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GERALD R. FORD CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS, 1949-73 COMMITTEE FILE SUB-GROUP, 1948-65

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Record Type

Textual

Series List

Committee File, 1948-65. (Boxes H1-H8, 3.2 linear feet)

GRF served on the Committee on Public Works, which reviewed legislation on federal construction projects from 1949 to 1950. Beginning in 1951 and continuing until his election as Minority Leader in 1965 ended his committee service, GRF served on the Committee on Appropriations. Because of the complexity and scope of the committee's work, it was compartmentalized into subcommittees paralleling the structure of the executive branch. Each subcommittee reviewed budget requests from a federal agency or department and prepared appropriations bills and reports, which were submitted to the full committee for approval.

Subcommittee members also organized and led the debate on the House floor until the bill was passed. In 1951 and 1952, GRF served on the Deficiencies and Civil Functions Subcommittee (Army) and the General and Temporary Subcommittee (Korean Emergency Agencies). He was appointed in 1953 to serve on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, and on the Department of Defense Subcommittee as Chairman of the Army section during the Republican congress and as ranking minority member thereafter. In 1956, he was given additional responsibility as one of five Congressmen who reviewed the budget requests of the Central Intelligence Agency. From 1957 to 1958, GRF served on the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration that drafted legislation creating NASA.

Administrative assistant John Milanowski organized a file in 1949 to contain all material relating to GRF's committee service. He and his successor, Frank Meyer, continued accumulating committee-related material for each successive Congress, apparently destroying older material as they judged it obsolete. It was the general practice of the Ford staff to dispose of most records after two years. Some portions of the formerly complete record survived, were transferred to the Bentley Library and given a preliminary arrangement.

The Committee File contains correspondence on the Public Works Committee, correspondence on GRF's service with the Appropriations Committee from 1952 to 1954 and subcommittee prints, correspondence and related papers from his work with the Defense and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee from 1959 to 1965. By nature of its fragmented condition, the collection is of limited research value. Correspondence on both committees mainly reflects support or criticism of a particular Ford position rather than his specific

activities. Other subcommittee material consists primarily of circulars and memoranda sent to all subcommittee members and is not consistent in its documentation of GRF's work.

No materials from Ford's service on the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration survived, save for bound volumes of hearings and reports located in the Library book collection. No papers from the Civil Functions, the General and Temporary, or the CIA Subcommittees survived. Some correspondence, dating from 1963, on general appropriations matters may be found in the Legislative File.

Compiled by Paul Conway, May 1979

Last Modified Date

2025-03-18

Committee on Public Works, 1948-50.

(Box H1, 0.2 linear feet)

Correspondence, memoranda and other papers exchanged between Ford and constituents, colleagues and the public on Ford's efforts to seek committee authorization of federally funded construction projects in his district or region and report his progress. Included is some constituent correspondence, pre-dating his assumption of office, encouraging Ford to support specific projects. Arranged chronologically.

Box H1 - Committee on Public Works

Status	Title
OPEN	1948-1950 (1)-(4)

Committee on Appropriations - General Correspondence, 1952-54.

(Boxes H1-H2, 0.3 linear feet)

Miscellaneous correspondence, memoranda and other papers exchanged between Ford and constituents, government officials and colleagues on GRF's work, mainly as Chairman of the Army section of the Defense Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Also included are scattered correspondence from his

service on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee and some information on his interest in other appropriations matters. Arranged chronologically.

Box H1 (Continued) - Committee on Appropriations - General Correspondence

Status	Title
OPEN	1952-1954 (1)-(4)

Box H2 - Committee on Appropriations - General Correspondence

Status	Title
OPEN	1952-1954 (5)-(9)

Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills, 1959-65.

(Boxes H2-H8, 2.7 linear feet)

Personal copies of draft appropriations bill prints from the Defense Subcommittee and the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, containing GRF's marginal comments; and related circulars, notes and charts attached or loosely interfiled. Included as a separate sequence are general circulars, memoranda, charts and other papers used by the subcommittees in modifying draft appropriations bills; and some notes by GRF, correspondence and memoranda addressed to Ford on specific appropriations matters. Much of this latter sequence originally had been interfiled in the subcommittee bill prints, but was separated for ease of storage. Both sequences are arranged chronologically and thereunder alphabetically by topic.

Box H2 (Continued) - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Papers - Mutual Security Appropriations, FY 1959
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1961 (1)-(2)

Box H3 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Papers - Mutual Security Appropriations, FY 1961
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1962
OPEN	Papers - House and Senate Argument for Appropriations, 1962 (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1963 (1)-(3)

Box H4 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1963 (4)
OPEN	Papers - Foreign Aid Appropriations, FY 1963
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1964 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Papers - Foreign Aid Appropriations, FY 1964 (1)-(2)

Box H5 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Papers - Defense Department Appropriations, FY 1965
OPEN	Papers - Foreign Aid Appropriations, FY 1965
OPEN	Papers - Miscellaneous and Undated

Box H6 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1959
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1960
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1961

Box H7 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Bill Prints - Foreign Aid Appropriations, 1961
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1962
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1963

Box H8 - Committee on Appropriations - Subcommittee Bills

Status	Title
OPEN	Bill Prints - Foreign Aid Appropriations, 1963
OPEN	Bill Prints - Defense Department Appropriations, 1964
OPEN	Bill Prints - Foreign Aid Appropriations, 1965