

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

U.S. BUREAU OF THE BUDGET:  
Records re Survey of Building Space for the Presidency, 1955

Accession 79-7  
Processed by: TB  
Date Completed: March 2001

The records of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget relating to a survey of presidential building space were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in September 1978.

Linear feet:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	800
Approximate number of items:	400

Literary rights in the records have passed to the United States as indicated in President Eisenhower's letter of April 13, 1960. As indicated in Eisenhower's letter, the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers that are security classified pursuant to law or Executive Order, until such classification shall be removed.
2. Papers the use of which may be prejudicial to the maintenance of good relations with foreign nations.
3. Papers containing statements made by or to me in confidence.
4. Papers relating to my family or private business affairs, and papers relating to the families or private business affairs of persons who have had correspondence with me.
5. Papers containing statements about individuals which might be used to injure or harass them or members of their families.
6. Such other individual files as I, or my representative, or the Administrator of General Services may specify.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection pertains to a survey of presidential office space that was conducted in 1955 by a private consulting firm, Robert Heller and Associates of Cleveland, Ohio. The survey grew out of the work of the Commission on Renovation of the Executive Mansion in 1952, which reported that additional space for the Executive Office was needed. After Dwight D. Eisenhower became president, his assistant Sherman Adams decided to have a study made of the problem. In February 1955 the White House hired Robert Heller and Associates to examine the use being made of office space in the White House and the Executive Office Building (EOB). Samuel Broadbent, a staff member at the Bureau of the Budget, served as the firm's contact at the White House. Broadbent arranged for the firm's representatives to examine the White House and the EOB and to interview members of the staff. After the firm completed its work, it turned over 13 folders of research notes to Mr. Broadbent, who stored the material at his office in the EOB. The records were found in the attic of the EOB in 1977 and transferred to the Eisenhower Library the following year.

In its report dated May 31, 1955, the firm claimed that the EOB was inefficient and should be replaced with a modern building that had more space. The White House staff decided that additional information was needed, so in June 1956 President Eisenhower asked Congress to create a special commission to study the matter further. This was the President's Advisory Commission on Presidential Office Space. The Advisory Commission conducted its own survey of the White House and the EOB, and also examined Samuel Broadbent's files on the Heller report. In its final report of May 31, 1957 the Advisory Commission agreed with the Heller report that the EOB should be replaced. President Eisenhower endorsed the conclusions of the Commission in a press conference on June 5, 1957. However, he did not actively lobby Congress on the matter and Congress never appropriated money to replace the EOB. A new office building was eventually built up the street from the White House and the EOB became known as the Old Executive Office Building. In 1999 Congress named the Old EOB in Eisenhower's honor. One of the reasons given was that Eisenhower had saved the building by not implementing the recommendations of the Heller report and the Advisory Commission.

This collection consists of Samuel Broadbent's files on the survey conducted by Robert Heller and Associates. It includes Broadbent's correspondence regarding the survey, a copy of the final report, and 12 of the 13 files of research notes compiled by the firm. The 13th file contained notes of the firm's interviews with members of the White House staff. Broadbent sent this file to the Executive Clerk of the White House in November 1960 and it is now located in the Official File series of the White House Central Files, file code OF 72-A-23. Sherman Adams's file on the Heller survey is in the Permanent File, under the heading "Executive Office Space." The records of the President's Advisory Commission on Presidential Office Space are at the National Archives as part of Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions and Boards.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box No.    Contents

- 1            Series I: Robert Heller and Associates Research Notes
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – Executive Office of the President
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – The White House Office
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – Bureau of the Budget
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – Office of Defense Mobilization
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – Council of Economic Advisers
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – NSC and OCB
- Personnel and Space – Present and Forecast – FOA, State, GSA, GSI
- Occupancy of the Executive Office Building – Floor Plans of Building
- New Executive Office Building – Design, Costs, Occupancy (1)(2)
- Historical Data on Growth – Statistics on Mail, Phone, Files, etc.
- Functions and Organization – BOB, NSC, OCB, Rockefeller, Dodge
- First Phase – Remodeling West Wing – Cost Estimates
- Series II: Samuel Broadbent Files
- Space Requirements of the Executive Office of the President (1)-(3) [final report of May 31, 1955]
- White House Space Survey (Heller) (1)-(3) [correspondence]

END OF CONTAINER LIST