

THE PAPERS OF
WILLIAM D. HASSETT

Accession Numbers: 59-1, 59-11, 59-26, 67-2

Mr. Hassett donated his papers to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library on June 2, 1958. The literary property rights in them have not been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 11 linear feet (approximately 22,000 pages)

Restrictions: Certain materials have been closed on the instructions of the donor.

Related Materials: Materials relating to William Hassett will be found in PPF 5125 (William D. Hassett), OF 5485 (William D. Hassett) and the Oscar Cox Papers (William D. Hassett). There is also material at the Library of Congress and copies of material at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.

William D. Hassett was born in Northfield, Vermont, on August 28, 1880. For two years he attended Clark University (1902-04) then became a reporter for the Burlington Free Press.

In 1909, Hassett went to Washington, D.C., where he continued his newspaper career with the Washington Post and the Associated Press, and also served as Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer and the New York Telegram. From 1921 to 1925, he served in London as correspondent for the Philadelphia Public Ledger and the Associated Press.

Hassett began his government career in 1933 with the National Recovery Administration moving in 1935 to the White House as an Assistant Secretary to the President. On February 19, 1944, President Roosevelt appointed him Secretary to the President. Hassett also served occasionally as White House press secretary and it was he who announced the President's death in Warm Springs, Georgia. He was appointed Secretary to President Truman on April 16, 1945, and held this post until his retirement in 1952.

Hassett was a director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, a trustee of Norwich University (Vermont), and a member of the Board of Management of the Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C. He wrote several articles and books, the best known being Off the Record with FDR (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1958).

Mr. Hassett died on August 29, 1965, in Northfield, Vermont.

The papers are arranged in three series as follows:

I. General Correspondence File: 1911-1965 (Containers 1-19)

Incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, reports and printed material arranged alphabetically by subject and surname of correspondent. Material before 1933 consists only of printed items. The Franklin D. Roosevelt files (1933-45) contain copies of Presidential memoranda from his papers in the Library of Congress.

II. Personal File: 1903-1961 (Containers 20-24)

Messages of congratulations, greeting cards, diary material, date and guest books, invitations, memorabilia and writings of Hassett and others. The diary is a marked copy which Hassett used in preparing Off the Record with FDR. The only material before 1933 is a Clark College notebook (1903) and White House invitations (1914 and 1917).

III. Clippings File: 1910-1960 (Containers 25-32)

Containers 25-28 include newspaper clippings arranged in rough chronological order for the entire period. Containers 29-32 include newspaper clippings bound in scrapbooks covering the period 1944-1952.

MICROFILM: The Hassett Papers contain three rolls of microfilm.

Microfilm No. 46-1 (two rolls) consists of Hassett's correspondence with family and friends filmed by the Library and returned to him. Roll 1 covers the period 1941-1955, and includes correspondence with Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Frost, Warren Frost, Fred A. Howland and Mrs. C. E., Dorothy, Maxine and Wilson C. McNamara. Roll 2 covers the period 1944-1952 and contains correspondence with Wilson C. McNamara, Mrs. Lawrence Morah and Hassett personal papers relating to real estate, finance,

travel, insurance and medical matters. Microfilm No. 46-2 (one roll) consists of material copied from the Hassett Papers in the Library of Congress. Included are a number of FDR memoranda, an invitation to the Truman-Barkley inauguration, an address by Hassett on the eighth anniversary of FDR's death and material related to the FDR Memorial Commission. Some of this material is duplicated in the manuscript collection.

CONTAINER

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- 1 A - General
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Book-of-the-Month Club, Inc. (1951)
Bradfield, H. C. (1943-55)
- 3 Brodnax, Mrs. E. P. (Dorothy Moseley)
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- 4 Clark University (1953-65)
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Howland, Fred A.
McNamara, Mrs. C. E.
McNamara, Dorothy
McNamara, Maxine
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