### Records of

# PRESIDENT'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO

# COORDINATE HEALTH AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

1935-1941

Accession Number: 61-17

The records of the President's Interdepartmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities were accessioned by the National Archives and placed in Record Group 220. On March 9, 1961, they were transferred to the Library. These records are in the public domain.

Quantity: 19 feet

Restrictions: None

Related Materials:

President's Official File President's Personal File Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Papers

### PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF THE RECORDS

OF

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE
HEALTH AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Compiled by Ira N. Kellogg, Jr.

The National Archives
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington: 1951

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#### INTRODUCTION

The Interdepartmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities was created in August 1935, following passage of the Social Security Act, in order that the full benefit of the varied Federal program under the Act's provisions might reach with minimum delay and maximum effectiveness the individual men, women, and children for whose aid and services the program was brought into existence. The Act imposed on the Federal agencies heavy responsibilities additional to those already existing in the health and welfare field. Because of the magnitude of these services and the wide distribution of administrative responsibilities for them among the Federal agencies, the need for unity of planning and program procedure was readily apparent.

As an approach to these problems, the Interdepartmental Committee was established by the President. As members of the committee he designated the assistant secretaries of the Departments of the Treasury, Interior, Agriculture, and Labor, and the chairman of the Social Security Board. In outlining the duties of the Committee, the President said in part:

"I am directing this Committee to include within the scope of its work not only health activities, but closely related welfare activities as well. As to its immediate task, I am instructing this Committee to assume responsibility for the appointment of special committees to be composed of physicians and other technically trained persons with the Government service to study and make recommendations concerning specific aspects of the Government's health activities.

"I am confident that this procedure will facilitate the consummation of a series of appropriate cooperative agreements between various departments of the Government. I am also hopeful that in this way we can eventually bring about a complete coordination of the Government's activities in the health field."

Later, in Executive Order 7481 issued by the President on October 27, 1936, the Committee's duties were outlined more definitely in the following terms:

"It shall be the duty of this Committee (1) to continue to sponsor appropriate cooperative working agreements among the various agencies of the Government in the health and welfare field, and to continue the work under agreements already in effect; and (2) to study and make recommendations concerning specific aspects of the health and welfare activities

of the Government, looking toward a more nearly complete coordination of the activities of the Government in these fields.

"The Committee will continue to function through the special technical committees it has set up from time to time, and will designate additional committees to deal with new problems."

The Interdepartmental Committee's first task was the setting up of technical committees to work out immediate cooperative agreements between Federal agencies functioning in similar fields in the States. The Interdepartmental Committee itself served as a board of review, and when agreement on technical considerations had been reached by a particular technical committee a memorandum of agreement was prepared, reviewed, and acted upon by the Interdepartmental Committee.

As the work of the Interdepartmental Committee progressed, the investigations of its staff revealed many subjects in which there was need of a coordinated approach to the solution of problems in the health and welfare field. Technical committees were created to consider coordination possibilities in the following fields: food and nutrition; public health nursing; industrial hygiene; crippled children; public health and safety education; recreational projects; the Indian medical service; workers' education; medical care; work with the needy blind; personnel standards in the Social Security Program in States; probation, parole, and crime prevention; transient and migratory problems; Federal-State relations; and medical care and public health services in the Resettlement Administration.

Miss Josephine Roche, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, served as chairman of the Committee from its beginning. Though Miss Roche resigned from the Treasury Department in November 1937 to return to her business in Denver, she continued, at the request of the President, as chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee throughout its existence. The Committee called the National Health Conference, which lasted three days, July 18-20, and considered the recommendations of the Technical Committee on Medical Care. About two hundred delegates, representing farmers, labor, consumers, and the professions, discussed the Technical Committee's report and generally agreed with its conclusions and recommendations. As a result of these efforts, early in 1939 the Wagner Health Bill was introduced in Congress and later another bill for hospital construction was presented for Congressional action.

With the coming of war in Europe and the establishment of many new agencies to coordinate all phases of the National defense program, the Interdepartmental Committee ceased to function.

This inventory describes the records of the Interdepartmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities, amounting to 19 cubic feet. These records were accessioned by the National Archives from the Children's

Bureau and new constitute a part of Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions, and Boards, in the National Archives. Some time before these records were accessioned by the National Archives the chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee turned them over to Miss Katherine Lenrost of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, on the grounds that they would be of more use to that Bureau than to any other. When the Children's Bureau was transferred to the Federal Security Agency in 1946 the records were offered to the National Archives. The Committee records new in the custody of the National Archives, particularly those of its technical committees, appear to be fragments of more extensive files. These fragments have required arrangement and the disposal of a quantity of valueless material.

# RECORDS OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE HEALTH AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

## General Records

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. 1936-11. 2 ft.

1

Letters received and copies of letters sent relating to proposals for a national health program and cooperative medical care plans, activities of various Government agencies concerned with health and welfare matters, legislation affecting national and state health programs, arrangements for meetings of technical committees and selection of technical committee members, requests for Committee publications, and requests for staff members to fill speaking engagements. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent in two series: 1) 1936-39 and 2) 19h0-h1.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN. 1935-40. 3 in.

2

Letters received and copies of letters sent by the Chairman, Josephine Roche, relating to accomplishments of the Committee, arrangements for committee meetings, invitations to speak at meetings and conferences of various organizations, and programs of study and plans for selection of membership of technical committees. Arranged chronologically.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. 1936-39. 6 in.

3

Letters received and copies of letters sent relating to the selection of assistants to work on research projects; the progress of research work and subcommittee programs; the gethering of pertinent information from Government agencies by questionnaires, personal contacts, and agency reports; development of separate reports on specific subjects as called for by the Committee; preparation of a source book of factual information on the health and welfare activities of all Federal agencies; compilation in subject index form of a list of publications on health and related matters; collection of citations to all Federal legislation that had been enacted on health and related matters; and distribution of Committee publications. Arranged chronologically.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. 1935-38. 8 in.

L

Letters received and copies of letters sent concerning the appointment of agency representatives to the Committee, notices of meetings, interagency conflicts in matters of health and welfare, and cooperation between Federal agencies in carrying out various projects, together with memorands of interviews with agency officials. Arranged alphabetically by name of agency.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED MATERIALS PERTAINING TO A FEDERAL HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. 1939-40. 2 in.

5

Letters received and copies of letters sent relating to a proposed plan for the appropriation of Federal funds to build hospitals and health centers in rural and other needy areas, suggestions in connection with the hospital construction program, proposed hospital locations, and offers of assistance from private individuals in carrying out a program. Included are a copy of report of the Committee on a program for the construction of Federal hospitals as submitted to the President, a copy of a presidential message on a proposed program of hospital construction, and drafts of a pertinent bill to be introduced in Congress. Arranged chronologically under each of five headings: "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Suggestions", "Offers of Services", "Proposed Locations", and "Messages."

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO A MATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM. 1937-39. 12 ft.6

Letters received, copies of letters sent, and memoranda relating to plans for the formulation of a national health program through voluntary or compulsory group insurance and Federal grants-in-aid, publicity for such a program, plans for the presentation of such a program at a National Health Conference, and the operation and management of various group plans for medical, surgical, and hospital care already in effect at the State and local level. Arranged by subject and thereunder alphabetically by name of correspondent.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE. 1935-39. 5 in.

7

Letters received, copies of letters sent, and memoranda relating to procedural methods in research, activities of Federal agencies in the field of vital statistics, the problem of adequate medical care for the underprivileged, the need for a health program supported by the Federal Government, and the collection of data on health and welfare activities of various Federal agencies. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE. 1936-39. 7 in.

8

Copies of Committee reports and drafts of reports to the President relating to the work, accomplishments, and recommendations of the Committee, together with correspondence concerning the scope of the reports and corrections and additions to the report. Arranged numerically by report number.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS. 1936-39. 4 in.

9

Budget estimates and statements of expenditures, organization charts, lists of membership on technical committees, and outlines of Committee organization and programs of the technical committees, together with some related correspondence and memoranda. Arranged by subject.

Copies of studies and reports pertaining to health and welfare activities of Federal agencies, and relating to such topics as existing health coordination plans and research projects, the role of education in a national health program, the value of low-cost housing to improved national health through elimination of slum areas, the need for more mental hygiene facilities, the usefulness of vital statistics in formulating a health program, medical services in remote areas, and the development of public health legislation; processed copies of cooperative agreements in effect prior to the establishment of the Interdepartmental Committee; and processed programs of health conference of various organization dealing with varied aspects of a national health program. These materials were gathered and utilized by the Committee in planning its work, preparing studies and reports, and formulating its programs. Arranged alphabetically in two series: 1) by subject and 2) by name of agency.

PRESS RELEASES. 1936-40. 3 in.

11

Typed and mimeographed copies of press releases issued by the Committee concerning health needs and problems, health and welfare proposals, and a national health program. Arranged chronologically.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE. 1936-39. 2 in.

12

Copies of publications of the Committee - The Nation's Health and Proceedings of the National Health Conference.

SPEECHES OF THE CHAIRMAN. 1936-38. 1 ft.

13

La

Copies of speeches delivered by Josephine Roche at conferences and meetings of various organizations dealing with social security public health, housing, industrial hygiene and related topics. Arranged chronologically.

DRAFTS OF SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE. 1938. 3 in.

Copies of speeches made at the National Health Conference, July 18-20, 1938, together with letters of transmittal and corrections of the copy for printing. Arranged alphabetically by name of speaker.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS, NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE. July 18-20, 1938. h vols. 3 in.

Copies of transcripts of proceedings of the National Health Conference held in Washington, to consider a national health program. Arranged chronologically.

"CHARTING THE COUNTRY'S HEALTH". 1938. 3 in.

16

Typed copies of drafts of a study based on proceedings at the National Health Conference, prepared for the Committee by Paul Kellogg of Survey Associates, a publishing company in New York City. Arranged numerically by number of draft.

RESOLUTIONS. 1938-39. 4 in.

17

Copies of resolutions adopted by various labor, professional, and social service organizations recommending legislation to provide medical care for the needy, with some related correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

MISCELLANY. 1935-39. 21 ft.

18

Statements and summaries of interviews with Government officials concerning health and welfare activities of various Federal agencies, statements of technical committees concerning coordination activities in the welfare field, summaries of programs for research work, reports and news clippings relating to a proposed technical committee on housing, lists of subjects related to health and welfare on which publications have been issued by government agencies, printed and processed pamphlets dealing with the National Health Bill of 1939 and legislative proposals for compulsory health insurance, news clippings, and biographical notes. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

# Records of the Technical Committees

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON CRIPPLED CHILDREN SERVICES. 1935-38 2 in.

19

Correspondence regarding meeting arrangements and agenda, and cooperative agreements in Federal Government crippled children program establishing working relationship among the Children's Bureau, the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Office of Education, and the Public Health Service; minutes of meetings; summaries of state laws relating to public aid to children; news clippings pertaining to child health services; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL STATE RELATIONS. 1937-40. 1 in.

20

Correspondence and memoranda relating to the interest of Federal agencies in a study of equalization grants; minutes of meetings; outline of the committee's program; summary of Federal-aid programs administered by the Social Security Board, the Farm Security Administration, and the Federal Security Agency; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION. 1936-40 8 in.

21

Correspondence and memoranda relating to Committee membership and organization, progress of Committee's work, meeting agenda, sub-committee working programs, and nutrition in the National Defense Program; minutes of meetings; committee report dated July 22, 1937; a summary of the Committee's work; statements of scope of activities of federal agencies in the field of food and nutrition; and related records. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICES. 1936-38. 1 in.

22

Correspondence regarding cooperative agreements of the Bureau of Indian Affairs with the Public Health Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Animal Industry; minutes of meetings; a copy of a cooperative project agreement between the Departments of Interior and Agriculture covering relations on the Navajo Indian Reservation; a statement on Federal medical care of the Indians and a legislative proposal to transfer Indian medical service to the Public Health Service; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE. 1935-39

23

Correspondence and memoranda relating to the control of industrial health hazards, the States' responsibility in securing for the workers safe and healthful working environments, and activities of Federal agencies in the field of industrial hygiene; minutes of meetings and summaries of meeting activities; a statement of joint action of the Public Health Service and the Division of Labor Standards of the Department of Labor with State agencies in the field of industrial hygiene; pamphlets prepared by the Interdepartmental Committee and the Public Health Service on industrial hygiene activities of the Federal agencies; and related records. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL CARE. 1937-38. 2 in. 24

Correspondence and memoranda concerning selection of Committee members, proposals presented at meetings, selection of delegates for the National Health Conference, and publicity for the Conference; summaries of meetings discussions; report of the Committee to the President on "The Need for a National Health Program"; statements of medical care programs of Federal agencies; a summary of the Committee's work; news clippings on the report on medical care; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION. 1935-36. 1 in.

25

Mainly correspondence and memoranda relating to agenda and minutes of meetings, but including notes on Committee correspondence concerning the program of the Resettlement Administration. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MIGRATORY LABOR. 1938-40.

26

28

Correspondence and memoranda relating to the selection of Committee members, the need for a special study of the problems of transients and migratory labor, and activities of Federal agencies relating to problems of migratory labor; minutes of meetings; Committee report to the President regarding the problems of migratory labor, with recommendations concerning medical care, working conditions, and relief; a summary of medical and health problems of migratory labor; statements regarding studies made by Federal agencies on migratory labor; news clippings on the health status of migratory labor in California; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL STANDARDS IN THE STATES. 27 1936-37. 2 in.

Correspondence concerning the selection of Committee members, agenda for meetings, and the scope of Committee activities; minutes of meetings; an outline of organized training work of Federal agencies in the social welfare field; bulletins, reports, lists, and plans regarding the training, qualifications, selection, and tenure of personnel in public welfare service; news clippings pertaining to personnel administration in the State; and related records. Arranged chronologically in each of two folders.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON PROBATION, PAROLE, AND CRIME PREVENTION. 1937-40. 3 in.

Correspondence and memoranda relating to meeting arrangements, selection of Committee members, and the report of the Committee; minutes of meetings; a report of the Committee to the President; progress reports; news clippings pertaining to crime control and the role of the Federal Government; and related records. Arranged chronologically in each of three folders.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMETTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING. 1936-37. 1 in.

Correspondence and memoranda concerning the effectiveness of the Committee's work in promoting cooperation among Federal agencies in carrying out public health nursing services under the Social Security Program; minutes of meetings; progress reports; statements of accomplishments of the Committee; and related records. Arranged chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION. 1936-38. 1 in.

Correspondence and memoranda relating to the need for the Committee, selection of Committee members, cooperative plans and procedures, and publications on health education; minutes of meetings; statements of Federal agencies activities with respect to health education; outlines of Committee organization; notes on publications dealing with public health education; news clippings pertaining to health and safety aspects of education; and related records. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON RECREATION. 1936-38. 6 in. 31

Correspondence and memoranda relating to the selection of Committee members, dates of meetings, agenda for meetings, requests for publications, and working agreements in the field of recreation; minutes of meetings; final report of the Committee to the President; mailing lists for distribution of the Committee report; and related records. Arranged by subject.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON WORK WITH THE NEEDY BLIND. 32

Correspondence and memoranda relating to Committee meetings, membership, and work progress and proposed amendments to the Social Security Act on aid to the blind; minutes of meetings; a preliminary report issued by the Committee on the work of Federal agencies concerning the blind; a statement of activities and accomplishments of the Committee; a directory of State officials and agencies responsible for public assistance plans in the states; and related records. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

RECORDS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON WORKERS' EDUCATION. 1936-37. 33

Correspondence and memoranda concerning activities of Federal agencies in the field of workers' education and the need for a workers' education program under the auspices of the Federal Government; agenda and minutes of meetings; Committee report dated July 18, 1937; a statement pertaining to cooperation in workers' education among the Federal departments; news clippings; and related records. Arranged by subject and thereunder chronologically.

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1935-41