Gamble Archives in July 2001.

Linear feet: 3.3  
Approximate number of pages: 4350  
Approximate number of items: 955

In May 1964 Mr. McElroy executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Literary property rights in these papers have passed to the people of the United States of America. By agreement with the donor the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use, until the passage of time or other circumstances no longer require such restrictions:

1. Papers relating to the donor's family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with the donor.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made to or by the donor in confidence, unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Eisenhower Library's collection of the papers of Neil H. McElroy, business executive and government official, span the years 1948 to 1962. The collection is a compilation of four separate accessions of papers. The earliest and largest accession, deposited at the Library in April 1964, consisted entirely of electrostatic reproductions of documents retained by Mr. McElroy. The first of two smaller accessions deposited in 1972 also consisted of electrostatic reproductions, while the second accession in 1972 and an accession in 2001 contained only original documents. For purposes of efficiency in description and use, the four accessions have been combined into one large collection. The bulk and most significant parts of the papers cover the period October 1957 to December 1959 when McElroy served as Secretary of Defense.

The papers in this collection largely reflect the routine and/or personal aspects of McElroy's career with Proctor and Gamble and his service with the federal government. For example, many of the documents from the period when he was Secretary of Defense have the letters "p.p." (for "personal papers") marked on them, reflecting the fact that the great majority of his official Department of Defense records were left at the Pentagon. In most cases, documents of obvious historical importance have been noted on the annotated shelf list.

The series covering McElroy's service as Secretary of Defense is divided into several small subseries. The first subseries consists primarily of routine and personal correspondence, but does contain several documents, including letters from President Eisenhower, which relate to significant issues of the period. The second subseries covers trips taken by McElroy when he represented the United States government in his capacity as Secretary of Defense. While on the trips he made official visits to heads of state and defense ministers, as well as inspection tours of military installations in each country visited. Included among the documents in most of the trip folders are informal trip narratives in the form of long letters McElroy wrote to his children. These narratives resemble travelogs rather than detailed diaries. In addition to the trip narratives, itineraries, maps, thank-you notes, and memorabilia found in most of the trip folders, the files for the NATO meetings also include conference information, copies of presentations, and "order for the day" agenda. A list of the countries McElroy visited on his overseas trips follows this scope and content note. Another subseries consists of Secretary McElroy's daily appointments calendars, providing a to-the-minute listing of the Secretary's visitors, and a log of callers and times for incoming and outgoing telephone calls.

The subseries descriptions have additional information on each of the various series, and the annotated container list includes further comments on specific documents.

A total of 46 photographs were removed from the papers and turned over to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Audio-Visual Collection; 8 items were placed in the Eisenhower Library Book Collection; and 51 items (plaques, gifts, cartoons and drawings) were turned over to the Eisenhower Museum.

Major areas visited by Secretary of Defense Neil H. McElroy  
during his official overseas trips, 1957-59

NATO meeting, December 6-20, 1957

Great Britain  
West Germany  
France

NATO meeting, April 15-17, 1958

Greenland  
Iceland  
France  
Spain

Around-the-World Trip, September 27-November 5, 1958

Hawaii	Hong Kong
Guam	South Vietnam
Okinawa	Thailand
Japan	Pakistan
Korea	Iran
Taiwan	Turkey
Philippine Islands	Greece

NATO meeting, December 9-19, 1958

Italy  
France

Foreign Ministers meeting, May 19-June 6, 1959

Switzerland

Far East, Australia, and New Zealand, September 20-October 20, 1959

Alaska	Philippine Islands
Japan	Australia
Korea	New Zealand
Taiwan	Fiji Islands
Hong Kong	Hawaii

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

- 1904, October 30 Born in Berea, Ohio
- 1925 B.A., Harvard University
- 1925-59 Staff member, Advertising Department, Proctor & Gamble Company, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1929-40 Manager, Promotion Department, Proctor & Gamble
- 1929 Married Mary Camilla Fry
- 1940-43 Manager, Advertising and Promotion Department, Proctor & Gamble
- 1943-46 Director and Vice President in Charge of Advertising, Proctor & Gamble
- 1946-48 Vice President and General Manager, Proctor & Gamble
- 1948-57 President, Proctor & Gamble
- 1954-55 Chairman, White House Conference on Education
- 1957-59 Secretary of Defense
- 1959-72 Chairman of the Board, Proctor & Gamble
- 1970 Chairman, U.S. Commission on School Finance
- 1972, November 30 Died, Cincinnati, Ohio

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

### Box Nos. Series

- 1 Papers covering Mr. McElroy's promotion to the presidency of Proctor & Gamble, 1948-49. 1 container. Primarily incoming congratulatory letters and telegrams. Also, several magazine and newspaper clippings. Arranged in separate folders according to the relationship of the correspondent to Mr. McElroy. Folder titles remain the same as when deposited in the Eisenhower Library.
- 2 Papers covering Mr. McElroy's service as Chairman of the White House Conference on Education, 1954-55. ¼ container. Information packet for the national conference on education held in Washington in 1955, including a small quantity of Mr. McElroy's correspondence and agenda notes. Also, unarranged newspaper clippings covering Mr. McElroy's appointment and work on the Conference, and the national conference.
- 2-6 Papers covering Mr. McElroy's service as Secretary of Defense, and the immediate post-Eisenhower Administration period, 1957-62. 5 containers. This series is divided into five subseries (A-E).
- 2 A. Correspondence, 1957-60. 1 container. Consists primarily of Mr. McElroy's routine correspondence, but also includes other forms of documents, such as a speech, a press release, programs and newspaper clippings. Divided into folders according to the organization and folder titles at the time of deposit. Within each folder the material is arranged in reverse chronological order. For subjects of historical significance, see the annotated container list.
- 2-3 B. Official trips, 1957-59. 1 container. Itineraries, informal trip narratives, routine correspondence and thank-you notes, maps, and memorabilia covering Mr. McElroy's official trips while Secretary of Defense. Divided according to the organization and folder titles at the time of deposit. Folders are arranged in chronological order by date of the trip.
- 3-5. C. Miscellaneous subject file, 1957-61. 1 ½ containers. Correspondence, memoranda, press conference transcripts, testimony before Congressional committees, invitations, speeches, printed material, and memorabilia. Primarily routine documents related both to Mr. McElroy's official functions and personal social functions, including material covering his confirmation as Secretary of Defense and speeches made by other prominent individuals.
5. D. Daily calendars, 1957-59. ½ container. Daily calendars containing Secretary McElroy's appointments schedule and a log of callers and times for incoming and outgoing telephone calls. Itineraries for trips, and guest lists for official luncheons and suppers are usually attached. Arranged in chronological order.

Box Nos. Series

- 6 E. Citations, awards, and newspaper clippings, 1957-62. 1 oversize container. Unarranged newspaper clippings covering Mr. McElroy's activities as Secretary of Defense, his work at Proctor & Gamble, and his service for the Republican party. Also, citations and awards presented to Mr. McElroy for various services and accomplishments.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<p>[Documents and lists re items transferred to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Book Collection, Museum, and Audio-Visual Collection]</p> <p>Series I: Promotion to Presidency of Proctor &amp; Gamble, 1948-49</p> <p>Advertising Connections</p> <p>Business Connections other than Advertising</p> <p>Company People [includes letters from people who were no longer working for Proctor &amp; Gamble]</p> <p>Friends</p> <p>Harvard Connections</p> <p>Magazine and Newspaper Clippings</p> <p>Special Personal Interest</p>
2	<p>Series II: Chairman, White House Conference on Education, 1954-55</p> <p>“White House Conference on Education” information packet [also contains some of McElroy’s personal material, including several pieces of correspondence, and agenda notes]</p> <p>Newspaper clippings (1) (2) [covering McElroy’s appointment as chairman, and his work on the Conference; and the national conference held in Washington on November 28-December 1, 1955]</p> <p>Series III: Secretary of Defense, and Post-Administration Period, 1957-62</p> <p>A. Correspondence, 1957-60</p> <p>Personal letters, 1959 (1) [September-December; includes notes for 1961 budget, correspondence with Chief of Turkish General Staff General Mr. R. Erdelhun, and a guide book for Camp David]</p> <p>Personal letters, 1959 (2) [June-August; includes 4-page letter from McElroy’s daughter Nancy giving her impressions of her trip to Russia]</p>

Box No.   Contents

2      Personal letters, 1959 (3) [May; includes speech by McElroy entitled “Role of  
(cont.)      Educated Women in the Years Ahead”]

Personal letters, 1959 (4) [April; includes letter from Chief of (Nationalist) Chinese  
General Staff General Wang re the Formosa Strait situation, and a speech by McElroy  
entitled “Free World’s Competition with Communism”]

Personal letters, 1959 (5) [January-March; includes transcript from McElroy’s  
appearance on “Meet the Press” 3/18/59]

Personal letters, 1957-58 (1) [July-December 1958; includes 4-page letter from  
George Humphrey re cutting money from the Defense Department budget]

Personal letters, 1957-58 (2) [January-June 1958]

Personal letters, 1957-58 (3) [October-December 1957; includes memorandum for  
the record by McElroy re the decision to develop simultaneously the Jupiter and Thor  
missiles]

White House Papers, 1957-60 [mostly McElroy-DDE correspondence, including two  
letters re development of missiles, and correspondence re the 1958 election  
campaign]

Congressional letters, 1958-59

B. Official Trips, 1957-59

U.S. Military Installations; September 27-October 5, 1957 [itinerary, and  
biographical sketches of several people met on the trip]

NATO meeting, December 6-20, 1957

NATO meeting, April 15-17, 1958

3      Eniwetok, July 1958 [to observe a nuclear test – trip not completed because of  
outbreak of trouble in Lebanon]

Around-the-World Trip, September 27-November 5, 1958 (1) [informal trip  
narrative, and map showing route of travel]

Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (2) [working copy of informal trip narrative, and  
itinerary]

Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (3) [trip correspondence, including a letter from Chief  
of (Nationalist) Chinese General Staff General Wang]

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3 (cont.)	<p>Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (4) [memorabilia: invitations, menus, name cards]</p> <p>Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (5) [printed material re Pakistan and the Khyber Pass]</p> <p>Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (6) [printed material re Japan]</p> <p>Around-the-World Trip, 1958 (7) [briefing material re Vietnam]</p> <p>NATO meeting, December 9-19, 1958</p> <p>Foreign Ministers meeting, May 19-June 6, 1959</p> <p>Far East, Australia and New Zealand, September 20-October 20, 1959 (1) [informal trip narrative, map showing route of travel, and memorabilia]</p> <p>Far East, Australia and New Zealand, September 20-October 20, 1959 (2) [correspondence; includes letters from Syngman Rhee and Madame Chiang Kai-shek]</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. Miscellaneous subject file, 1957-61</p> <p>Business Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Commerce [pamphlet which reviews the Council's first twenty-five years, 1933-58]</p> <p>Cabinet members' addresses and phone numbers</p>
4	<p>Caribbean Yachting Trip, February 13-23, 1959 [correspondence, map, and printed material]</p> <p>Chinese letters and diagrams</p> <p>Confirmation of McElroy as Secretary of Defense [includes transcript of McElroy's testimony before Congress, 1957]</p> <p>Department of Defense reorganization plans [material by DDE and McElroy, April 1958]</p> <p>Dinner in honor of McElroy at the "21" Club, 1/14/60 [correspondence, guest list, menu, and program]</p> <p>Funeral for Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald A. Quarles [procedure for honorary pall bearers, and the official Department of Defense announcement for the funeral]</p> <p>Guest book [signatures and comments by guests of the McElroys]</p> <p>Guests lists for parties given by the McElroys</p>

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
4 (cont.)	<p>Letters to Mrs. McElroy</p> <p>Luncheon and party invitations (1) (2)</p> <p>Luncheon and party invitations (3) [Khrushchev dinner, 9/15/59]</p> <p>Luncheon and party invitations (4) [reproductions of social invitations]</p> <p>Retirement ceremony for General Thomas D. White, 6/30/61 [program]</p> <p>Retirement of McElroy as Secretary of Defense [correspondence from his personal staff]</p> <p>Sertoma Club of Cincinnati Service to Mankind Award, 2/20/58 [correspondence]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Madame Chiang Kai-Shek (1) [University of Michigan, 7/10/58, re communism]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Madame Chiang Kai-Shek (2) [National Press Club, 7/17/58, re communism]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Rene De Chambrun [Maryland Historical Society, n.d.; and Lafayette City Hall, 5/8/58]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Allen W. Dulles [statement to Congressional Subcommittee on Economic Statistics, 11/13/59, re comparison of U.S. and Soviet economic situation]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (1) [two speeches: 6/6/58 and 3/30/59]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (2) [Harvard Commencement, 6/12/58: correspondence, and copy of speech]</p>
5	<p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (3) [Harvard Commencement, 6/12/58: commencement program]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (4) [Harvard Commencement, 6/12/58: <u>Alumni Bulletin</u>]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (5) [press conferences, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, 9/21/59]</p> <p>Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (6) [Advertising Council Annual Award Dinner, 11/22/60]</p>

Box No.   Contents

5        Speeches, statements, press conferences: Neil McElroy (7) [miscellaneous speeches  
(cont.)        from 1960-61, including one on U.S.-Canadian relations]

Speeches, statements, press conferences: Mrs. Neil McElroy [radio copy for WWRC  
Radio News about one of Mrs. McElroy's parties]

West Coast Trip, March 20-30, 1959 [itinerary]

Daily Calendars, 1957-59

Daily Calendar for Secretary McElroy, 9 October 1957-21 December 1957

Daily Calendar for Secretary McElroy, 2 January 1958-22 December 1958 (1)-(4)

Daily Calendar for Secretary McElroy, 5 January 1959-1 December 1959 (1)-(4)

6        E. Citations, Awards, and Newspaper Clippings, 1957-62  
(half suit box)

Citations, awards and newspaper clippings, 1957-62 [also includes one clipping from  
June 6, 1944; and one citation from 1968]

END OF CONTAINER LIST