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MERRIAM, ROBERT E.: Papers, 1956-1968

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The Papers of Robert E. Merriam, former Deputy Assistant to the President for Interdepartmental Affairs, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Merriam in October 1977.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied:	.4
Approximate number of pages:	450
Approximate number of items:	75

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Robert Merriam in October 1977. All literary property rights (copyright after January 1, 1978) are assigned by the donor to the United States of America. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers and other historical materials that are specifically authorized under criteria established by statute or Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such statute or Executive Order.
2. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

- October 2, 1918 Born in Chicago, IL
- 1940 M.A., University of Chicago
- 1942-46 U.S. Army, Captain
- 1946-47 Director, Metropolitan Housing Council, Chicago
- 1947 Author, Dark December: Full Account of the Battle of the Bulge
- 1947-55 Alderman, Chicago; Chairman, Commission on Housing and Emergency Commission on Crime
- 1950 Married Marguerite De Ternova
- 1954 Co-authored with Charles E. Merriam, The American Government: Democracy in Action
- 1955-58 Assistant Director, U.S. Bureau of the Budget
- 1957 Author, Going Into Politics
- 1958 Deputy Director, U.S. Bureau of the Budget
- 1958-61 Deputy Assistant to the President
- 1961-64 Vice-Pres., Portable Electric Tools, Inc.
- 1961-64 President, Spaceonics, Inc.
- 1964-70 President, University Patents Inc. of Illinois
- 1971-76 Executive Vice-president, Urban Investment and Development Co., Chicago
- 1971- Chairman of the Board, MGA Tech., Inc., Chicago

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Robert E. Merriam are concerned primarily with the years, 1956 to 1958, when he served as Assistant Director and Deputy Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget and as Deputy Assistant to the President. About half of the material, including the entire series of notes on congressional leaders meetings originated in the 1950s while Merriam worked for the Eisenhower Administration. The remainder of the collection consists of lecture notes on the presidency which Merriam developed and delivered in the late 1960s at the University of Chicago. They contain many references to events and trends during the Eisenhower Administration.

The papers are organized into three small series. The first series of four folders contains official agendas and Merriam's handwritten notes for Congressional leaders meetings from December 31, 1956 to August 19, 1958. Merriam identifies the positions taken on various issues or bills by the different participants, and he includes numerous quotations, both direct and paraphrased, by Eisenhower on such subjects as a pay increase to government employees, big business, mutual security, political patronage, Ezra Taft Benson, and unnecessary expenditures. Other bills and topics discussed at these meetings include immigration quotas, Hells Canyon Project, USIA funding, status of forces, Euratom, highways, and civil defense.

About two hundred pages of typed lecture notes on the American presidency make up the second series. These lectures were presented by Merriam at the University of Chicago in the late 1960s.

The lectures are divided into six segments, each about thirty pages in length. The first two parts provide a general historical background on the Presidency with some examples drawn from the Eisenhower Administration. Part III concentrates on the relationships between the President and Congress, and Part IV discusses such topics as foreign policy, the President versus the Cabinet, and the Bricker Amendment. The decision-making process is covered in Part V. Eisenhower's decision to run again in 1956 and his limited role in the 1960 campaign are used as illustrations. The final segment covers such topics as the relationship of the President to the rest of the executive branch, and presidential disability and succession.

The third series includes handwritten notes on one Cabinet meeting, numerous quotations, statements, and speeches made by Eisenhower; and information on the Republican Party platform for 1960, including a memorandum of a telephone conversation between Rockefeller and Nixon.

Although this collection is small, it provides some valuable insights into the Eisenhower Administration. In particular, Merriam's notes on the Congressional leaders meetings should serve as an excellent supplement to the Legislative Meetings Series in the Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-61. These notes contain candid statements by Eisenhower and other leaders on different topics, and they provide information on the status of legislation and the processes by which legislation was approved or rejected.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

1 SERIES I: CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS MEETINGS NOTES, 12/31/56 to
 8/19/58

Congressional Leaders Meetings, Apr. 15, 1958 to Aug. 19, 1958 [highways; community facilities; mutual security; unemployment compensation; railroad rates; postal rates and pay; military pay; civil defense; mineral stockpiling; defense reorganization; taxes; TVA; housing; USIA; social security; railroad retirement; Hawaiian statehood; AEC; defense appropriations; Euratom; debt ceiling; farm bills; area redevelopment]

Congressional Leaders Meetings, Aug. 6, 1957 to Apr. 1, 1958 [civil rights; lead and zinc mining; veteran housing; mutual security; postal rates; budget; secondary boycotts; school lunch program; Defense Dept. reorganization; civil defense; outer space; statehood for Alaska and Hawaii; reclamation; oil import quotas; interest rates; highways; taxes; German assets]

Congressional Leaders Meetings, Apr. 9, 1957 to July 30, 1957 [air control; agricultural budget; USIA; flood insurance; civil rights; postal rates; construction grants; air facilities; Hells Canyon project; soil bank program; housing; loan board for Small Business Administration; defense; immigration quotas; REA; oil import quotas; TVA; FTC; reorganization of government; AEC; German assets]

Congressional Leaders Meetings, Dec. 31, 1956 to Apr. 2, 1957 [government pay increase; school construction; civil rights; immigration quotas; unemployment insurance; patent fees; transport policy; water resources policy; minerals; agriculture; mutual security; foreign aid; budget; national defense; postal rates; Khrushchev; big business]

SERIES II: LECTURE NOTES ON THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Part I: The Presidency: A Unique American Institution [includes general historical background on the Presidency with comments on the transfer of power in January 1961 and a copy of Robert Merriam's memo to General Persons in which he summarizes his transition discussion with his successor, Fred Button]

Part II: An Overview of the Presidency [general historical background; several anecdotes taken from the Eisenhower Administration; a description of Eisenhower's duties and appointments on one day, Feb. 11, 1959]

Part III: The President and Congress [the relationship between the President and Congress and the methods used by various presidents to influence the lawmakers;

concept of executive privilege; several incidents from the Eisenhower Administration are used to illustrate this topic]

Part IV: The President as Chief Executive [foreign policy and defense; the President versus the Cabinet; presidential staff assistance; illustrations drawn from the Eisenhower Administration include the fight over the Bricker Amendment, the status of forces issue, Khrushchev's visit in 1959, and the creation of the position of Assistant to the President]

Part V: The Great Decider: An Intimate View of the Decision-Making Process [includes comments on Eisenhower's decision to run again in 1956, the role of Vice-President Nixon in the Administration, the role of Eisenhower in the 1960 campaign, and the use of press conferences, Cabinet meetings, and National Security Council meetings as part of the decision-making process]

Part VI: The Future of the Presidency [problems of presidential selection; the presidential office and the executive branch; Rockefeller Committee; role of the vice-president; the President's relations with Congress, presidential disability and succession]

SERIES III: MISCELLANEOUS FILE

Cabinet Meeting Notes, Aug. 15, 1960 [suggestions and political strategy for the 1960 Republican campaign]

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Statements, Dec. 31, 1956 to Aug. 15, 1960 [five pages of quotes; most of the quotations on the first four pages were taken from Robert Merriam's Congressional leaders meetings notes]

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Statements, Sept. 1959, Sept. 1960 [two speeches critical of the 96th Congress and additional materials; list giving status of legislative recommendations in President's message of Aug. 8, 1960]

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Statement on "Basic Fundamentals," June 11, 1959 [quote by Eisenhower on draft of goals prepared by Robert Merriam]

Republican Party Platform, July 1960 [memo of phone conversation between Richard Nixon and Nelson Rockefeller and press release by Rockefeller]

END OF CONTAINER LIST