

PAPERS AND OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS

OF

ELIZABETH DUNCAN KOONTZ



Richard M. Nixon Presidential Materials Project
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration

Processed by
Marjorie Heins Ciarlante
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ELIZABETH DUNCAN KOONTZ

PAPERS, 1969-1972

The papers of Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, former Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, were received by the Office of Presidential Papers on May 14, 1973.

Under the terms of a standard deed of gift, some materials which contain information of a personal nature or which are security classified can be removed and placed under seal. After careful review of this collection, however, no material has been restricted.

Approximate number of feet: .75

Approximate number of pages: 1,200

Biographical Note

1919, June 3 Born, Salisbury, N.C.

1938 B.A., Livingston College, Salisbury, N.C.

1938-40 Teacher, Harnett County Training School,
 Dunn, N.C.

1940-41 Teacher, Aggrey Memorial High School,
 Landis, N.C.

1941 M.A., Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

1941-45 Teacher, Fourteenth Street School, Winston-
 Salem, N.C.

1945-49 Teacher, Price High School, Salisbury, N.C.

1947 Married Harry Lee Koontz

1949-65 Teacher, Monroe School, Salisbury, N.C.

1962 Member, North Carolina Governor's Commission
 on the Status of Women

1965-68 Teacher, special education, Price Jr.-Sr.
 High School, Salisbury, N.C.

1965-68 Member, President's Advisory Council on the
 Education of Disadvantaged Children

1969 U.S. Delegate to the United Nations Commission
 on the Status of Women

1969-73 Director, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of
 Labor, Washington, D.C.

1972-73 Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for
 Employment Standards Administration, U.S.
 Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note (cont.)

ca. 1973-ca. 1976

Assistant Secretary for the Coordination
of Nutrition Programs, North Carolina
Dept. of Human Resources, Raleigh, N.C.

ca. 1977-

Assistant Superintendent, North Carolina
Dept. of Public Instruction, Raleigh, N.C.

Scope and Content Note

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz was the first black and the sixth woman to serve as Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, which was established by Act of Congress in 1920 to "formulate standards and policies" which would promote the welfare and improve the working conditions of wage-earning women. In addition to her duties as Director of the Women's Bureau from February 1969 to March 1973, Mrs. Koontz was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards Administration in April 1972. She was also appointed U.S. Delegate to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in January 1969.

By the time of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Bureau in 1970, the emphasis of the Women's Bureau had changed from fighting exploitation and sweatshop conditions to battling discrimination against women in education and employment at all levels of the labor force. The major concerns under Koontz's tenure as revealed in her speeches and articles and the news releases and publications issued by the Women's Bureau were: ending discrimination in the hiring, pay and promotion of women workers; improving hiring opportunities for mature women; organizing household service cooperatives to upgrade the status, working conditions, benefits and opportunities for upward mobility, of domestic workers; exposing adolescents and young women to

a variety of career options and related educational and apprenticeship programs; establishing realistic and effective educational and career training programs for women offenders; promoting child care services; educating employers, educators and women on standards and legislation affecting women; and attempting "to change the attitudes of employers, unions, educators, and women themselves".

The above issues are covered and reiterated in the five major series of this collection: the speeches delivered by Elizabeth Koontz between January 1969 and December 1972; the articles written by Mrs. Koontz for various professional journals and American Girl Magazine during her tenure as Director of the Women's Bureau; the two major conferences held in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Bureau; the news releases and accompanying pamphlets in the news releases series; and the publications series. In addition to the above series there is a biographical and photos series containing Elizabeth Koontz's resume, two biographical sketches and two photographs, one of which was taken while she was the U.S. Delegate to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women.

The speeches series contains copies of speeches, statements and addresses delivered by Mrs. Koontz between January 1969 and December 1972 before the United Nations in her capacity as U.S. Delegate to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women; before various educators' conferences,

including the AAAS Section on the Education of Graduate Women in Science; before various commissions on the status of women; and before special committees of the U.S. House and Senate.

The two conferences covered in the conferences series were "A Consultation Called as Part of the Women's Bureau's 50th Anniversary Year Accenting the Theme 'Womanpower--a National Resource,'" held in Washington, D.C., on February 26, 1970; and "American Women at the Crossroads: Directions for the Future," the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Women's Bureau held in Washington, D.C., on June 11-13, 1970.

The publications series was originally received as a folder of "miscellaneous publications," and was subsequently rearranged under five subject category headings: Women's Bureau, Women Workers, Education and Careers, Child Care, and Women Offenders.

Original photographs appearing in the biographical and photos series and the conferences series have been removed from the collection and replaced with electrostatic copies and withdrawal sheets. One box of original photographs is available in the audiovisual collection (PA 80-10-65).

Description of Series

Container Nos.

Series

1

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL

Resume, two biographical sketches, and two photographs.

SPEECHES

Copies of speeches, statements and addresses delivered between Jan. 1969 and Dec. 1972. Topics cover a variety of women's educational and employment issues. Arranged in reverse chronological order.

ARTICLES

Clippings of articles by Koontz appearing in various professional journals and one popular magazine from spring 1970 through Dec. 1972. Arranged in reverse chronological order.

CONFERENCES

Programs, photographs, addresses, list of registrants and participants, workshop reports, preliminary reports, and reports of two conferences sponsored by the Women's Bureau during February and June of 1970. Materials arranged in chronological order.

NEWS RELEASES

News releases, and pamphlets accompanied by news releases at publication. Folders arranged in reverse chronological order.

Description of Series (cont.)

Container Nos.Series

2

PUBLICATIONS

Women's Bureau publications filed by
subject matter.

Container List

<u>Container Nos.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL
1	Biographical and Photos
	SPEECHES
	[Jan. 1969-Dec. 1972]
	ARTICLES
	Articles [Spring 1970-Dec. 1972]
	CONFERENCES
	Conferences [Feb., June, 1970]
	NEWS RELEASES
	News Releases [with Bulletins and Pamphlets, 1969-Feb. 1970]
	News Releases [with Bulletins and Pamphlets, Mar. 1970-1972]
	PUBLICATIONS
	[Women's Bureau]
	[Women Workers]
	[Education and Careers]
	[Child Care]
	[Women Offenders]