

Louis Martin

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2003**

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Louis Martin

Span Dates: 1931-1998

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1977-1993)

ID No.: MSS84730

Creator: Martin, Louis, 1912-1997

Extent: 4,525 items; 13 containers; 5.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Civil rights activist, political adviser, newspaper columnist, and newspaper publisher. Correspondence, memoranda, subject files, speeches, and writings relating to Martin's civil rights activities, his journalism career, and his role as an adviser to presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Jimmy Carter.

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.

Names:

Martin, Louis, 1912-

Brown, Ronald Harmon, 1941- --Correspondence

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-

Carter, Jimmy, 1924- --Correspondence

Kelly, Sharon Pratt, 1944- --Correspondence

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973--Correspondence

Jordan, Vernon E. (Vernon Eulion), 1935- --Correspondence

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968 --Correspondence

Mondale, Walter F., 1928- --Correspondence

Shriver, Sargent, 1915- --Correspondence

Voorde, Frances M.--Correspondence

Watson, Jack H., 1938- --Correspondence

Wise, Phil--Correspondence

Calmar Communications

Democratic Party (U.S.)

Subjects:

African American newspapers

African American politicians

African Americans--Civil rights

African Americans--Politics and government

Civil rights

United States--Politics and government--1945-1989

Occupations:

Political activists

Presidential advisors

Publishers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Louis Martin, political adviser, civil rights activist, and newspaper columnist and publisher, were given to the Library of Congress in 2000 by his wife, Gertrude Martin.

Transfers:

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers. A biography of Martin by Louis Poinsett entitled *Walking with Presidents* has been removed from the papers and made available as part of the Manuscript Division Reading Room's reference collection.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Louis Martin in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Louis Martin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1912, Nov. 18	Born, Shelbyville, Tenn.
1934	A.B., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1936	Reporter, <i>Chicago Defender</i>
1936-1947	Editor and publisher, <i>Michigan Chronicle</i>
1937	Married Gertrude Scott Martin
1947-1959	Editor-in-chief, <i>Chicago Daily Defender</i>
1949-1952	President, National Newspaper Publishers Association
1959-1960	Editorial advisor, Amalgamated Press, Ltd., Nigeria
1961-1969	Deputy chairman, Democratic National Committee, Washington, D.C.
1969-1976	Vice president and editorial director, Sengstacke Newspaper chain, Chicago, Ill.
1970-1979	Chairman, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, D.C.
1976-1978	President, Sengstacke Newspaper chain, Chicago, Ill.
1978-1981	Special assistant to the President of the United States
1981-1987	Assistant vice president of communications, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
1987-ca. 1993	Chairman, Calmar Communications, Inc., Chicago, Ill.
1997, Jan. 27	Died, Orange, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Louis Emanuel Martin (1912-1997) span the years 1931-1998 with the bulk of the material dating from 1977 to 1993. Most of the collection consists of papers documenting Martin's service as special assistant to President Jimmy Carter and writings, including articles, newspaper columns, and memoirs. Early material concerns Martin's activities as adviser and civil rights liaison during the administrations of presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. While serving as a presidential adviser and as deputy chairman of the Democratic Committee, Martin helped to establish African Americans as a political power in the Democratic Party and encouraged their appointment to policy-making government positions. The papers are organized in the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), and [Speeches and Writings File](#). The [Correspondence](#) series, 1945-1996, consists chiefly of letters concerning Martin's personal and professional interests. Most of the correspondence relates to Martin's work as chairman of Calmar Communications, his interests in politics, and his recollections of the three presidents whom he served. Only a few letters relate to Martin's early political activities. Copies of correspondence pertaining to African-American voters and the presidential election of 1964 are attached to a letter of 2 May 1986 from the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. A copy of a letter to Martin of 18 September 1962 from Martin Luther King, Jr., introduced Donald Louis Anderson as having creative ideas concerning the possibilities of a liberal Democratic Party in the South composed of blacks and liberal white voters. An unsigned memorandum of 4 September 1968 to Joseph Napolitan recommended ways to mobilize black voters for Hubert H. Humphrey, such as utilizing Jackie Robinson in a campaign tour against Richard M. Nixon. The series also includes congratulatory correspondence pertaining to honors bestowed upon Martin.

The [Subject File](#), 1936-1997, includes correspondence, scheduling files, and press materials documenting Martin's service as an adviser and liaison for President Carter to the African-American community. While working in the White House from 1978-1981, Martin also periodically sent out a bulletin entitled *Fact Sheet* reporting on the administration's activities and accomplishments of interest to the African-American community. The Subject File also includes oral history interviews relating to Martin's civil rights activities and his service with three Democratic presidents. Although Martin was a cofounder of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, there is no material relating to the founding of that research organization.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#), 1931-1998, consists mainly of speeches made by Martin during the Carter administration, Martin's memoirs, and his newspaper columns. The memoirs provide a detailed account of Martin's early life, his newspaper career, and his activities as a presidential adviser and liaison to the African-American community. Photocopies of the originals of draft two are filed with that draft because they contain emendations that do not appear on the original manuscript. Martin's newspaper columns entitled "Up Front" reflect his interest in a variety of topics including American politics, civil rights, and international events. Many of Martin's columns in 1959 and 1960 were written while he was a consultant to Amalgamated Press, Ltd., in Nigeria. Notebooks in the writings file chronicle Martin's travels and his activities in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Among the frequent and prominent correspondents in the collection are Ronald Harmon Brown, Jimmy Carter, Sharon Pratt Kelly, Lyndon B. Johnson, Vernon E. Jordan, Martin Luther King, Jr., Walter F. Mondale, Sargent Shriver, Frances M. Voorde, Jack H. Watson, and Phil Wise.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1945-1996, n.d.](#)
- [Subject File, 1936-1997, n.d.](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Correspondence, 1945-1996, n.d.

Correspondence and memoranda, including attachments, between Martin and friends, acquaintances, and government officials relating to his personal and professional activities. Arranged chronologically.

BOX 1-7

Subject File, 1936-1997, n.d.

Correspondence, memoranda, interview and oral history transcripts, bulletins, reports, scheduling files, invitations, award programs, certificates, newspaper clippings, and printed matter pertaining mainly to Martin's service as special assistant to President Jimmy Carter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 7-13

Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.

Correspondence, speeches and speech material, articles, memoirs, newspaper columns, notebooks, and other writings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1945-1996, n.d. Correspondence and memoranda, including attachments, between Martin and friends, acquaintances, and government officials relating to his personal and professional activities. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1945-1953, 1959-1996, n.d. (20 folders)
BOX 1-7	Subject File, 1936-1997, n.d. Correspondence, memoranda, interview and oral history transcripts, bulletins, reports, scheduling files, invitations, award programs, certificates, newspaper clippings, and printed matter pertaining mainly to Martin's service as special assistant to President Jimmy Carter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Awards and honors Honorary degrees Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1970 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1951, 1979-1980 Lawrence O'Brien Achievement Award, 1992-1993 Miscellaneous, 1948-1953, 1971-1996, n.d. (2 folders) Biographical file, ca. 1976-1990 Carter, Jimmy, administration Correspondence Chronological, 1978-1981 (2 folders) Memoranda Carter, Rosalynn, 1979-1980 Presidential, 1978-1980 (6 folders)

Subject File, 1936-1997, n.d.

Container

Contents

White House staff

Belford, Tom, 1980

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, 1978-1979

Eizenstat, Stuart, 1978-1979

Jordan, Hamilton, 1978-1980

BOX 3

Kraft, Tim, 1978-1979

Miscellaneous, 1978-1980

Mondale, Walter, 1978-1980

Poston, Gretchen, 1978-1980
(2 folders)

Watson, Jack H., 1978-1981

Weddington, Sarah, 1979-1980

Wexler, Anne, 1980

Wise, Phil, and Frances M. Voorde, 1978-1980
(9 folders)

Fact Sheet, 1978-1980
(2 folders)

BOX 4

Interviews, 1979, n.d.

Miscellany, 1978-1981, n.d.

Press, 1978-1981, n.d.
(7 folders)

Scheduling file

1978-1979
(5 folders)

1980

Jan.-Aug.
(4 folders)

Subject File, 1936-1997, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 5

Sept.-Dec.
(3 folders)

1981

Trips, 1978-1980 *For additional material see Container 12, Notebooks*
(2 folders)

Democratic National Committee, Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, 1969

Interviews

Oral history transcripts *For additional material see Container 13, Poinsett, Alex*

1966-1969, 1984-1986
(7 folders)

BOX 6

1987
(2 folders)

Washington Post, 1985

Invitations

Miscellaneous, 1978-1986

Presidential inaugurations, 1949, 1961, 1993

Johnson, Lyndon B., 1968-1973

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, D.C., 1976-1997
(5 folders)

Kennedy, John F., administration, 1961-1963, n.d.

Miscellany, 1977-1983, 1991-1992, n.d.
(2 folders)

BOX 7

Press, 1936-1997, n.d.
(7 folders)

Travel, 1976-1977 *For additional material see Containers 12-13, Notebooks*

BOX 7-13

Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.

Correspondence, speeches and speech material, articles, memoirs, newspaper columns,
notebooks, and other writings.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 7

Speech file

Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.

Container

Contents

	1961-1983 (9 folders)
BOX 8	1984-1990, n.d. (5 folders)
	Writings
	By Martin
	Articles, 1931-1944, 1959-1960, 1970-1985, n.d. (5 folders)
	Memoirs
	Draft 1, n.d. (2 folders)
	Draft 2, 1977, n.d.
	Memoir A
	Part I (2 folders)
BOX 9	(2 folders)
	Part II (2 folders)
	Memoirs B-I (6 folders)
BOX 10	Draft 3, n.d. (2 folders)
	Draft 4, n.d. (2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1966, 1974, n.d. (3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1953, 1963, 1973, n.d.
	Newspaper columns, <i>Chicago Defender</i>
	“Big Parade,” 1977, n.d.
	“Dope and Data,” 1959-1960 (3 folders)

Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.

Container

Contents

	“Up Front”
	1987
	1988
	Jan.-May
BOX 11	June-Dec. (2 folders)
	1989-1992 (11 folders)
	1993
	Jan.-Aug. (2 folders)
BOX 12	Sept.-Dec.
	1994, n.d. (2 folders)
	Notebooks
	1959-1960, Lagos, Nigeria, trip
	1961-1967, Civil rights; John F. Kennedy administration; Lyndon B. Johnson administration; trips to London, England; Paris, France; and Norway
	1972-1977, Democratic National Convention, Miami, Fla.; trips to Paris, France; Tunis, Tunisia; and China
	1978, Africa and Jimmy Carter administration
	1979-1985, Africa, Senegal, Riggs Bank, and Joseph Allbritton
	Undated
	Africa, United States image of
BOX 13	China, civil rights, John F. Kennedy, and newspaper column material
	Nigeria and miscellaneous notes
	Notes and fragments, n.d.
	By others

Speeches and Writings File, 1931-1998, n.d.

Container

Contents

Miscellaneous, 1980, 1988, n.d.

Poinsett, Alex, 1991-1998
(4 folders)