

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

WILLIAMS, RALPH E.: Papers, 1958-88

Accessions 87-6, 88-13  
Processed by: PAN, DJH, TB  
Date completed: January 1993

The bulk of the papers of Ralph Williams, U.S. Navy Commander and Assistant to the Naval Aide from 1958 to 1960, were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in November 1986. Three additional items were received between 1985 and 1988.

Linear feet:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	178
Approximate number of items:	178

An instrument of gift for these papers was executed in October 1986. Literary property rights in these papers are reserved to Mr. Williams during his lifetime, and thereafter, 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:

1. 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
2. Papers that are security-classified until such classification can be removed.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

October 12, 1917 Born at Pecos, Texas

1938 B.B.A. at University of Texas

June 1941 Commissioned Ensign, U.S. Navy Reserve

1943 Transferred to regular Navy

June 1944 Married Louise Harley Arnold

World War II Served in the Pacific theater including Pearl Harbor and Tarawa

post-War Faculty member at the Naval War College. Later served as assistant to Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of the Navy

1958-61 Member of White House staff as assistant to the Naval Aide, Captain Evan P. Aurand

ca. 1961-65 Assigned to the Naval Supply Center at Pearl Harbor

1965 Retired from the U.S. Navy with rank of Captain

ca. 1965- Entered the Civil Service and worked under the mineral resources secretary of the Department of the Interior

1982 Retired as staff assistant to Director of the U.S. Geological Survey

Feb. 21, 2003 Died

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the papers of Ralph Williams span the years 1958 to 1960 when he served as assistant Naval aide in the White House. Along with Malcolm Moos, Williams was instrumental in preparing Eisenhower's Farewell Address which was originally given the working title of the State of the Union Message of 1961 when it was first proposed in 1959. This is the speech that produced the well-known phrase, "military-industrial complex." In his papers there is an important memorandum and other references to the preparation of that particular speech.

Arranged in chronological order, the papers consist of chronological and correspondence folders. The original folder titles and arrangement have been maintained. The chronological files contain the most significant portion of the collection which documents Williams' involvement in Presidential speech writing, especially Eisenhower's Farewell Address. The documents in the chronological files consist mostly of outgoing carbons of letters from Williams concerning his work in the White House. Also included in this section is a chart history of the Messerschmitt and a paper expressing DDE's goal for his remaining years in office titled To Live in Peace, which later Williams and Moos incorporated into his Farewell Address.

The correspondence folders contain both incoming letters and outgoing carbons of personal correspondence and reflect Williams' interest in domestic and foreign affairs. There is little information concerning Williams' activities before his staff appointment and none on his life and career once he left the White House.

The last folder in the collection contains three letters which Williams sent to the Eisenhower Library between 1985 and 1988. In the letters Williams gives his recollections of the organization and operation of Eisenhower's speech writing staff and the background of the Farewell Address.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Chronological (1) [Eisenhower's Farewell Speech; C.P.A. Speech Abstract]  Chronological (2) [History of the Messerschmitt]  Chronological (3) [Berlin Crisis; Second Gettysburg Address; DDE's Address to NATO Representatives; U.S. Military Posture; Mutual Security Program; St. Lawrence Seaway; Eisenhower's State of the Union speeches; <u>To Live in Peace</u> ]  Correspondence (1)-(3)  Letters 1985-88 [organization of speech writing staff; Eisenhower's Farewell Address]

END OF CONTAINER LIST