Women's Joint Congressional Committee Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012029

Collection Summary

Title: Women's Joint Congressional Committee Records
Span Dates: 1920-1970
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1953)
ID No.: MSS46250
Creator: Women's Joint Congressional Committee
Extent: 6,200 items; 12 containers; 5.2 linear feet; 7 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Correspondence, information forms, minutes, reports, financial records, membership lists, and printed material relating to the committee's work in monitoring and promoting legislation in the areas of social service and women's rights.

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
Ansley, Katharine M.--Correspondence.
Atwater, Helen W.--Correspondence.
Bannerman, Mary T.--Correspondence.
Cone, Bessie S.--Correspondence.
Hadley, Eleanor M.--Correspondence.
Kelley, Florence, 1859-1932--Correspondence.
Maule, Margaret C.--Correspondence.
Sifton, Claire, 1897-1980--Correspondence.
Watkins, Florence V.--Correspondence.
Yost, Lenna Lowe, 1878-1972--Correspondence.

Organizations
National Consumers' League.
National Council of Jewish Women.
National Education Association of the United States.
United States. Congress.
Women's Joint Congressional Committee.

Subjects
Children--Societies and clubs.
Civil rights.
Education and state--United States.
Educational law and legislation.
Infants.
Lynching.
Motherhood.
National school lunch program.
Social legislation.
Social security.
Social service.
Suffrage--Washington (D.C.)
Women's rights.
Women--Societies and clubs.

Places
Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee were given to the Library of Congress by the committee in several installments between 1964 and 1972.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1965 and prepared for microfilming in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Women's Joint Congressional Committee records is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of Women's Joint Congressional Committee 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on seven reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Women's Joint Congressional Committee Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee span the years 1920-1970, with most of the material dated from 1920 to 1953. The collection consists of correspondence, information forms, minutes of meetings, committee reports and papers, treasurers' reports, membership lists, bills and receipts, and printed matter. The records are organized into five series: General Correspondence, Minutes of Meetings, Committee Files, Financial Records, and Miscellany.

The Women's Joint Congressional Committee was organized in 1920 shortly after the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. The committee was composed of representatives from many national organizations including such prominent groups as the National Consumers League, the National Education Association of the United States, and the National Council of Jewish Women. The Committee served its members by acting as a clearinghouse and information center for legislation pending in Congress. Special interests included legislation in the fields of social welfare, education, and women's rights. Members supported legislation concerning maternity and infancy, women's and children's bureaus, school lunch programs, a department of education, social security, anti-lynching legislation, home rule for the District of Columbia, and civil rights.

Correspondence and minutes of committee meetings form the major portion of the collection. Although much of the correspondence deals with administrative matters performed by the

committee's secretaries, many letters relate specifically to member organizations and the sponsorship of legislation in which they were interested. Consequently, many of the letters illustrate the methods used by these organizations to publicize legislation which they supported. The committee's minutes describe in detail each monthly meeting held while Congress was in session. Of prime importance are the reports of the legislative committees, sometimes appended to the minutes, which are frequently annotated with views and attitudes of members of Congress toward pending legislation in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The records also contain responses to questionnaires and information forms which provide a synopsis of the programs of the organizations belonging to the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, including legislative interests and names of delegates to the WJCC.

Frequent correspondents include Katharine M. Ansley, Helen W. Atwater, Mary T. Bannerman, Bessie S. Cone, Elizabeth Eastman, Eleanor M. Hadley, Florence Kelley, Margaret C. Maule, Claire Sifton, Florence V. Watkins, and Lenna Lowe Yost.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1920-1968
- Minutes of Meetings, 1920-1970
- Committee Files, 1924-1966
- Financial Records, 1923-1967
- Miscellany, 1923-1964

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-3	General Correspondence, 1920-1968
	Letters sent and received, telegrams, information forms, statements, reports, and some printed matter. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 5-9 REEL 3-6	Minutes of Meetings, 1920-1970
	Typed and mimeographed records of the meetings of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee. The minutes outline each meeting and in addition contain reports from the treasurer and various legislative committees of the organization. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Committee Files, 1924-1966
	Correspondence, printed matter, and reports dealing with a number of committees of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee. Alphabetically arranged by committee and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 10 REEL 6	Financial Records, 1923-1967
	Correspondence, treasurers' report, and bills and receipts. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 10-12 REEL 6-7	Miscellany, 1923-1964
	Correspondence, printed matter, and newspaper clippings. Alphabetically arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,849

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-3	General Correspondence, 1920-1968
	Letters sent and received, telegrams, information forms, statements, reports, and some printed matter. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1920, Nov.-1924, Dec. (17 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1925, Jan.-1929, Dec. (16 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1930, Jan.-1937, Dec. (15 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 2-3	1938, Jan.-1953, Dec. (15 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3	1954, Jan.-1968, Nov. (7 folders)
BOX 5-9 REEL 3-6	Minutes of Meetings, 1920-1970
	Typed and mimeographed records of the meetings of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee. The minutes outline each meeting and in addition contain reports from the treasurer and various legislative committees of the organization. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 5 REEL 3	1920-1927 (7 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 3-4	1928-1937 (11 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 4-5	1938-1948 (11 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 5	1949-1965 (13 folders)

Container	*Contents*
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	1966-1970 (4 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Committee Files, 1924-1966 Correspondence, printed matter, and reports dealing with a number of committees of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee. Alphabetically arranged by committee and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Admissions Committee
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Ballots, 1945
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Correspondence
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	1924, 1934
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	1945-1949
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	1951-1955, 1966
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Children's Issues, Subcommittee on 1924, 1935-1962
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Legislative Committee
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Food and Drug Act (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	General [1920s], 1954-1955
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	International cooperation, 1945
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Office of Education, 1934-1945
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Social Security, 1935, 1951-1953
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Lookout Committee, 1951-1953
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Neutrality Committee, 1939
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Orientation Committee, 1945-1950
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Special Committee, [1924]

Container	*Contents*
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	Standing Committees, 1920s
BOX 10 REEL 6	Financial Records, 1923-1967
	Correspondence, treasurers' report, and bills and receipts. Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 10 REEL 6	American Security and Trust Co., 1938-1942, 1957
BOX 10 REEL 6	Bills and receipts
BOX 10 REEL 6	General
	(2 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 6	Expenses for Roosevelt dinner (includes program), 1946
BOX 10 REEL 6	Printing bills, 1958-1960
BOX 10 REEL 6	Dues, 1937-1947
	(2 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 6	Treasurer's reports, 1923-1967
	(6 folders)
BOX 10-12 REEL 6-7	Miscellany, 1923-1964
	Correspondence, printed matter, and newspaper clippings. Alphabetically arranged by type of material.
BOX 10 REEL 6	Articles
BOX 10 REEL 6	Attendance records, 1933-1936
BOX 10 REEL 6	Bylaws, 1952-1953
BOX 10 REEL 6	Clippings
BOX 11 REEL 6-7	Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations, 1924-1926
BOX 11 REEL 6-7	Information forms, [1929-1931]-1955
	(10 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 7	Federal-state relations, 1957-1960
BOX 12 REEL 7	General legislative material
BOX 12 REEL 7	History of WJCC, Nettie Ottenberg, 1964

Container	*Contents*
BOX 12 REEL 7	Legislative activities of member organizations, 1923-1950
BOX 12 REEL 7	Membership lists, [1931], 1935-1963 (8 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 7	National Council for Prevention of War, 1924
BOX 12 REEL 7	Pressure groups and propaganda
BOX 12 REEL 7	Radiation hazards, 1956-1959
BOX 12 REEL 7	Roster data and attachments
BOX 12 REEL 7	World Court, Laura P. Morgan, 1957
BOX 12 REEL 7	World Directory of Women's Organizations