Papers of

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

1936-1939

Accession Numbers: 48-35, 72-18

The papers were presented to the Library by Louis Brownlow, Charles E. Merriam and Luther Gulick in October 1947. These papers are in the public domain.

Quantity: 13 feet

Restrictions: None

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

Note: The papers of Louis Brownlow have been deposited at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts. A finding aid to this collection can be furnished upon request.
The President's Committee on Administrative Management was appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in March 1936. Its purpose was to study administrative management in the Federal Government and to submit recommendations to the President. The Committee included Louis Brownlow, Chairman, Luther Gulick, and Charles E. Merriam and was assisted by a staff of research consultants under the direction of Dr. Joseph P. Harris. In January 1937, the Committee submitted its formal report to the President and thereafter made supplemental reports to the Congress through a joint Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The materials, except for financial and operating records which are located in the files of the National Emergency Council under which the Committee operated, were transferred to the legal custody of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library by Louis Brownlow on September 25, 1947. These records relate primarily to the work of the Committee staff between March 1936 and January 1937. However, some of the reports, recommendations, and published studies are as late as 1939. The records which consist of correspondence, drafts of studies, research materials, and printed matter are arranged in two main files and several smaller files.
(A) "Classified Files." Includes drafts of studies, recommendations, and reports made by the Committee and the research staff: G. Lyle Belsley, A.E. Buck, Laverne Burchfield, Robert H. Connery, Robert E. Cushman, Paul T. David, William Y. Elliott, Herbert Emmerich, Merle Fainsod, James W. Fesler, Katherine Frederic, Patterson H. French, William J. Haggerty, James Hart, Arthur N. Holcombe, Arthur W. Macmahon, Harvey C. Mansfield, Charles McKinley, John F. Miller, John D. Millett, Floyd W. Reeves, Leo C. Rosten, Spencer Thompson, Mary C. Trackett, Schuyler C. Wallace, and Edwin E. Witte. Other papers located in this file include research materials such as pamphlets, legislative documents, and specialized studies on government; press releases on the work of the Committee; copies of speeches, including one made by Luther Gulick on Departmental Reorganization; and papers originating from the activities of the House and Senate Committees which, with the aid of the Brookings Institution, undertook a study of the overlappings and duplication in the Executive branch. The records are arranged alphabetically under a numbered filing system. A card index of the papers is present.

(B) "Correspondence File." Includes papers relating to the origin, procedures, and activities of the Committee staff; papers relating to the selection, appointment, and remuneration of the research consultants and other staff
personnel; letters requesting a copy of the Committee's Report to the President; mailing lists, requisitions for supplies; and general correspondence on routine operational matters. Arranged alphabetically, partly by name and organization and partly by topic, 1936-1938.

(C) Remaining papers in the group consist of printed matter, work data, research materials, and reports. Included are unmounted newspaper clippings pertaining to the work of the Committee, 1936-1939; charts and work notes prepared or assembled by the staff and used in connection with its studies; typescript and printed copies of reports as well as selected copies of printed bills proposed or introduced in state legislatures during the 1937 legislative sessions and bearing on the problems of Civil Service personnel administration; and typescript copies of Reorganization Plans I and II submitted to the Congress by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1939. Also present is an alphabetical address file containing names of persons and organizations.

The arrangement in which these papers was received by the Library has been retained; this accounts for the gaps in the numbered filing order in some places. The missing files were never part of the collection as deposited here.
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