

The Papers of
Harold D. Smith
1939-1946

Accession Numbers: 65-19, 65-19A

The papers were given to the Library by Smith's widow, Mrs. Lillian M. Riley, on March 28, 1965, and were received at the Library in June and July of that year. Literary property rights have not been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 3 linear feet (approximately 6,000 pages).

Restrictions: Quotations from the diaries or other material shall be limited to paragraphs of reasonable length and not more than ten such paragraphs, nor may any part of the diaries or materials be published solely for the sake of their own content. Copies of selected pages may be made solely for note-taking purposes. The researcher must agree in writing that he will not sell, give away, or lend the copies.

Related Material: Related material may be found in PSF - Subject File - Bureau of the Budget, PPF 8024 Harold D. Smith, OF 79 Bureau of the Budget, OF 5708 Bureau of the Budget - Enrolled Public Bills, and papers of Wayne Coy.

The Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri, has photocopies of items in this collection pertaining to the administration of President Truman.

Harold Dewey Smith was born on June 6, 1898 in Haven, Kansas. After receiving degrees in engineering and public administration from the Universities of Kansas and Michigan, he worked for several municipal and state research organizations. In 1937 he was appointed Budget Director for the state of Michigan by Governor Frank Murphy and served in that capacity until April, 1939 when President Roosevelt named him Director of the Bureau of the Budget. After Roosevelt's death, Smith remained at his post until June, 1946 when he resigned to become vice-president of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (World Bank). He was serving as acting president of that institution at the time of his death in Culpepper, Virginia on January 23, 1947.

Smith's papers include diaries, lists of appointments, memoranda, correspondence, and newspaper clippings from the period when he served as Budget Director. Under Reorganization Plan No. 1, effective July 1, 1939 the Bureau of the Budget was transferred to the Executive Office of the President and was responsible for preparing and administering the budget, developing plans for more efficient administrative management of Federal activities, recommending Presidential action on legislation approved by Congress, and assisting in the preparation of Executive Orders and Proclamations. During World War II, the Bureau also was involved in organizing and liquidating emergency agencies and in making recommendations on personnel and economical utilization of supplies. The papers, which detail these activities of the Budget Bureau, are arranged in four series.

CONTAINERS

SERIES

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I. Daily Memoranda, 1939-1940

Accounts of appointments, meetings, and telephone conversations which Smith held with various government officials and other individuals, arranged chronologically. Descriptions of conferences with the President are included; identical descriptions of these meetings were also assembled in a series of volumes entitled, "Conferences with the President" (see Series III). After discontinuance of these memoranda at the end of 1940, accounts of conferences with the President continued to be made and notations in the "Daily Record" (see Series II) became more detailed.

2-3

II. Daily Record, 1940-1946

Listings of appointments and meetings scheduled for Smith, often with a brief description of the topic of discussion. Record also includes notations of telephone conversations held by the Budget Director and some description of their content. (See Series I, "Daily Memoranda" for similar material for 1939.) One volume of newspaper clippings concerning Bureau of the Budget activities, 1941-1943. Arranged chronologically.

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III. Conferences with the President, 1939-1946

Diaries recounting conferences held by Smith, often in the company of other Federal officials, with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. Most entries dictated by Smith with occasional items by John Blandford, Wayne Coy, and Paul Appleby, Assistant Directors of the Budget. Arranged chronologically. An Index to Conferences of Harold D. Smith with President Truman follows the container list.

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IV. White House Memoranda, 1939-1945

File copies of Smith's memoranda to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, Mrs. Roosevelt, and various members of the White House staff, arranged chronologically. Table of contents in each folder indicates subjects of memoranda. Also one folder of miscellaneous material, including biography of Smith and copies of correspondence to and from President Roosevelt.

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CONFERENCES OF HAROLD D. SMITH

WITH

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

April 10, 1945 - April 10, 1946

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Harry Clark, Jr.

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Independence, Missouri
May, 1968

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