

James A. Farley Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Grover Batts, Allan Teichroew, and Paul
Ledvina



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2006

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: James A. Farley Papers

Span Dates: 1790-1976

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1918-1976)

ID No.: MSS20263

Creator: Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976

Extent: 106,000 items; 204 containers plus 1 oversize; 74.6 linear feet; 54 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Postmaster general, politician, and businessman. Correspondence, memoranda, subject files, speeches and writings, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Farley's service as postmaster general, chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee, and business interests.

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

Biddle, Anthony Joseph Drexel, 1896-1961--Correspondence.
Bowers, Claude Gernade, 1879-1958--Correspondence.
Cummings, Homer S. (Homer Stillé), 1870-1956--Correspondence.
De Valera, Éamon, 1882-1975--Correspondence.
Dougherty, Denis J. (Denis Joseph), 1865-1951--Correspondence.
Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976.
Garner, John Nance, 1868-1967--Correspondence.
Glass, Carter, 1858-1946--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Howe, Louis M. (Louis McHenry), 1871-1936--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007--Correspondence.
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973--Correspondence.
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Correspondence.
Long, Breckinridge, 1881-1958--Correspondence.
Long, Huey Pierce, 1893-1935.
O'Kelly, Sean T.--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944--Correspondence.
Truman, Bess Wallace--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Woodin, William H. (William Hartman), 1868-1934--Correspondence.
Woodring, Harry Hines, 1887-1967--Correspondence.

Organizations

Catholic Church.
Coca-Cola Export Corporation.
Democratic National Committee (U.S.)
United States. Constitution.
United States. Post Office Dept.

Subjects

Constitutional amendments--United States.
Irish Americans--Societies, etc.
New Deal, 1933-1939.
Presidents--United States--Election--1936.
Professional sports.

Places

New York (State)--Politics and government--1865-1950.
United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.

Occupations

Businessmen.
Cabinet officers.
Politicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James A. Farley, postmaster general, politician, and businessman, were given to the Library of Congress by Farley between 1965 and 1969. Additional items were obtained by purchase, 1971; by gifts of Emil Hurja, 1937-1942; and by donation of Farley's son, James A. Farley, Jr., in 1983.

Processing History

The Farley Papers were processed in 1960. The collection was revised and expanded between 1971 and 1986, and the finding aid was revised in 2006.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Motion picture films and sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the James A. Farley Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of James A. Farley in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James A. Farley 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 part of these papers is available on fifty-four 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, James A. Farley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1888, May 30	Born, Grassy Point, N.Y.
1911	Elected town clerk, Grassy Point, N.Y.
1918	Appointed warden, Port of New York, N.Y.
1919-1929	Chairman, Rockland County Democratic Committee, Rockland County, N.Y.
1920	Married Elizabeth A. Finnegan
1922-1923	Member, New York State Assembly
1922-1933	Member, then chairman, New York State Boxing Commission
1924-1948	Delegate, Democratic National Conventions
1926	Sales manager of the Universal Gypsum Co. Organized James A. Farley Co.
1928-1934	Secretary, then chairman, New York State Democratic Committee
1929	Merged his company with five others to form General Builders Supply Corp.
1932-1940	Chairman, Democratic National Committee
1933-1940	Postmaster general
1938	Published <i>Behind the Ballots</i> . New York: Harcourt Brace
1940-1973	Chairman of the Board, Coca-Cola Export Corp.; honorary chairman, 1973-1976
1948	Published <i>Jim Farley's Story; the Roosevelt Years</i> . New York: Whittlesey House
1973-1976	Honorary chairman of the board, Coca-Cola Export Corp.
1976, June 9	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Aloysius Farley (1888-1976) span the years 1790-1976, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1918-1976. The collection includes [General Correspondence](#), [Presidential File](#), [Private File](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and [Miscellany](#) series. The focus is on Farley's political career and connections, although a great deal of the material after 1940 also concerns his public relations activity on behalf of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation and his involvement with commercial and service organizations, Irish-American societies, the Catholic Church, professional sports, and the world leaders he met socially in the course of many foreign travels.

A major portion of the Farley Papers reflect his role as Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaign manager and as postmaster general of the United States. Documented in every series of the collection, his relation to Roosevelt and the New Deal is especially evident in the [Presidential File](#) and in the [Private File](#) of confidential logs or memoranda Farley dictated to himself as a record of important events. The Presidential File includes letters with Eleanor Roosevelt, whom Farley often consulted on political matters, and correspondence with members of the Roosevelt family and staff. The Private File, begun sporadically in 1918, swells in volume and significance after 1932 and lessens after Farley's break with Roosevelt on the issue of the third term. In addition to containing descriptions of cabinet meetings, the Private File offers day-to-day evaluations of Roosevelt's political standing during critical phases of the New Deal. It includes occasional assessments of other cabinet officers and advisers and gives firsthand accounts of major patronage issues, personality conflicts, and Farley's private visits with the president.

The [General Correspondence](#) series features letters from prominent acquaintances through several decades, including politicians, judges, cabinet officers, diplomats, legislators, actors, boxers, baseball players, newspaper reporters, businessmen, and socialites. There is considerable correspondence with officials of the Catholic Church, including several cardinals and Pope Pius XII, and with foreign heads of state such as Winston Churchill; Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia; May-ling Soong Chiang (Madame Chiang Kai-shek); General Francisco Franco; and Anastasio Somoza.

The [Subject File](#) includes a variety of personal, financial, and genealogical material, but is strongest in its documentation of Democratic Party politics. Included in the files for the presidential campaign of 1936, for instance, are transcripts of ad hoc discussions regarding local and regional election conditions, transcripts of Farley's press conferences, and a campaign book detailing state reports as they were received by the Democratic National Committee prior to elections. Other topics include New York state politics; Louisiana Senator Huey Long, a political opponent; and the Eighteenth Amendment, which Farley opposed and helped to repeal.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series and [Miscellany](#) cover the full range of Farley's career and activities. Partially indexed, the speech file is notable as a record of his talks as postmaster general. The Miscellany is notable for the comprehensive scrapbooks which Farley and his family or staff compiled from about 1923 until his death in 1976.

Farley corresponded with every president and most of their wives from Herbert Hoover to Gerald Ford. Among the more frequent of the presidential correspondents were Hoover, Harry S. Truman and Bess Wallace Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson. Other correspondents include Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle (1896-1961), Claude Gernade Bowers, Homer S. Cummings, Éamon De Valera, Denis J. Dougherty, John Nance Garner, Carter Glass, Louis M. Howe, Cordell Hull, Harold L. Ickes, Breckinridge Long, Sean T. O'Kelly, Alfred Emanuel Smith, William H. Woodin, and Harry Hines Woodring.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1918-1976](#)
- [Presidential File, 1928-1976](#)
- [Private File, 1918-1976](#)
- [Subject File, 1806-1976](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1927-1974](#)
- [Miscellany, 1790-1976](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-32	<u>General Correspondence, 1918-1976</u> Letters received and some letters sent, with attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-36	<u>Presidential File, 1928-1976</u> Correspondence and related matter, including private and official memoranda, case materials, lists, and appended printed matter and miscellany. Includes correspondence and related matter concerning First Ladies and presidential family members and staff. Arranged alphabetically by name of president and therein chronologically.
BOX 37-46	<u>Private File, 1918-1976</u> Private and confidential memoranda dictated by Farley as a diary of important events and activities, with occasional attachments relating to incidents discussed. Arranged chronologically, with a hiatus between 1947 and 1955 and 1956 and 1974. The period between 1974 and 1976 is covered by bound diaries with infrequent entries in Farley's hand. Available on six reels of microfilm. Shelf no. 19,365.
BOX 46-57	<u>Subject File, 1806-1976</u> Correspondence, reports, memoranda, transcripts of interviews, financial data, condolence letters and funeral registers, genealogical information, and miscellaneous near-print and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.
BOX 57-71	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1927-1974</u> Drafts and printed and near-print copies of speeches and writings by Farley. Arranged by category, with the speeches organized chronologically and the writings alphabetically by title. Undated speeches are located at the end of the chronological speech listings and organized alphabetically by title or location of address. An incomplete index precedes the speeches file.
BOX 72-204	<u>Miscellany, 1790-1976</u> Academic papers and theses on Farley, memorabilia, citations and certificates, clippings, invitations, programs, books, printed and near-print matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject. Unbound scrapbook material precedes bound volumes that are grouped and labeled according to topical categories created by Farley. The scrapbooks no longer exist in the original and are available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,365.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-32	General Correspondence, 1918-1976 Letters received and some letters sent, with attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1918-Feb. 1933 (6 folders)
BOX 2	Mar. 1933-Aug. 1934 (8 folders)
BOX 3	Sept. 1934-1935 (7 folders)
BOX 4	Jan.-Oct. 1936 (6 folders)
BOX 5	Nov. 1936-Sept. 1937 (8 folders)
BOX 6	Oct. 1937-June 1938 (6 folders)
BOX 7	July 1938-Jan. 1939 (6 folders)
BOX 8	Feb. 1939-Jan. 1940 (11 folders)
BOX 9	Feb.-June 1940 (7 folders)
BOX 10	July 1-26, 1940 (7 folders)
BOX 11	July 27-Aug. 12, 1940 (8 folders)
BOX 12	Aug. 13-Sept. 10, 1940 (7 folders)
BOX 13	Sept. 11-Nov. 6, 1940 (8 folders)
BOX 14	Nov. 7, 1940-Aug. 1941 (9 folders)
BOX 15	Sept. 1941-July 1942 (8 folders)
BOX 16	Aug. 1-21, 1942 (7 folders)
BOX 17	Aug. 22-Nov. 11, 1942 (8 folders)
BOX 18	Nov. 12, 1942-1945 (8 folders)
BOX 19	1946-July 1947 (7 folders)

General Correspondence, 1918-1976

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 20	Aug. 1947-1949 (6 folders)
BOX 21	1950-July 1952 (6 folders)
BOX 22	Aug. 1952-June 1955 (6 folders)
BOX 23	July 1955-May 1958 (8 folders)
BOX 24	June 1958-1959 (5 folders)
BOX 25	1960-Aug. 1961 (6 folders)
BOX 26	Sept. 1961-1963 (7 folders)
BOX 27	1964-Mar. 1965 (6 folders)
BOX 28	Apr. 1965-Feb. 1967 (7 folders)
BOX 29	Mar. 1967-1968 (6 folders)
BOX 30	1969-1972 (5 folders)
BOX 31	1973-1974 (6 folders)
BOX 32	1975-1976, undated (6 folders)
BOX 33-36	Presidential File, 1928-1976 Correspondence and related matter, including private and official memoranda, case materials, lists, and appended printed matter and miscellany. Includes correspondence and related matter concerning First Ladies and presidential family members and staff. Arranged alphabetically by name of president and therein chronologically.
BOX 33	Eisenhower, Dwight D. and Mamie, 1945-1969, undated Ford, Gerald R., 1975 Hoover, Herbert, and family, 1948-1969 Johnson, Lady Bird, 1963-1975, undated Johnson, Lyndon B., 1954-1973 (3 folders) Kennedy, John F. and Jacqueline, 1952-1965 Nixon, Richard M., 1959-1974
BOX 34	Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1932-1962, undated (4 folders) Roosevelt, Franklin D. 1928-Sept. 1935 (4 folders)

Presidential File, 1928-1976

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 35	Oct. 1935-1938 (7 folders)
BOX 36	1939-1945, undated (4 folders) Roosevelt, James, 1933-66 Roosevelt, other children, 1933-1965 Roosevelt, Sarah, 1933-1940 Truman, Harry S., 1936-1973 (3 folders) Truman, Bess Wallace, 1955-1976
BOX 37-46	Private File, 1918-1976 Private and confidential memoranda dictated by Farley as a diary of important events and activities, with occasional attachments relating to incidents discussed. Arranged chronologically, with a hiatus between 1947 and 1955 and 1956 and 1974. The period between 1974 and 1976 is covered by bound diaries with infrequent entries in Farley's hand. Available on six reels of microfilm. Shelf no. 19,365.
BOX 37 REEL 1	1918-Apr. 1935 (9 folders)
BOX 38 REEL 1	May 1935-Jan. 1936 (8 folders)
BOX 39 REEL 2	Feb.-July 1936 (7 folders)
BOX 40 REEL 3	Aug.-Nov. 1936 (7 folders)
BOX 41 REEL 3	Dec. 1936-Aug. 1937 (8 folders)
BOX 42 REEL 3-4	Sept. 1937-Feb. 1938 (7 folders)
BOX 43 REEL 4	Mar. 1938-Apr. 1939 (9 folders)
BOX 44 REEL 4-5	May 1939-Mar. 1940 (9 folders)
BOX 45 REEL 5	Apr. 1940-1946 (10 folders)
BOX 46 REEL 5-6	1947 1955

Private File, 1918-1976

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	1974-1976 (3 vols.)
BOX 46-57	Subject File, 1806-1976 Correspondence, reports, memoranda, transcripts of interviews, financial data, condolence letters and funeral registers, genealogical information, and miscellaneous near-print and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.
BOX 46	Airmail (3 folders)
BOX 47	(1 folder) Albert E. Smith Memorial Hospital Fund <i>See Container 57, Smith</i> Death of Farley, 1976 Condolence letters (3 folders) Registry of friends (1 folder)
BOX 48	(2 folders) Democratic National Committee, circulars by Farley, 1933-1939 (3 folders) Eighteenth Amendment, repeal, 1933 (5 folders)
BOX 49	Farley family genealogical data and early biographical clippings, 1806-1935, undated Financial Farley, James A. (son), 1955 Income taxes James A. Farley Holding Corp., 1929-1935 Private loans, 1945-1953 Securities and Exchange Commission, 1958-1976 Stocks, 1965-1968 Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., 1934
BOX 50	Interviews Columbia University Oral History Project, transcripts, 1957-1958 (6 folders) Hoover Presidential Library, West Branch, Iowa, 1966 Miscellaneous, undated (2 folders) Radio broadcasts, 1934-1975 Itineraries 1931-1938
BOX 51	1933-1940, undated Library of Congress, 1966-1970 Long, Huey Pierce Correspondence and related matter, 1932-1935 Printed matter (3 folders)

Subject File, 1806-1976

Container

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BOX 52	(1 folder) New York Democratic State Committee, 1930-1940 New York Democratic State Convention, 1942 Orden de Isabel La Catolica, 1955 Presidential campaigns 1932 1936 Campaign book, reports by state (6 folders)
BOX 53	Convention (3 folders) Democratic National Committee receipts and disbursements (1 vol.)
BOX 54	Democratic Party Conferences, Aug. 12-Sept. 11 (2 folders) Press conferences June-Sept. 25 (4 folders)
BOX 55	Sept. 26-Nov. 10 (3 folders) State reports, Emil Hurja papers Alabama-Massachusetts (5 folders)
BOX 56	Minnesota-Wyoming, and miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 57	Victory dinners, financial report 1940 Democratic convention, Committee on Arrangements Press conferences, July Miscellaneous Radio broadcasts about Farley School papers, 1903-1904 Smith (Alfred E.) Memorial Hospital Fund, 1943-1946 Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
BOX 57-71	Speeches and Writings, 1927-1974 Drafts and printed and near-print copies of speeches and writings by Farley. Arranged by category, with the speeches organized chronologically and the writings alphabetically by title. Undated speeches are located at the end of the chronological speech listings and organized alphabetically by title or location of address. An incomplete index precedes the speeches file.
BOX 57	Speeches Index (incomplete) 1927-Sept. 1932 (2 folders)
BOX 58	Oct. 1932-Oct. 1933 (8 folders)

Speeches and Writings, 1927-1974

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 59	Nov. 1933-Aug. 1934 (9 folders)
BOX 60	Sept. 1934-1935 (8 folders)
BOX 61	1936-Apr. 1937 (8 folders)
BOX 62	May 1937-Apr. 1938 (8 folders)
BOX 63	May 1938-May 1939 (6 folders)
BOX 64	June 1939-1940 (7 folders)
BOX 65	1941-1953 (10 folders)
BOX 66	1954-1960 (6 folders)
	1961 Jan.-Dec.
BOX 67	Undated 1962-1967 (8 folders)
BOX 68	1968-1974 (2 folders)
	Undated (arranged by title or location of speech)
	A-E (19 folders)
BOX 69	F-Sai (23 folders)
BOX 70	Saj-Z (8 folders)
	Writings
	Autobiographical (2 folders)
	<i>Jim Farley's Story</i> Comments and background data Draft (4 folders)
BOX 71	"Why I Broke With Roosevelt," <i>Collier's</i> , 1947 (1 vol.) Miscellaneous articles
BOX 72-204	Miscellany, 1790-1976 Academic papers and theses on Farley, memorabilia, citations and certificates, clippings, invitations, programs, books, printed and near-print matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject. Unbound scrapbook material precedes bound volumes that are grouped and labeled according to topical categories created by Farley.

Miscellany, 1790-1976

Container

Contents

The scrapbooks no longer exist in the original and are available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,365.

- BOX 72 Academic papers and theses on Farley
(4 folders)
- BOX 73 Antiquarian collectibles, 1830-1914
Citations and certificates
Extracts, near-print material, and speeches by others
(2 folders)
National Whirligig
1934-1937
(5 folders)
- BOX 74 1938
Office and research notes and messages
Post Office Department
Annual reports of the postmaster general
Antiquarian items, 1790-1870
History
Printed matter
Clippings
(3 folders)
- BOX 75 Presidential campaign, 1936
(2 folders)
Programs, invitations, and ephemera
1933-1937
(4 folders)
- BOX 76 (3 folders)
- BOX 77 1934-1939
(1 folder)
- BOX 78 (4 folders)
- BOX 79 1939-1940
(3 folders)
circa 1940-1975
(1 folder)
- BOX 80 (4 folders)
- BOX 81 (1 folder)
- Books and bound items
(8 vols.)
- BOX 82 (5 vols.)
- BOX 83 (3 vols.)
- BOX 84 Scrapbooks
- REEL 7
- The scrapbooks no longer exist in the original and are available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,365.*
- Unbound
Birthday celebration, New York World's Fair, New York, N.Y., 1964
Pierce School of Business, Philadelphia, Pa. 1953
Speech to Jersey City Knights of Columbus, Jersey City, N.J., 1945

Miscellany, 1790-1976

Container

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	Trip to Texas, 1940
	Visit to Springfield and New Salem, Ill., 1934
	Visit to Tennessee A & I, Nashville, Tenn., 1955
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	Banchees luncheon for Farley, 1947
BOX 86	Athletics
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	Feb.-July 1924
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BOX 87	Jan.-Mar. 1925
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BOX 88	July-Sept. 1925
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BOX 89	Sept. 1925-Mar. 1926
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BOX 90	Mar.-Sept. 1926
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BOX 91	1926-1927
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	1930-1932
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BOX 92	Elks Club
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	Apr. 1923-1933
BOX 93	June-Sept. 1924
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BOX 94	New York state and city
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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 100	Sept. 1933-Jan. 1934
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BOX 103	Oct. 1935-Oct. 1936
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BOX 104	Oct. 1936-Oct. 1937
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BOX 106	Nov. 1938-May 1942
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BOX 107	Apr.-July 1942
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BOX 108	Aug. 1-21, 1942
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BOX 109	Aug. 21-Oct. 1942
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BOX 110	Oct. 1942-Dec. 1944
REEL 14	
BOX 111	National
REEL 15	
	July 1931-Mar. 1932
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BOX 112	Mar.-Apr. 1932
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BOX 115	Feb.-May 1933
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BOX 120	Apr.-Sept. 1934
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BOX 160	Mar. 17-Sept. 19, 1940
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BOX 162	Sept. 1937-Feb. 1940
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BOX 164	Personal
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BOX 165	Feb. 1940-June 1944
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BOX 166	Feb. 1940-Nov. 1944
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BOX 167	Apr. 1941-July 1944
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Miscellany, 1790-1976

Container *Contents*

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Miscellany, 1790-1976

Container

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Oct. 1933-Mar. 1937

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BOX 200 Sept. 1938-Oct. 1939

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BOX 201 May 1939

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BOX 202 Miscellaneous

REEL 53

Roosevelt, Franklin D., campaign for governor of New York, 1930

BOX 203 Presidential inauguration, 1937

REEL 53

Testimonial dinner for Farley, Feb. 15, 1937

Victory dinner, May 4, 1937

Comment on Farley's *Behind the Ballots*, 1938-1939

BOX 204 Roosevelt, Franklin D., presidential campaign, 1932

REEL 54