South Carolinians for Eisenhower

Papers, 1952

Background Note:

General dissatisfaction with the national Democratic Party led many in South Carolina and other southern states to support the presidential candidates offered by the Republican Party, while voting a straight Democratic ticket for local and statewide elections.

In 1952, a group organized called South Carolinians for Eisenhower. The organization was chaired by Douglas McKay. Among those Democrats who campaigned for Eisenhower were Governor James F. Byrnes, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, and Chief Justice Eugene Blease.

Records show the organization raised slightly over $66,000 and spent almost all of that sum in promoting Eisenhower's campaign in South Carolina. South Carolina, by a very small margin, supported the Democratic nominee Adlai Stevenson. Eisenhower’s campaign did have success in several other southern states, carrying Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of the contents of a single unbound binder arranged in two folders. General papers include financial summaries of receipts and disbursements, August to November 1952, a list of Minutemen for Eisenhower, and a few clippings. Lists, compiled by county, document state and county committeeemen, and volunteers.