

Guide to the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies (Hartford and Connecticut Chapters) Papers

MS 66



compiled by David Maslyn and George Cunningham

November 1972

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 66

CREATOR: Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. Hartford and Connecticut Chapters

TITLE: Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies (Hartford and Connecticut Chapters) papers

DATES: 1939-1944

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, speeches, writings, subject files, printed matter, and clippings of the Hartford and Connecticut chapters of the CDAAA, an anti-isolationist organization formed for the purpose of influencing public opinion and lobbying in favor of U.S. assistance to the Allied powers. The principal figures of this organization represented in the collection are Walter E. Batterson, Eleanor Taft Tilton, and H. M. Dadourian. There is also material relating to John Danaher and the Danaher-McMahon senatorial contest (Connecticut, 1944).

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Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0066>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Walter E. Batterson, 1952, and Eleanor Taft Tilton, 1958.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies (Hartford and Connecticut Chapters) Papers (MS 66). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Founded in 1940 for the purpose of influencing public opinion and lobbying in favor of U.S. assistance to the Allies; organized by William Allen White and Clark Mell Eichelberger; Hartford chapter chairman was Walter E. Batterson; in 1941 merged with Fight for Freedom, Inc., to form the Fight for Freedom Committee to Defend America.

Scope and Contents

These papers encompass the activities of the Hartford and Connecticut chapters of the CDAAA between 1940 and 1941 (mostly 1941). Materials pertaining to this organization comprises two-thirds of the collection; the other third consists of materials relating to John Danaher and the Danaher McMahon senatorial contest (Connecticut 1944). The principals of the collection are Walter E. Batterson and Mrs. Arthur V.R. Tilton (Eleanor Taft). In addition there is some correspondence of H.M. Dadourian and material relating to other organizations of the early and mid-forties.

The papers are divided into four series: Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Subject Files, and Printed Matter.

The National Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies was organized in May, 1940 for the purpose of influencing public opinion and lobbying in favor of United States assistance to the allied powers. William Allen White, an influential Kansas editor, and Clark Mell Eichelberger were prime movers in organizing the CDAAA and served respectively as national chairman. White resigned January 4, 1941. Hence, most of the material pertaining to the national organization in this collection involves Clark Eichelberger. The national CDAAA was prointervention, lobbied in favor of the Lend-Lease Bill, recognition of DeGaulle's government in exile, against the neutrality act, and against the propaganda of the America First group. The national organization is chiefly represented in this collection through correspondence and published material in the "Printed Matter" series.

The Hartford chapter of the CDAAA was organized soon after the national headquarters was established and followed the general national policy. The chairman of the Hartford chapter was Walter E. Batterson a former mayor of that city. With the emergence of a state organization he served simultaneously as the chairman of the Connecticut and Hartford chapters. Batterson retained these two positions until October, 1941 when the state CDAAA merged with an organization of similar purpose, Fight for Freedom Inc. He then served as a co-chairman of the new organization, Fight for Freedom Committee to Defend America, while H. M. Dadourian headed the Hartford organization. The activities of the committees stopped shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Eleanor Taft Tilton was active in both the state and local CDAAA. She served as a vice-chairman of the Hartford chapter and as a member of the state committee-at-large. She was also secretary of Americans United for World Organization in the mid-forties and worked in opposition to the reelection of John Danaher in 1944.

John Danaher, Republican Senator from Connecticut 1939-1945 is the subject of a portion of the material in this collection. Danaher's votes against such acts as the Naval Appropriations Bill, the Selective Service Act and the Lend-Lease Bill made him one of the chief congressional opponents of the program that the CDAAA wanted to promote. The CDAAA opposed Danaher's opinions through meetings, press statements, and letters to the editor. Material related to the anti-Danaher campaign is present in each series of the collection, but is primarily found in "Speeches and Writings", "Subject Files", and "Printed Matter."

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence. II. Speeches and Writings. III. Subject File. IV. Printed Matter.

Collection Contents

Series I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1940-1944

0.5 linear feet (1 box)

CORRESPONDENCE is divided into four subsections: the first three subsections consist of the correspondence of the principals of the collection—Walter E. Batterson, H. M. Dadourian, and Eleanor T. Tilton; the last section consists of correspondence of others. Within each subsection the correspondence is arranged alphabetically. The first and largest subsection is the correspondence of Walter E. Batterson (1940-1941). Batterson corresponded with most of Connecticut's congressional representatives and officials of pro and anti-intervention groups. His correspondence also includes letters with CDAAA national headquarters and letters to the editors of various publications.

The second subsection, the correspondence of H. M. Dadourian, and the third subsection, the correspondence of Eleanor Taft Tilton, are similar in content to the Batterson correspondence, but smaller. Mrs. Tilton's correspondence includes some letters relating to the Danaher-McMahon contest for the Senate in 1944.

Walter E. Batterson

b. 1, f. 1	General Correspondence A-C (34)	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 2	Bell, Ulric (10)	1941 October 3–November 8, 1944 October 16
b. 1, f. 3	Conant, James B. & Lewis W. Douglas (6)	1940 December 24–1941 January
b. 1, f. 4	Congressional Correspondence (28)	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 5	Congressional Correspondence re: questionnaire (8)	1940
b. 1, f. 6	General Correspondence D-H, (28)	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 7	Dadourian, H. M., Chairman (1)	1941 June 27 & August 5
b. 1, f. 8	Danaher, John A. (10)	1940 September 4–1941 October 27
b. 1, f. 9	DeGaulle, Charles telegram (1)	1941 October 29
b. 1, f. 10	Eichelberger, Clark M. (30)	1940 December 7–1941 December 8
b. 1, f. 11	Form letters (6)	1941 May 10, 1943 December 14, 1944 January 3 undated
b. 1, f. 12	Hoover, John Edgar (3)	1941 June 16–October 23
b. 1, f. 13	General Correspondence I-R (24)	1940-1941

Walter E. Batterson (continued)

b. 1, f. 14	Koppleman, Herman P. (10)	1940 November 19-1941 December
b. 1, f. 15	Letters to the Editor (14)	1940 June 7 – 1941, October 22, n.d
b. 1, f. 16	Maloney, Francis T. (17)	1940 July 26-1941 November 26
b. 1, f. 17	Robinson, David (5)	1940 December 11-1941 May 2
b. 1, f. 18	Roosevelt, Franklin D. (9)	1941 May 27-1941 October 23
b. 1, f. 19	General Correspondence s-z (26)	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 20	Seymour, Charles (4)	1941 October 24- November 5
b. 1, f. 21	Sherman, Maurice (8)	1941 May 31 - October 11
b. 1, f. 22	Stinger Gilbert (3)	1941 February
b. 1, f. 23	Thomas, Mrs. Harrison A. (5)	1940 September 17 - 1941 November 12
b. 1, f. 24	Tilton, Mrs. Arthur (3)	1941 June 27 & December 10, 1943 November 3
b. 1, f. 25	Wilkie, Wendell L. (10)	1941 May 8 - October 27
<u>Dadourian, H.M.</u>		
b. 1, f. 26	Bell, Ulric (3)	1941 November
b. 1, f. 27	Bissill, William T. (1)	1941 December 9
b. 1, f. 28	Eichelberger, Clark M. (4)	1941 November 25 – December
b. 1, f. 29	Lindbergh, Charles A. (1)	1941 July 21
b. 1, f. 30	Congressional Correspondence, (6)	1941
b. 1, f. 31	Letters to the editor, (3)	1941 November 24

Tilton, Mrs. Arthur (Eleanor Taft Tilton)

Tilton, Mrs. Arthur (Eleanor Taft Tilton) (continued)

b. 1, f. 32	General Correspondence A-Z, (30)	1940-1941, 1943
b. 1, f. 33	Congressional Correspondence A-Z, (7)	1941, 1943, 1944
b. 1, f. 34	Letters to the editor (19)	1941 March 6 - November 12, n.d
b. 1, f. 35	Van Dusen, Henry P. (5)	1941 April 1 - May 20
<u>Correspondence of others</u>		
b. 1, f. 36	General, (10)	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 37	Letters to the editor, (9)	1940-1941 August
b. 1, f. 38	Letters to the editor, (14)	1941 September – December, 1943 July 12, December 6, undated

Series II: SPEECHES AND WRITINGS, 1941-1944*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

SPEECHES AND WRITINGS consists of the writings and speeches of CDAAA members, including the speeches of Walter Batterson; drafts, notes, and an interview by Eleanor Taft Tilton; and speeches by others given under the auspices of the CDAAA.

b. 2, f. 39	Batterson, Walter E.:	1941
b. 2, f. 39	Connecticut Conference of Youth	
b. 2, f. 39	Newtown Rally	
b. 2, f. 39	Hartford, Ickes Rally	
b. 2, f. 39	Rotary Club, Kiwanis, YMCA	
b. 2, f. 39	Russian-Ukrainian Rally	
b. 2, f. 39	WTIC Debate Memorial Day	
b. 2, f. 39	Meridan, 4th of July	1941
b. 2, f. 40	Batterson, Walter E.: untitled	undated
b. 2, f. 41	Overstreet, Alan Burr--Radio talk for Americans United for World Organization	1944
b. 2, f. 42	Seymour, Charles, President of Yale University, "Aid for the Allies"	
b. 2, f. 43	Sherwood, Robert E., author, anti-Lindbergh speech, clipping	
b. 2, f. 44	Tilton, Mrs. Arthur V., interviews, speeches	
b. 2, f. 45	Tilton, Mrs. Arthur V., notes, drafts, articles, etc.	
b. 2, f. 46	Writings of others: John L. Simson, unidentified	undated

Series III: SUBJECT FILES, 1939-1944

SUBJECT FILES contains a variety of materials including minutes of meetings, membership lists, resolutions, statements, press releases, and other materials relating to the CDAAA. In addition, there are materials pertaining to the Ickes Rally (includes correspondence), the Continental Congress for Freedom, and a compilation of Senator John Danaher's public statements and voting record which was compiled by the CDAAA for use against Danaher in the senatorial campaign of 1944.

b. 2, f. 47	America First Committee: advertisements, clippings, miscellaneous	
b. 2, f. 48	Americans United for World Organization, National and Connecticut Chapters	
b. 2, f. 49	Anti-intervention press: photographs, etc.	
b. 2, f. 50	Associated Leagues for a Declared War: propaganda leaflets	
	<u>CDAAA</u>	
b. 2, f. 51	Hartford Chapter: minutes of Executive Committee meetings	1941 April 22 - December 9
b. 2, f. 52	Hartford Chapter, Trade Union Division: committee membership list, statement of principles, petition	
b. 2, f. 53	Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: list of committee membership	
b. 2, f. 54	Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: miscellaneous lists	
b. 2, f. 55	Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: resolutions and statement of objectives	
b. 2, f. 56	Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: press releases	1940 December 12 - 1941 October 30 undated
b. 2, f. 57	Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: misc. and letterheads	
b. 2, f. 58	National Headquarters, Hartford and Connecticut Chapters: policy statements	
b. 2, f. 59	National Headquarters: press releases with clippings, etc.	
b. 2, f. 60	State Chapters: resolutions and fund raising emblems	
b. 2, f. 61	Survey and lists of pro-CDAAA and pro-America First letters to editors	
b. 2, f. 62	Connecticut 5th Congressional District of Democratic and Republican town chairmen	1941
b. 2, f. 63	Continental Congress for Freedom, District of Columbia: programs, resolutions, press release, and summary by Batterson	1941 October 9-10
	<u>Senator John A. Danaher</u>	
b. 2, f. 64	Excerpts from <i>Congressional Record</i>	1940-1941
b. 2, f. 65	"Legislation during the War Years," excerpts from the <i>Congressional Record</i> English	1940-1944

Senator John A. Danaher (continued)

b. 2, f. 66	"Vermin Press," "Subversive Press" excerpts from anti-interventionists and press English	1938-1944
b. 2, f. 67	"Anti-Semitic and Anti-Alien," excerpts from <i>The Malist Publication</i> English	1943-1944
b. 2, f. 68	"Danaher Labor," excerpts from <i>Congressional Record</i> English	1943
b. 2, f. 69	"Carping Criticism," excerpts from <i>Congressional Record</i> English	1940-1944
b. 2, f. 70	"Soldier Vote," excerpts from <i>Congressional Record</i> English	1942-1944
b. 2, f. 71	Voting records and statements	1939-1942
b. 2, f. 72	John Danaher-McMahon campaign: press releases, statements, clippings, campaign advertisement	
b. 2, f. 73	Fight for Freedom Committee: history, publicity, newsletter, miscellaneous	
b. 2, f. 74	Fight for Freedom Committee to Defend America: list of officers, objectives	
b. 2, f. 75	Ickes Rally, Hartford: correspondence, Ickes speech, statements, publicity, miscellaneous	1941 June 26

Series IV: PRINTED MATTER, 1941*.75 linear feet (2 boxes)*

PRINTED MATTER is divided into three subsections:

(1) Publications of CDAAA, including the "Headquarters Letter" by Clark Eichelberger; the "Progress Bulletin" containing news from local chapters; and the "Washington Office Information Letter," which covers Capital Hill activities. (2) Newspaper clippings grouped by subject, for example, Senator John Danaher, or clippings by an author, for example, George Gallup's public opinion surveys. (3) General newspaper clippings, consisting of a scrapbook of clippings collected in 1941, primarily from Hartford newspapers.

In addition, there are some miscellaneous pamphlets at the end of the series.

CDAA

b. 3, f. 76	National headquarters--"Headquarters Letter" Nos. 1-11, 13-15	1941 August-December
b. 3, f. 77	National headquarters--"Progress Bulletin," Nos. 16-17, 23-29	1941 January-August
b. 3, f. 78	Washington Office--"Information Letter," Nos. 5-6, 8, 10-14, 16,17, 19-40, 42-47	1941 February-December

Newspaper Clippings(by subject or author)

b. 3, f. 79	Dorothy Thompson, editorials	1941 September-October
b. 3, f. 80	George Gallup, public opinion surveys	1941 June-December
b. 3, f. 81	John Danaher	
b. 3, f. 82	Charles Lindbergh	
b. 3, f. 83	Presidential speeches--text of address by Herbert Hoover and texts of speeches by F.D. Roosevelt	1941 September-December
b. 3, f. 84	Pro-intervention political cartoons	Circa 1941
b. 3, f. 85	CDAAA: advertisements and political cartoons	Circa 1941
b. 3, f. 86	Miscellaneous re: CDAAA	
b. 3, f. 87	Re: foreign policy	

Newspaper Clippings(general)

b. 3, f. 88	<i>Hartford Times</i> English	1941 April 28 - December 10
b. 3, f. 89	Editorials <i>Hartford Times</i>	1941 June 16 - December 9
b. 3, f. 90	Letters to editor <i>Hartford Times</i>	1941 May-December

Newspaper Clippings(general) (continued)

b. 3, f. 91-92	<i>Hartford Courant</i> English	1941 May 8 - December 13
b. 4, f. 93	<i>Hartford Courant</i> English	1941 May 13 - December 11
b. 4, f. 94	Editorials <i>Hartford Courant</i>	1941 May 5 - December 11
b. 4, f. 95	New York City papers	1941 May 10 - December 9, undated
b. 4, f. 96	<i>Hartford Courant</i> English	1941 May 11 - November 21
b. 4, f. 96	<i>Hartford Times</i> English	1941 May 5 - November 17
b. 4, f. 97	Miscellaneous fragments	
b. 4, f. 98	Miscellaneous published matter, speeches and pamphlets	
b. 4, f. 99	Miscellaneous published matter	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Intervention (International law)
Neutrality
World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names

Connecticut
Connecticut -- Politics and government
United States -- Foreign relations
United States -- Politics and government

Names

Batterson, Walter E.
Bell, Ulric, 1891-1960
Dadourian, H. M. (Haroutune Mugurditch),
1878-1974
Danaher, John Anthony, 1899-
Eichelberger, Clark M. (Clark Mell), 1896-1980
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972
Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus),
1902-1974
Maloney, Francis Thomas, 1894-1945
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano),
1882-1945
Seymour, Charles, 1885-1963
Tilton, Eleanor Taft, 1909-1984
Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944

Corporate Body

Committee to Defend America by Aiding the
Allies. Hartford and Connecticut Chapters