South Carolina Political Collections

The University of South Carolina

James Prioleau Richards
(1894 - 1979)
Papers, 1932 - 1974

Volume: 10 linear feet

Processed by: Herbert J. Hartsook, additions 2004 by Stephanie Stewart

Provenance: Donated by Richard E. Richards

Citation Form: James Prioleau Richards Papers, South Carolina Political Collections, The University of South Carolina

Copyright: Copyright of the James Prioleau Richards Papers has been transferred to the University of South Carolina
Biographical Note:

James Prioleau “Dick” Richards (1894-1979) represented South Carolina’s Fifth District in the United States House of Representatives from 1933 until his retirement following the 1956 session.

Richards was born in Liberty Hill. He attended Clemson College and the University of South Carolina before enlisting in the United States Army in April 1917. Richards fought in France and Belgium and advanced through the ranks. At the time of his discharge in 1919 he had attained the rank of Reserve Second Lieutenant. He returned to the University of South Carolina and received his law degree in 1921.

The following year, Richards was elected Probate Judge of Lancaster County. He served in that capacity until his election to Congress on the Democratic ticket. In Congress, Richards received an appointment to the Foreign Affairs Committee. He served on that committee throughout his Congressional career and became expert in Foreign Affairs. He chaired the committee from 1951 to 1953, when the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican, required Richards’ replacement as chair.

Following his retirement, Richards accepted a mission for the Eisenhower administration. He served as Special Assistant to President Eisenhower for the Middle East from January 1957 until January of 1958. With the object of advancing the Eisenhower Doctrine, Richards undertook a mission to the Middle East in which he visited Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tripoli and Turkey, among other countries. He also visited Formosa [Taiwan] and Malaya. At each stop he met with the nations’ leaders and attempted to convince them to strengthen their ties to the United States.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection, 10 linear feet of material, relates to Richards’ Middle East mission as well as significant records of his Congressional career. The collection ably documents Richards’ interest and expertise in foreign policy. The collection also includes information on Richards’ membership on the Joint Committee on Foreign Economic Cooperation Administration. The ECA was charged with the administration of the Foreign Economic Assistance Act, funding the European Recovery Program.
The collection has been arranged into five main series: Correspondence, 1932 to 1933, 1941 to 1974; Topical Files, c. 1933 to 1958; Photographs; Newspaper Clippings; and House of Representatives Journals.

Correspondence includes letters of congratulation upon Richards’ election to the House, 1932 to 1933, and offers of support, c. 1951 to 1952, should Richards decide to run for Governor in 1953.

Topical files include reference material on Middle Eastern countries; files on bills, resolutions, and concerns before the House, such as the Bretton Woods Agreement, 1944 to 1945; Foreign Policy, including a file, 1945 to 1955, regarding relations with China; the Neutrality Act, 1941; the Mutual Security Act, 1951; UNESCO, 1946; and the UNICEF Children’s Emergency Fund, c. 1950 to 1953. Countries represented by individual reference files include China, Formosa (Taiwan), Israel, Lebanon, and the Soviet Union.

Photographs and newspaper clippings date chiefly from Richards’ mission to the Middle East. Included are numerous clippings from foreign newspapers commenting on the mission. Rounding out the collection is a biographical file and a small number of speeches and press releases.

The Journals of the House of Representatives cover the proceedings of the Committee on Foreign Affairs from the 77th to the 83rd congresses.
Contents List

Biographical Data

Correspondence:
1932, Nov. - June 1933
1941, Sept. - Nov.
1942, Dec. - 1945
1946 - 1947
1949:
   Jan. - July
   Aug. - Dec.
1950:
   Jan. - Apr.
   Sept - Dec
1951:
   Jan. - Feb.
   Mar. - June
   July - Aug 14
   Aug. 15 - Sept.
1952:
   Jan. - July
   Aug. - Dec.
1953:
   Jan. - May
   June - July
   Aug. - Sept.
1954:
   Apr. - June
   July - Sept.
   Nov. - Dec.
1955:
   Jan. - Mar. 15
   Mar. 16 - Apr.
   May - Sept.
1956:
   Jan. - Feb. 16
   Feb. 17 - May
   June - Sept.
1957:
   Apr. 3 - 17
   Apr. 18 - Dec., & c. 1957
1958 - 1974
n.d.
Speeches:
1951 - 1955
1956
1957 - 1963
Press Releases, 1955
Photographs:
   General (7 folders)
Ethiopia (2 folders)

Topical Files:

Agriculture:
- General
  - Abaca [Manila Hemp] Production, Philippines
  - Tobacco
- Bretton Woods Agreement, 1944 - 1945

China, c. 1945 - 1950

Dulles, John Foster, Oral History Project, Interview, JPR, 1965

Dulles, John Foster, Oral History Project, Interview, JPR, 1965

Economic Cooperation Administration:
- 1949
- 1950
- 1951

Far East, Beane Report, 1951

Finnish Aid Bill, 1949

Foreign Affairs, Committee on

Foreign Claims Settlement, 1942 - 1955

Foreign Policy:
- China, 1949 - 1954
- Speech Material

Foreign Trade:
- General, 1950, 1958 - 1959
- Textiles and Minerals
- Clippings

Formosa [Taiwan]:
- General, c.1955 - 1958
- Herter-Richards Trip, 1957 - 1958

Great Britain, Loan, 1945 - 1946

Israel, 1951 - 1956

Lebanon, 1956 - 1957

Malaya, 1957

Middle East:
- General, 1857 - 1958
- Badeau Report, 1957
- Richards Mission Public Statements, 1957

Naval Construction Bill, 1951

Neutrality Act, 1941 (5 folders)

UNESCO, Cultural Relations and Short Wave Radio Broadcasting, 1946

Unicef, Children's Emergency Fund, c.1950 - 1953

Misc., General

Misc. Illustrations

Newsclippings:

General
- 1941 - 1949
- 1951
- 1952
- 1953
- 1954 - 1955
- 1956
- 1957 (9 folders)
- 1957 - 1958
- 1960
- 1963

Ethiopia
Greece
Iran
Iraq
Morocco
Pakistan
Tripoli
Tunisia (2 folders)
Turkey (3 folders)

House of Representatives Journals:

Committee on Foreign Affairs:

77th Congress, 1st Session and 78th Congress, 1st Session:
Hearings, Reports, Laws, Relating to Lend-Lease

77th Congress, 1st and 2nd Sessions and 78th Congress, 1st Session:
Reports to the Congress on Lend-Lease Operations, reports 1-14 from March 11, 1941 through December 31, 1943

78th Congress:
Hearings and Documents Relating to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

80th Congress, 1st Session:
Hearings, Reports; Messages from the President and Miscellaneous Documents Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Vol. IV
Subcommittee Reports
Bills, Resolutions, and Committee Calendars, Vol. II

80th Congress, 2nd Session:
Hearings, Reports; Messages from the President and Miscellaneous Documents Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Vol. III
Miscellaneous Documents and Memoranda

81st Congress, 1st Session:
House Bills, 81st Congress, Vol. I
Resolutions, Senate Bills and Committee Calendars, Vol. II
Hearings, Vol. I
Hearings, Vol. II

House Reports, Public Laws, and Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. III
House Documents, Vol. IV

81st Congress, 2nd Session:
Bills, Resolutions, and Committee Calendars, Vol. I
Miscellaneous and Staff Memoranda, Vol. I
Hearings, Vol. I

House Reports and Public Laws, Vol. II
House Documents, Vol. III

82nd Congress, 1st Session:
House Bills, Vol. I

82nd Congress, 2nd Session:
Hearings, Reports, and Public Laws, Vol. IV
House Documents, Vol. V

Miscellaneous Documents and Staff Memoranda, Vol. VI
House and Senate Bills and Resolutions and Committee Calendar, Vol. III

83rd Congress, 1st Session:
House and Senate Bills and Resolutions and Committee Calendar, Vol. I
Reports, Public Laws, and House Documents, Vol. II
House Documents, Vol. II-A
Miscellaneous Documents and Staff Memoranda, Vol. III
83rd Congress, 2nd Session:
   Report on Eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (2)
64th–82nd Congresses:
   Index of Minutes (1916-1952)