

Guide to the Douglas Joseph Bennet Papers

MS 1433



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Joseph P. Papagoda

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1942-1971	6
Series II: Subject Files, 1941-1977	8
Selected Search Terms	10

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1433

CREATOR: Bennet, Douglas Joseph, Jr., 1938-2018

TITLE: Douglas Joseph Bennet papers

DATES: 1941-1977

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, notes, printed material, and clippings which document Douglas Bennet's service as an official in the Office of Price Administration and his role as adviser and personal friend of Chester Bowles. The papers include numerous letters between Bennet and Bowles as well as Bowles's correspondence with others. Subject files relate to Bennet and Bowles's work in OPA, Connecticut politics, and India.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1433>

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.1433>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Douglas J. Bennet, 1985.

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

Douglas Joseph Bennet Papers (MS 1433). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Douglas Joseph Bennet was born in Wilmington, Delaware on August 22, 1911. After receiving a B.A. degree from Wesleyan University in 1933 he became the assistant advertising manager for the R.T. French Co. of Rochester, New York. From 1937 to 1942 he served as the assistant to the vice president of the Northam Warren Corporation of New York and Stamford, Connecticut and sales promotion manager of Peggy Sage, Inc. of New York. In April, 1942 Bennet moved to Hartford, Connecticut to set up the gasoline rationing program for the state. In the fall of 1943 he joined Chester Bowles at the Office of Price Administration in Washington, D.C. as chief, Office of Program Planning, Department of Information. Bennet was placed in charge of OPA's educational programs and oversaw the planning for press, radio, and group activities to meet basic public information needs.

Bennet returned to Lyme, Connecticut in July, 1946. Until Bowles's death in 1986 Bennet remained a close personal friend and consultant. Throughout the years he was a Bowles political campaign adviser. Bennet served as a member of Bowles's gubernatorial staff in 1948.

Scope and Contents

The Douglas Joseph Bennet Papers consist of correspondence, notes, printed material, and clippings which document Douglas Bennet's service as chief of the Program Planning Office, Department of Information in the Office of Price Administration (OPA) and his role as an adviser and lifelong personal friend of Chester Bowles and his family. The papers include numerous exchanges between Bennet and Bowles as well as files of Bowles's correspondence with others. Subject files relate to Bennet and Bowles's work in OPA, Connecticut politics, and Bowles's tenure as ambassador to India.

The papers are arranged in two series of approximately equal size. Series I, CORRESPONDENCE, begins with the section *Office of Price Administration* which is composed of two boxes containing carbon copies of Bennet's outgoing letters for a portion (1944 Aug-1946 Feb) of the time he served in OPA in Washington. Bennet had come to Washington in the fall of 1943 to plan OPA's educational programs to meet public information needs through the press, radio, and group activities. The letters in this section are addressed to other office members and program planners. There are also copies of letters signed by Chester Bowles. There are numerous letters to Connecticut newspapers editors, members of the Connecticut congressional delegation, and Connecticut retail merchants. Through 1944 and early 1945 the letters concern the Grocer-Consumer Anti-Inflation Campaign, a program to garner support for retail food price compliance. The files contain "pitch sheets," weekly reports, and letters to the National Association of Retail Grocers. Also discussed in the correspondence in this section are gas rationing, rent controls, meat shortages, efforts to reach the black community, and plans for price stabilization during the post war

reconversion period. The files contain a few letters concerning Bennet's personal business. The OPA files end abruptly in February 1946, five months prior to Bennet's return to Connecticut.

The section *General* contains both incoming and outgoing letters of Bennet as well as some correspondence of Chester Bowles, possibly that handled by Bennet in periods of Bowles's absence from the country or referred to Bennet in his capacity as a member of Bowles's staff. The files are arranged in alphabetical order. Bennet's correspondents include other Bowles's staff members such as Bice Clemow and Jean Joyce. The correspondence focuses on the OPA period and includes reminiscences collected by Bennet to aid Bowles in writing his autobiography, *Promises to Keep*. Correspondence with John Bailey contains discussions of Connecticut Democratic Party politics, while correspondence with the Agency for International Development (AID) concerns Bennet's efforts to participate in the agency's work in third world countries.

in 1961 and during his second term as ambassador to India (1963-1969), Bennet oversaw the care of Bowles's property in Essex, Connecticut. There are frequent exchanges on personal business, but letters also contain Bowles's thoughts on the Democratic administration. Beginning in 1968 Bowles and Bennet discuss Bowles's projected autobiography.

The section also includes some correspondence between Bowles and others (folders 58-67). There are copies of Bowles's letters to OPA officials in 1942 and 1943, and the 1947 files contain Bowles's letters to journalists and publishers on economic conditions. The 1951 files are composed primarily of incoming letters of congratulation received as Bowles was about to depart for India. There are also a few letters relating to the 1958 election campaign.

Series II, SUBJECT FILES, includes topical files of clippings, notes, speeches, printed material, and photographs relating to Bennet's work with OPA and his friendship with Chester Bowles. The material assembled under the heading "Chester Bowles" contains a wide range of materials relating to Bowles's career generally, while files such as "Connecticut political material", "India", and "Office of Price Administration" focus on more specific aspects of Bowles's work. The most extensive files are those for OPA and include copies of Bowles's public statements in support of price controls during World War II, posters, and material relating to efforts to continue the Office of Economic Stabilization after the end of the war. Included in the files of "Connecticut political material" are printed brochures and speeches from Bowles's 1950 gubernatorial campaign.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1942-1971. II. Subject Files, 1941-1977.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1942-1971

2 linear feet (5 boxes)

This series is arranged in two sections: *Office of Price Administration* and *General*. *Office of Price Administration* consists of carbon copies of outgoing letters which are arranged in chronological order. *General* includes correspondence of Douglas Bennet arranged in alphabetical order by name of correspondent. Filed in the folders marked "Bowles, Chester" in chronological order are exchanges between Bennet and his family and Bowles or other members of his immediate family. Correspondence of Bowles with persons other than Bennet family members is filed in chronological order in folders marked "Bowles correspondence with others."

Office of Price Administration

b. 1, f. 1-14	1944 August 14-1945 April 16	1944 August 14-1945 April 16
b. 2, f. 15-30	1945 April 17-1946 February 14	1945 April 17-1946 February 14

General

b. 3, f. 31	A	1946-1947, undated
b. 3, f. 32	Agency for International Development	1962, 1966, undated
b. 3, f. 33	B	1946-1963, undated
b. 3, f. 34	Bailey, John	1951-1953
b. 3, f. 35-46	Bowles, Chester	1943-1959
b. 4, f. 47-57	Bowles, Chester	1960-1969
b. 4, f. 58-65	Bowles correspondence with others	1942-1947
b. 5, f. 66-67	Bowles correspondence with others	1951-1958, undated
b. 5, f. 68	C	1951-1954, 1971
b. 5, f. 69	Clemow, Bice	1946
b. 5, f. 70	D	1944, 1950
b. 5, f. 71	DeMio, Angelo	1951
b. 5, f. 72	E-H	1947-1969
b. 5, f. 73	Joyce, Jean	1951, 1955, 1969
b. 5, f. 74	K	1946, 1951, 1953

General (continued)

b. 5, f. 75	L	1946-1952, 1969
b. 5, f. 76	M-P	1946-1955, undated
b. 5, f. 77	R-W	1952-1969, undated
b. 5, f. 78	Unidentified	1951, 1969, undated

Series II: Subject Files, 1941-1977*1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Material in this series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 6, f. 79	Agency for International Development	1960-1962
	Bowles, Chester	
b. 6, f. 80-85	Biography: background material	1947-1977, undated
b. 6, f. 86-87	Photographs	[ca. 1951-1953], 1965
b. 6, f. 88	Pool project	1964-1965
b. 6, f. 89	Connecticut political material	1948-1952
b. 7, f. 90-91	Connecticut political material	1949-1952
	India	
b. 7, f. 92	Indian government publications	undated
b. 7, f. 93-96	United States Information Service publications	1963-1969
	Office of Price Administration	
b. 7, f. 97-99	Background material	1941-1946
b. 8, f. 100	Bowles: radio talks	1943
b. 8, f. 101	Bowles: Ration Board Letters	1943-1944
b. 8, f. 102-104	Bowles: speeches	1943-1945
b. 8, f. 105	Bowles: writings	1943
b. 8, f. 106	Connecticut editorials	1946
b. 8, f. 107-108	"Corporate profits, 1936-1944" English	1945
b. 8, f. 109	Mailing lists and form letters	1945
	Posters See: CF61	1946
b. 9, f. 110	Price stabilization	1946
b. 9, f. 111-112	Publicity, reports	1945-1946
b. 9, f. 113	Surveys	1944-1945
	Office of War Information	
b. 10	Posters See: CF61	1943

Office of War Information (continued)

b. 9, f. 114

Printed material

1942, 1943

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

Consumer education -- United States
Prices -- United States
Public relations and politics
Rationing -- United States
World War, 1939-1945 -- Economic aspects --
United States

Geographic Names

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

Genres / Formats

Photoprints
Posters

Names

Bennet, Douglas Joseph, Jr., 1938-2018
Bowles, Chester, 1901-1986
Clemow, Bice

Corporate Bodies

United States. Office of Economic Stabilization
United States. Office of Price Administration