U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Don Schewe

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

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Collection Summary

Title: U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends Records
Span Dates: 1924-1936
ID No.: MSS36848
Creator: United States. President's Research Committee on Social Trends
Extent: 17,000 items; 31 containers plus 6 oversize; 13.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Statistics compiled from census returns of 1910, 1920, and 1930 for eighteen cities used in preparing three chapters of the final report of the committee; also drafts of some of the chapters with commentary prepared for the Library of Congress by authors of the chapters, scrapbooks relating to the committee and reaction to its final report, a serialized condensation of the report; and data from a survey of rural communities used in preparing the report.

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.

People
Brunner, Edmund de Schweinitz, 1889-
Mayer, Raymond C.
Ogburn, William F., 1886-1959

Organizations
Library of Congress.
United States. President's Research Committee on Social Trends.

Subjects
Crime--Statistics.
Libraries--Washington (D.C.)
Population--Statistics.
Religion--Statistics.
Rural conditions--Statistics.

Places
United States--Census, 1910.
United States--Census, 1920.
United States--Census, 1930.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends were given to the Library of Congress by various donors in 1933 and 1953.

Processing History

The records of the U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends were arranged and described in 1972. The finding aid was completed in 1977 and revised in 2005 and again in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the records of the U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, U.S. President's Research Committee on Social Trends Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

Date	*Event*
1929	President Herbert Hoover appointed the Research Committee on Recent Social Trends, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation; members included Wesley C. Mitchell, chairman, Charles E. Merriam, vice chairman, Shelby M. Harrison, Alice Hamilton, Howard W. Odum, William F. Ogburn, and Edward Eyre Hunt
1932	Final report presented to President Herbert Hoover
1933	Final report published, *Recent Social Trends in the United States*. New York: McGraw-Hill. 2 vols.
1970	*Recent Social Trends* reprinted by Greenwood Press

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States President's Research Committee on Social Trends span the years 1924-1936 and consist of statistics compiled in preparing the report, drafts of chapters of the report, commentary on chapters by the authors of the chapters, scrapbooks of newspaper and magazine clippings about the research committee, and data collected by Edmund de Schweinitz Brunner in a survey of rural communities and used in part in preparing the report.

The statistics compiled in preparing the report relate to three chapters of the final report: “The Population of the Nation,” “Crime and Punishment,” and “Changes in Religious Organizations.” The statistics relating to “The Population of the Nation” are the most complete, and include instructions on how the averages and means were computed. In depth statistics for eighteen cities were compiled from the census returns for 1910, 1920, and 1930, and are filed alphabetically by the name of the city. Oversize tabulation sheets contain miscellaneous compilations of statistics relating to population growth and change.

The statistics relating to “Crime and Punishment” are photographic reproductions of microfilm copies of various printed statistical reports. These are indexed, and the index refers to the reel number of the original microfilm for each entry. The statistics relating to “Changes in Religious Organizations” are largely unorganized and incomplete. Many of the papers contain mathematical computations without indications as to what the figures represent.

The Drafts and Reports contain some drafts of chapters in the final report as well as specially prepared commentary on the methodology and findings in particular chapters, prepared by the author of that chapter. These are arranged in the order of the chapters in the final report.

The Scrapbooks were prepared by a clipping service for Raymond C. Mayer, one of the members of the committee. Arranged by type of clipping, the scrapbooks provide an overview of reaction to the final report as submitted by the committee. Volumes 9 and 10 contain copies of a serialized condensation of the final report prepared by committee member William F. Ogburn.

Data from a survey of rural communities were used by Brunner in preparing his chapter, “Rural Life.” The survey was already in progress when the research committee began work in 1929, and it was continued until 1936 under the auspices of the Institute of Social and Religious Research. Therefore, the data contains material collected in 1935 and 1936 and not used in the research committee's report as well as material collected in 1924 and 1930 and used in the report. The data is arranged alphabetically by state and thereunder alphabetically by town or city.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Statistics
- Drafts and Reports
- Scrapbooks
- Rural Community Survey

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-15	Statistics Compilations of statistics and computations relating to three of the chapters in the report of the committee. Arranged by chapter and therein by topic or type of material.
BOX 16	Drafts and Reports Rough drafts of some chapters of the final report, and commentary prepared for the Library of Congress by the authors of chapters, discussing their methodology and findings. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 17-24	Scrapbooks Newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the committee. Arranged by volume number as received.
BOX 25-37	Rural Community Survey Rough data accumulated by Edmund de Schweinitz Brunner and used in part for the final report. Arranged alphabetically by state and therein by town or city.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-15	Statistics
	Compilations of statistics and computations relating to three of the chapters in the report of the committee.
	Arranged by chapter and therein by topic or type of material.
BOX 1	"The Population of the Nation"
BOX 1	Computation directions
BOX 1	Master computation sheets
BOX 1	1930 rural nonfarm population
BOX 1	Unweighted averages
BOX 1	Total population, 1930
BOX 1	Per capita distribution
BOX 1	Graphs
BOX 1	School attendance
BOX 1	Median ages
BOX 1	Unused material
BOX 2	Doctors
BOX 2	Fecundity
BOX 2	Calculations on rural population
BOX 2	1910-1930
BOX 2	Binghamton, N.Y.
BOX 2	Columbia, S. C.
BOX 3	Des Moines, Iowa
BOX 3	Fargo, N. Dak.
BOX 3	Ft. Worth, Tex.
BOX 3	Harrisburg, Pa.
BOX 4	Lincoln, Nebr.
BOX 4	Milwaukee, Wis.
BOX 4	Montgomery, Ala.
BOX 4	Nashville, Tenn.
BOX 5	Pine Bluff, Ark.
BOX 5	Portland, Oreg.
BOX 5	Richmond, Va.
BOX 5	San Francisco, Calif.
BOX 6	Springfield, Ill.
BOX 6	Toledo, Ohio
BOX 6	Wichita, Kans.
BOX 6	Williamsport, Pa.
BOX 7-8 (Oversize)	Miscellaneous compilation sheets
BOX 9	"Crime and Punishment"
BOX 9	Index to reproductions of microfilmed material
BOX 9	Reproductions of microfilm

Container	*Contents*
BOX 9	Reels 1-11
BOX 10	Reels 12-28
BOX 11	Reels 29-47
BOX 12	Reels 48-64
BOX 13-14 (Oversize)	Miscellaneous compilation sheets
BOX 15	"Changes in Religious Organizations"
BOX 15	Miscellaneous compilation sheets
BOX 16	Drafts and Reports
	Rough drafts of some chapters of the final report, and commentary prepared for the Library of Congress by the authors of chapters, discussing their methodology and findings.
	Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 16	"The Agencies of Communications"
BOX 16	"Education"
BOX 16	"Changing Social Attitudes and Interests"
BOX 16	"The Rise of Metropolitan Communities"
BOX 16	"Rural Life"
BOX 16	"The People as Consumers"
BOX 16	"Health and Medical Practices"
BOX 16	"Crime and Punishment"
BOX 16	"Growth of Governmental Functions"
BOX 16	"Law and Legal Institutions"
BOX 17-24	Scrapbooks
	Newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the committee.
	Arranged by volume number as received.
BOX 17	Vol.1, first and second day publicity
BOX 18	Vol. 2, first and second day publicity
BOX 19	Vol. 3, feature newspaper articles
BOX 20 (Oversize)	Vol. 4, magazine, class and trade journal publicity
BOX 21 (Oversize)	Vol. 5, editorials
BOX 22	Vol. 6, feature newspaper articles
BOX 22	Vol. 7, editorials and syndicated articles
BOX 23	Vol. 8, news and feature articles
BOX 24	Vols. 9-10, William F. Ogburn's feature newspaper series
BOX 25-37	Rural Community Survey
	Rough data accumulated by Edmund de Schweinitz Brunner and used in part for the final report.
	Arranged alphabetically by state and therein by town or city.
BOX 25	California
BOX 25	Banning
BOX 25	Corning
BOX 25	Exeter

Container	*Contents*
BOX 25	Fowler
BOX 26	Gridley
BOX 26	Lompac
BOX 27	Oakdale
BOX 27	Paso Robles
BOX 27	San Jacinto
BOX 28	Delaware, Georgetown
BOX 28	Idaho
BOX 28	Emmett
BOX 29	Parma
BOX 29	Kansas
BOX 29	Cheney
BOX 29	Clearwater
BOX 30	Inman
BOX 30	Marion
BOX 30	Mount Hope
BOX 31	Mulvane
BOX 31	Oxford
BOX 31	Michigan
BOX 31	Grass Lake
BOX 31	Nashville
BOX 32	Ovid
BOX 32	Scottville
BOX 32	Minnesota
BOX 32	Blackduck
BOX 32	Elk River
BOX 33	Litchfield
BOX 33	Wells
BOX 33	Windom
BOX 34	Washington
BOX 34	Ferndale
BOX 34	Garfield
BOX 34	Goldendale
BOX 35	Ridgefield
BOX 35	Wisconsin
BOX 35	Arcadia
BOX 35	Barron
BOX 36	Elkhorn
BOX 36	Fennimore
BOX 36	Medford
BOX 37	Mt. Horeb
BOX 37	Waupaca