Guide to the Senatorial Papers
(1950-1952)

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

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Descriptive Summary

Title:  Senatorial Papers

Creator:  Office of Senator Richard M. Nixon
          Senate Offices, Washington D.C.

Extent:  8 linear feet (15 doc. boxes)

Repository:  Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
              18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard
              Yorba Linda, California 92886

Abstract:  Richard M. Nixon’s Senatorial files including correspondence with his constituents and other government officials, legislation, files pertaining to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (SPSI), extensive correspondence with political associate Bernard Brennan, and correspondence resulting from renewed public interest in the Hiss-Chambers Case.
Administrative Information

Access: Open

Publication Rights: Copyright held by Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace

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Acquisition Information: Gift of Richard M. Nixon

Processing History: Collection processing initiated by Susan Naulty prior to 2003, completed by Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace archive staff in April, 2005.
Biography

The retirement of incumbent Democratic Senator Sheridan Downey in 1950 led to a fierce battle between Rep. Richard Nixon and Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas for California’s open United States Senate seat. After Nixon won the election and was briefed by Downey on current California concerns, he stepped into the retiring Senator’s spot one month early. Nixon was formally sworn-in on December 4, 1950 and served as United States Senator until taking the Vice Presidency with the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952. During his time in the Senate, Nixon served on the Committee on Labor & Public Welfare and the Committee for Expenditures in the Executive Department. He focused a great deal of attention on international “Great Debate” issues and also contributed considerable effort toward opposing the Colorado River Project, although it finally was passed, giving Arizona water rights claimed by California.

1952 saw a resurgence of popular interest in the “Hiss-Chambers Case” due to a series of retrospective articles published in *The Saturday Evening Post* and Alger Hiss’s request for a pardon.
Scope and Content Summary:

*Series I* contains unanswered issues raised by Senator Nixon’s constituents and documents pertaining to the “Battery Additives Case”.

*Series II* contains correspondence with Los Angeles attorney and GOP activist, Bernard Brennan.

*Series III* contains U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (SPSI) papers, specifically investigations of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) and Newbold Morris-United Tanker Corporation.

*Series IV* contains documents pertaining to political smear campaigns directed by James Tarantino against Nixon campaign manager Murray Chotiner and by Roy de Groot against Richard Nixon.

*Series V* contains Senate bills and resolutions, 1951 – 1952.

*Series VI* contains public correspondence following renewed interest in the “Hiss-Chambers Case” as well as correspondence regarding an alleged Adlai Stevenson – Alger Hiss connection, and later papers regarding Laurence Duggan and the “Sorge Case”.

*Series VII* contains invitations and work files.
Related Collections:


Campaign, 1950.

Campaign, 1952.

Helen Gahagan Douglas Collection
Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma
630 Parrington Oval, Room 101
Norman, OK 73019
http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/douglas.htm

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and Museum
200 Southeast Fourth Street
Abilene, Kansas 67410
http://www.eisenhower.utexas.edu/
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