



Homer Price Rainey Papers (C0032)

Collection Number: C0032

Collection Title: Homer Price Rainey Papers

Dates: 1919-1952

Creator: Rainey, Homer Price, 1896-1985

Abstract: The personal papers and correspondence of Rainey cover his career as an educator; his directorship of the American Youth Commission; the struggle for academic freedom at the University of Texas; his campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in Texas; and the administration of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri. The scrapbooks contain news clippings, articles, and family genealogy.

Collection Size: 23.4 cubic feet, 3 volumes, 77 audio cassettes, 1 audio disc
(1,964 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Homer Price Rainey Papers* (C0032); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Homer Price Rainey on 23 July 1952 (Accession No. CA3141).

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Historical Note:

Homer Price Rainey was born in Clarksville, Texas, on 19 January 1896 to Edward and Jenny Price Rainey. He received his A.B. from Austin College in Austin, Texas in 1919, his A.M. from Chicago University in 1923, and his Ph.D. from Chicago University in 1924.

He was a professor of education at Austin College from 1919 to 1922, professor of education at the University of Oregon from 1924 to 1927, president of Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana from 1927 to 1931, and president of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania from 1931 to 1935. From 1935 to 1939 he was director of the American Youth Commission of the American Council on education.

He became president of the University of Texas in Austin in 1939 and remained there until 1944 when he was fired after charging that the Texas Board of Regents had attempted to limit academic freedom at the school. He ran as a Democrat for Texas governor in 1946 but was defeated in a runoff.

From 1947 to 1952 Rainey was president of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. After that he went to the University of Colorado as a professor of education in 1956. He retired from the university and was named professor emeritus.

Rainey married Mildred Collins in 1920. They had two daughters, Helen and Lenora. Rainey died in 1985.

Arrangement:

The Homer P. Rainey Papers are arranged into a rough chronological order that follows his career. The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

- Early Years
- Bucknell University
- American Youth Commission
- University of Texas
- Gubernatorial Campaign
- Stephens College
- Scrapbooks
- Audiovisual Material

Each section is designated by the university or organization with which he was associated at the time. Within each section material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content Note:

More complete descriptions of the material are found in the container list.

The papers also include three scrapbooks of news clippings and audio cassettes of a radio program that Rainey did while in Texas. The audio cassettes were duplicated from audio discs, which were discarded after duplication.

Container List:**Early Years Series**

- f. 1 Austin College, 1919. Yearbook, *The Chromoscope*, includes a section on the graduating senior class of which Rainey was a member receiving an A.B. degree in English.
- f. 2-10 University of Chicago, Autumn 1922 to January 1924. Class notes taken by Rainey in his university courses and themes and term papers:
- f. 11-17 University of Minnesota Papers, Summer Session, 1932. Notes for courses "History of American Education," "Public School Finance," taught by Rainey.
- f. 18-35 University of Oregon, Education Affairs, September 1924-July 1927. Requests regarding school systems and school laws; publications on education.
- f. 36-37 University of Oregon, Personal Correspondence and Papers, December 1924-July 1927. Personal business accounts, tax receipts and assessments, expense accounts, insurance, stock investments.
- f. 38-46 University of Oregon, Speeches, Articles, Lecture, and Class Notes, September 1922-July 1927.
- f. 47-48 Franklin College, Bulletins, October 1929-June 1931.
- f. 49-51 Franklin College, General Correspondence and Papers.
- f. 52-62 Franklin College, Personal Papers and Correspondence, October 1927-October 1931.
- f. 63-80 Franklin College, Speeches and Articles.

Bucknell University Series

- f. 81-93 American Baptist Home Mission Society. Correspondence: the mission society's plans and meetings, reports on denominational objectives, missions finance, its committee on education in United States, the Department of Missions finance, its committee on education in United States, the Department of Missions in Latin America, the education of American ministers, board minutes, letters, and annual meeting reports.
- f. 94-99 Applications and Recommendations
- f. 100-106 Assembly Talks. Speeches that Dr. Rainey gave to the assemblies at Bucknell. Based on Bible scriptures. Subjects deal with the concepts of the true, the good, and the beautiful; the nature of man; the preparation and

- training for successful living the "Good Life;" the significant contribution of religion in man's life; and various other themes on religion, and higher education, and social, economic, and political aspects of our national life.
- f. 107-111 Baptist Young People's Union of America, February 1932-July 1933
- f. 112-113 Boy Scouts of America, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, December 1931-March 1933
- f. 114-119 Board of Trustees, June 1931-December 1938.
- f. 120-124 Treasurer's Reports. For the fiscal periods ending 30 June 1935-30 June 1939.
- f. 125-135 Bulletins. Various bulletins, periodicals, pamphlets, articles, addresses and programs
- f. 136-141 Congratulations, June 1931-April 1933. On being elected to the presidency of Bucknell University and regrets over his leaving Franklin College.
- f. 142-179 Education, June 1931-August 1936. Correspondence and papers: the establishment of a Bucknell Junior College at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Material college course outlines. The liberal arts college movement. Curriculum schedules for the junior college, and the small college. History of education in the United States report on college administrative organization.
- f. 180-204 General Correspondence, June 1931-December 1935.
- f. 205-208 Invitations, July 1931-June 1935.
- f. 209-211 National Commission on Church-Related Colleges, November 1933-April 1935. Correspondence, meetings and plans of the commission.
- f. 212-220 Personal and Business Papers, April 1931-September 1935.
- f. 221-229 Correspondence and Papers, June 1931-September 1935
- f. 230-232 Save the Children Fund, 1932.
- f. 233-250 Speeches and Notes, 1930-1935.

American Youth Commission Series

- f. 251-258 Correspondence, October 1935-May 1939.
- f. 259-261 Appointment Schedules, 1936-1938.
- f. 262-264 Baptist Church and School Affairs, September 1935-December 1939. Invitations to annual church meetings to speak at various Baptist church functions and youth groups.
- f. 265-267 Bulletins, November 1935-April 1939. Various bulletins
- f. 268-269 Congratulations, September 1935-March 1936. Rainey's appointment as Director of the American Youth Commission.
- f. 270-302 Correspondence with Bucknell, July 1939-November 1939. Correspondence with presidents, faculty, and Board of Trustees and friends interested in Bucknell University while Mr. Rainey was in Washington.
- f. 303-306 General Correspondence, October 1935-June 1939.
- f. 307-320 Personal Correspondence, September 1935-June 1939.
- f. 321-334 Personal Business Papers, July 1935-June 1939.
- f. 335-408 Speeches and Articles, July 1935-May 1939. See folder 335 for a dated listing (incomplete) of speech and article titles.

- f. 409-417 University of Texas Correspondence, March 1937-August 1939. Rainey's candidacy for president of the University of Texas.
- f. 418-420 White House Correspondence, October 1935-May 1939. With Eleanor Roosevelt and her secretary Malvina Scheider pertaining to appointments, invitations, recommendations, and discussion of A.Y.C. problems, reports, projects, and the article, "Youth Tell Their Story," by Homer P. Rainey.

University of Texas Series

- f. 421-449 Administrative Papers, December 1938-March 1945. Rainey's acceptance of presidency, inaugural plans and program, student admissions to University of Texas, faculty reception plans and minutes, P.W.A. dormitory projects, R.O.T.C. and program at University of Texas, minutes of Board of Directors, business research, extension division, medical school history, inspection and plans, and Education Reorganization Plans. Statements of Rainey's to the Board of Regents, report to the faculty over the controversy, "Future Development of the University of Texas," policies for a first class university, and legislature support of University activities, and much miscellaneous material pertaining to his administration.
- f. 450-477 Applications and Recommendations, January 1939-January 1945.
- f. 478-486 Army Talks, August 1944-December 1945. Orientation fact sheet, numbers 1-99.
- f. 487-489 Baseball, July 1939-May 1940. Correspondence and papers in conjunction with his inauguration as president of Texas University, Dr. Rainey was to be officially released from the Houston Buffs, a team for which he had played in his youth. Before a player can be officially released, other ball clubs in the league can claim a player by waiver. The Shreveport, Louisiana, club did this, but finally withdrew their claim on Dr. Rainey. On August 12, 1939, Dr. Rainey pitched to the first batter of the Fort Worth team. Afterwards he received a gold-plated release card from the Houston club.
- f. 490-494 Bucknell Correspondence, May 1939-April 1942.
- f. 495-562 Bulletins, December 1935-November 1946. Miscellaneous bulletins.
- f. 563-612 Congratulations, January 1938-September 1944. Congratulations on the presidency of the University of Texas.
- f. 613-710 Controversy, General, January 1942-May 1946. Correspondence, articles, pamphlets on the principle phases of the controversy:
1. Disagreement over the Chairmanship of the Athletic Council, 1939-1944. Dolley, J.C.; Weinert, H.H.
 2. Proposed dismissals from the faculty. (June 1940) Bedichek, Roy; Kidd, R.J.; Stark, Lutchter; Parten, J.R.; Branson, Fred; Montgomery, Robert H.
 3. The Medical School Controversy. See separate category "Medical School Controversy."
 4. The case of the dismissed economic instructors, March 1942. Wendell Gordon, Fagg Foster, W.N. Peach, Karl Hoblitzelle, Ralph Himstead, Ex-

ecutive Secretary American Association of University Professors, Judge T.W. Davidson,

5. Denial of research grants. Sacco-Vanzeetti case, June 1942-September 1944.
6. Strickland's efforts to abolish tenure rule, January 1943. Judge D.F. Strickland.
7. Banning of Dos Passos' *United States of America* "The Big Money," January 1943. Regents Orville Bullington and D. Woodward.
8. Removal of A.L. Brandon, Director of Public Relations.
9. Regents' criticism of Rainey's speeches, June 1943.
10. Dismissal of Rainey, November 1, 1944. Regents John L. Bickett, H.H. Weinert, Don J. Harrison, Orville Bullington, Mrs. I.D. Fairchild.
11. Dr. T.S. Painter, appointed acting president of the University, November 1944.
12. Student demonstrations, November 1944.
13. Senate Committee investigation, November 1944. Robert Lee Bobbitt.
14. Faculty petition for reinstatement of Rainey, January 1945. John McCurdy and Mac Wallace.
15. Woodward's statement, why he voted against the reinstatement of Rainey as president of the University of Texas, January 26, 1945. Judge Albert W. Johnson.
16. Resignation of Vice-President Burdine, January 1945. Governor Lee O'Daniel.
17. Cartoon. Dr. Rainey being questioned by Board of Regents.

See also in this collection:

University of Texas

College Administration

Medical School

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

Board of Regents Meeting Minutes

Gubernatorial Campaign

Ku Klux Klan

Political Papers and Correspondence

f. 711-713

Controversy, Accrediting Association, October 1943-June 1946. Correspondence in reference to committee conferences, investigations, and reports concerning the controversy at the University of Texas from the following organizations and persons: Academic Council of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties; Ralph E. Himstead, American Association of University Professors; E.D. Whittlesey, American College Publicity Association, University of Texas (con'd)
Dean M.C. Hundtley, Southern University Conference of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; H.L. Donovan, President of the University of Kentucky; Arthur L. Brandon; Theophilus S. Painter; H.C. Parmelee; J. Hillis Miller; Judge Albert Wm. Johnson; Regent Dudley K. Woodward.

- f. 714-721 Controversy, Educator's Correspondence, March 1944-January 1945. From educators in the state and the nation expressing opinions on various phases of the Texas University Controversy.
- f. 722 Controversy, Governor's Correspondence, October 1944-January 1945.
- f. 723 Controversy, Newspapermen's Correspondence, August-November 1944.
- f. 724-733 Controversy, Servicemen Correspondence, August 1944-January 1944. Former students at the University of Texas favoring Rainey in his stand with the Board of Regents.
- f. 734-742 Controversy, Staff Correspondence, September 1944-December 1944. Expressions of regret, sympathy, admiration, appreciation and congratulation on Rainey's stand in the controversy.
- f. 743-760 Controversy, Resolutions, October 1944-January 1945. Correspondence and signed resolutions from schools, libraries, student organizations, faculty members, ex-students and professional men, in support of Rainey's condemnation of the Board of Regents for dismissing him, and advocating his reinstatement as president of the University, and for the appointment of a new Board of Regents.
- f. 761-770 Crozer Theological Seminary Papers, June 1939-October 1944.
- f. 771-805 Education, March 1936-1945.
- f. 806-881 General Correspondence, April 1938-February 1945.
- f. 882-897 General Faculty Minutes, October 1944-March 1946.
- f. 898-902 Hi-Y Club, April 1940-September 1942.
- f. 903-955 Invitations, January 1938-February 1945.
- f. 956-978 Medical School, October 1939-December 1944.
- f. 979-1054 Minutes of the Board of Regents, February 1939-January 1946.
- f. 1055-1090 Personal Business Papers, March 1933-December 1946
- f. 1091-1133 Personal Correspondence, January 1939-January 1945.
- f. 1134-1137 Political Issues, February 1939-1944. Information regarding state, national and international political issues of the day.
- f. 1139-1159 Religious Affairs, January 1939-February 1945. Invitations to make speeches for Baptist Student Convention, Salvation Army, Pastor's and Layman's Conference of Texas Baptists, colleges in Georgia, Christ Church in New York City, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Day Dinner. Requests to write articles for the *Baptist Student and Allied Youth*, radio speech for the Baptist Hour, "Youth Facing the New Day." Announcements of meetings of the Executive Board of the Texas Baptist General Convention.
- f. 1160-1177 Speeches and Articles, December 1938-February 1945.
- f. 1178-1180 Town and Gown Club, October 1942-March 1944.
- f. 1181-1188 University Club Papers, September 1939-April 1944.
- f. 1189-1193 University Development Board, January-March 1939.
- f. 1194-1203 White House Conference, Children in a Democracy, 1940-1943.
- f. 1204-1229 Woman's Foundation, May 1942-July 1946. The purpose of the foundation was to study problems of the American Home and Woman and to disseminate knowledge of tested solutions of such problems.

Gubernatorial Campaign Series

- f. 1230-1232 American Council on Education, April 1945-February 1946. Correspondence, notices of meetings and discussion of business. Report on "Basic Principles of Religion and Public Education." Memorandum on "Community Tensions," by Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.
- f. 1233-1329 Correspondence and Papers, January 1945-December 1946. Reports on existing conditions at the University of Texas. Status of the University with regard to school accrediting associations. Public opinion poll reports. Arrangements for radio time. Organizing young Democratic group. Discussion and advice on political issues: the poll tax question, Dos Passos *U.S.A.*, academic freedom in Texas, the Negro problem, farm road development, gas and oil tax, and liquor tax. Affidavits attesting to the falsity of campaign accusations brought against Rainey. Condolences at Rainey's loss of the primary election. Letters of thanks from Rainey to supporters of campaign. Appointment to presidency of Stephens College. Summons for Rainey to testify in the Reynolds vs. Cobbs case.
- f. 1330-1339 Campaign Finances, May 1945-January 1947.
- f. 1340-1370 Speeches and Articles January 1945-September 1946.
- f. 1371-1373 Federal Communications and Interstate Commerce Commissions, February 1945-July 1946. Rainey's petition filed with the Federal Communications Commission charging the Texas Quality Network with monopolistic and discriminatory actions with regard to his applications for radio time for campaign speeches during the gubernatorial campaign. Also statements (1946) by Arne C. Wiprud, Wendell Berge, both of the Anti-trust Division of the Department of Justice, before the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce concerning the Bulwinkle Bill, House Bill 2536.
- f. 1374-1411 General Correspondence, January 1945-December 1946.
- f. 1412-1422 Invitations February 1945-December 1946
- f. 1423-1424 Ku Klux Klan, August 1946. Radio addresses for and by Rainey accusing his opponent, Buford Jester, of support by the big money interests of Texas and Wall Street. Question raised as to whether Jester was ever a Klansman; Gubernatorial Campaign (con'd). Threatening letter from the K.K.K. Letter from J.H. Ridlehuber to the wife of James E. Ferguson telling of Jester's membership in the Klan.
- f. 1425-1451 Personal Correspondence, January 1945-December 1946.
- f. 1452-1453 Public Opinion Poll, January 1945-November 1945. Correspondence from Texas Political Research Institute relative to the public polling of opinion on Democratic primary candidates for Governor of Texas. Final report on newspaper poll, tabulation on San Antonio poll, final report on postcard poll. Characteristics of the methods used to determine the representatives of poll.
- f. 1454-1457 Recommendations, February 1945-November 1946. Written by Rainey for his friends for positions in university, college, and government work. Some are written to Rainey concerning applicants at the University of Texas.

- f. 1458-1526 "Religion and Life" Radio Talks, August 1945-March 1946. Program was sponsored by the Jacques Power Saw Company of Denison, Texas. These addresses consider the practical, economic, social, and political problems in relation to the Christian concept and doctrine. Analysis of Texas state finances per capita income, health and education expenditures. The unemployment problem and its Christian solution. The application of science to social science problems. New concepts of thinking in education and politics. The role of religious education and the work of the United Nations. Problems and aids to agriculture in Texas, (Bulwinkle Bill and farmers). Further development in the South. O.P.A. and price controls, Texas natural resources.
- f. 1527-1534 Southern Education Foundation, January 1945-November 1946. Newspaper article describing activities of Jeanes Teachers who operate under the foundation. Financial statements, proposed programs, by-laws of the foundation. Notices and minutes of meetings, news of personnel. Arthur D. Wright, president of Southern Educational Foundation.

Stephens College

- f. 1535-1548 Administrative Affairs, August 1945-February 1952.
- f. 1549-1554 Administration Dispute. Letters from "patrons," members of the Board of Trustees, and the Stephens Advisory Committee inquiring into Rainey's political background and affiliations, PAC and CIO, participation in his Texas gubernatorial campaign, his economic, political and social view points, his position on the Negro problem. Letters discussing the causes, and forces behind the move to fire Rainey. An analysis of the problem by Dr. W.W. Charters. Advice to Rainey on possible approaches to a solution of the problem from his supporters on the Board, certain alumni and others.
- f. 1555-1558 Alumnae Associations, March 1947-June 1952. Congratulations on his appointment. Alumni Association plans, officers, and the dispute over the 1952 election. References to the administrative dispute between Rainey and some of the Trustees. Partisan activities on the part of some alumnae officers, for or against Rainey.
- f. 1559-1560 Appointment Schedules, September 1947-April 1951
- f. 1561-1564 Bulletins, 1948-1952
- f. 1565-1576 Congratulations, January 1946-May 1947.
- f. 1577-1583 Correspondence, January 1947-March 1952.
- f. 1584-1588 Employment Correspondence, November 1946-June 1952. Inquiries from teachers concerning possible employment as instructors at the College. Requests for employment recommendations from former students and friends.
- f. 1589-1603 General Correspondence, December 1946-April 1952. Letters of welcome to Columbia, the Save the Children Fund, meetings of Allied Youth, the Council Against Intolerance in America, his winning the Thomas Jefferson Prize, the Civil Rights Congress, the National Conference on Family

- Relations, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and the Camp Fire Girls. Letters asking for contributions and advice; and from him expressing thanks for gifts.
- f. 1604-1628 Inauguration, October 1948-December 1948. Letters and messages of congratulation to Dr. Rainey and to Stephens from colleges, universities, and other organizations and friends all over the country.
- f. 1623-1628 Invitations, December 1946-May 1952.
- f. 1629-1647 Personal Correspondence, November 1946-June 1952.
- f. 1648-1652 Religious Affairs, January 1947-April 1952. Correspondence of the following organizations: Allied Youth; Church Pace Union; Methodist Church Board of Temperance; Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Department of Christian Social Relations; National Conference of Christians and Jews; Southern Baptist Convention; Institute on Religion in State Universities (University of Minnesota); National Council of the Churches of Christ; Student YWCA, Conference on Religion in Higher Education; The Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis; The Christian Student Congregation (Columbia, Missouri); American Baptist Convention Board of Education; article, "The Church and Human Rights." See also: Stephens College, Education
- f. 1653-1663 Speeches and Addresses, February 1947-May 1952.
- f. 1664-1682 Student Correspondence, July 1947-July 1951. Between Dr. Raney and his students, mostly after their graduation.
- f. 1685-1693 Miscellaneous papers, n.d. Articles or speeches
- f. 1694-1700 Photographs of Dr. Homer P. Rainey, family and friends. Personal pictures, commencements and church scenes, University of Texas settings.
- f. 1701-1964 Newspaper Clippings, April 1927-January 1951. Collected by or for Rainey covering the whole of his academic and professional career.

Scrapbooks

- v. 1 1927-1951: Newspaper articles and pictures about Rainey's career at Franklin College, Bucknell University, American Youth Commission, and his inauguration at University of Texas. Article by Rainey, "What is the Matter with College?" Family genealogical chart, inauguration bulletin from Bucknell University, invitations, program of inauguration at University of Texas, and *Life* magazine: "Youth Problem," June 6, 1938.
- v. 2 Clippings, December 29, 1938-January 8, 1939, collected by the Student Clipping Bureau, University of Texas, that tell of Rainey's acceptance of the presidency of the university.
- v. 3 "The State and Public Education" scrapbook with clippings of the inauguration of Rainey as president of the University of Texas, December 9, 1939. Prepared by the Department of Public Relations, Student Clipping Bureau, University of Texas.

Audiovisual Material

- a.c. 1-51 "Religion in Life," a radio program sponsored by Jaques Power Saw Company, Denison, Texas. Tapes of programs done by Rainey between September 1945 and May 1946. See also f. 1458-1526. Missing programs include number 11, 67-106, 117-126, 133-140, 149-210, 215, and 216.
- a.c. 52-76 Radio endorsements, speeches, programs, and advertisements made during Rainey's campaign for governor of Texas. Most of these recordings were made during August 1946. Endorsements given by James V. Allred, Mrs. I.D. Fairchild, Joseph A. Barton, Jerry Sadler, L.A. Woods, Edgar L. Ball, and others.
- a.c. 77 Greetings from women in China and Italy on Rainey's inauguration as president of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, and miscellaneous excerpts from other materials.
- a.d. 1 "Ten Million Silent Americans," 28 April 1946. This item was too warped to copy onto a cassette and has been retained in record form.

Index:

| Subject | Folders | Other |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Academic freedom | 1233-1329,1340-1370,1425-1451 | |
| Allred, James V. (1899-1959) | 1233-1329 | a.c. 62,68,71 |
| American Association of University Professors | 613-710 | |
| American Baptist Home Mission Society | 81-93 | |
| American Council of Human Rights | 1623-1628 | |
| Austin College, Sherman, Texas | | |
| Baptist Church | | |
| Baptist Young People's Union of America | 107-111 | |
| Barton, Joseph A. | | a.c. 57 |
| Baseball | 487-489 | |
| Blacks | | |
| Boy Scouts | 112,113 | |
| Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania | | |
| Campaign funds | 1330-1339 | |
| Chambers of commerce | | |
| Charters' Werrett Wallace (1875-1952) | | |
| Charters, Werrett Wallace (1875-1952) | | |
| China | 478-486 | |
| Civil Rights Congress | 1424-1451,1623-1628 | |
| College sports | | |
| Colleges and universities | | |

| Subject | Folders | Other |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Communism and education | | |
| Congress of Industrial Organizations | | |
| Congress of Industrial Organizations, Political Action Committee | 1549-1554 | |
| Cost of living | | |
| Council Against Intolerance in America | 1623-1628 | |
| Country and western songs | | a.c. 73-76 |
| Crozer Theological Seminary | | |
| Democratic Party, Texas | | v. 67-116 |
| Dobie, J. Frank | | |
| Dos Passos, John (1896-1970), U.S.A. | 613-710 | |
| Eddy, Sherwood (1871-1963) | 1 | |
| Education | 1 | |
| Educational associations | 1 | |
| Education--Curricula | 1 | |
| Education--Finance | 1 | |
| Education--Government policy | 1 | |
| Election, 1946--Texas Gubernatorial | 1230-1534 | a.c. 52-77 |
| Elliff, Joseph Doliver (1863-1959) | 1 | |
| Eurich, Alvin Christian (1902-) | 1 | |
| Fairchild, I. D., Mrs. | | a.c. 52 |
| Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America | 1 | |
| Ferguson, James E. | 1423-1424 | |
| Field, Marshall | 1194-1203 | |
| Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana | 1 | |
| Hi-Y Clubs | 1 | |
| Income Tax | 1 | |
| Indiana, Franklin | 1 | |
| Industrial Relations | 1 | |
| Investments | 1 | |
| Jesse James and the Boys | | a.c. 72-76 |
| Labor and laboring classes | 1 | |
| Labor legislation | 1230-1534 | |
| Labor unions | 1230-1534 | |
| Missouri, Columbia | 1 | |
| Monopolies | 1340-1350 | |
| National Committee on Church-Related College | 209-211 | |
| National Conference of Christians and Jews | | |

| Subject | Folders | Other |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| National Folk Festival | | |
| O'Daniel, W. Lee (1890-1969) | | |
| Pan Americanism | 771-805 | |
| Poll Tax | | vol. 66 |
| Prices | | |
| Public opinion polls | 1233-1329 | |
| Radio addresses, debates, etc. | | a.c. 1-72 |
| Rainey, Homer P. (1896-1985) | | |
| Religion and politics | 1458-1529 | a.c. 1-51, 64, 65, 67 |
| "Religion in Life" | 1458-1526 | a.c. 1-51, 64, 65, 67 |
| Religion, Philosophy | | |
| Religious Education | | |
| Roosevelt, Eleanor (1884-1962) | 418-420 | |
| Sadler, Jerry | | a.c. 63, 67, 71 |
| Save the Children Fund | 230-232 | |
| Smith, Blake | | a.c. 65, 70 |
| Social policy | | |
| Sociology, Christian | | |
| Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools | | |
| Southern Education Foundation | 1527-1534 | |
| Soviet Union | 303-306 | |
| Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri | 1 | |
| Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, Alumnae Organizations | | |
| Stephens, Hugh (1877-1960) | 1204-1229, 1535-1682 | |
| Sutherland, Robert | | |
| Teachers | | |
| Teaching | | |
| Texas, Austin | 1 | |
| Texas, Galveston | 1 | |
| Texas, Politics and government | 1 | |
| Texas, Politics and government, 1946 | | a.c. 52-77 |
| Tunes | | a.c. 73-76 |
| U.S. Army Orientation Fact Sheets | 478-486 | |
| U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps | 421-449 | |
| U.S. Federal Communications Commission | 1371-1373 | |

| Subject | Folders | Other |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| U.S. Foreign relations | 478-486 | |
| U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission | 1371-1373 | |
| University of Minnesota, Minneapolis | | |
| University of Oregon, Eugene | | |
| University of Texas, Austin | | |
| Wallace, Henry A. | 1233-1329 | |
| White House Conference on Children in a Democracy | 771-805 | |
| White House Conference on Children in a Democracy | 771-805 | |
| Wood, James Madison (1875-1958) | | |
| Wood, James Madison (1875-1958) | 1204-1229, 1535-1682 | |
| Woods, L. A. | | a.c. 66, 71 |
| World War, 1939-1945--Propaganda | 478-486 | |
| Young Men's Christian Association | | |
| Young Women's Christian Association | | |
| Youth Problems | | |
| Zook, George F. | | |