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BURROUGHS, ROBERT P.:
Papers, 1953-59

Accession 98-19
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The papers of Robert P. Burroughs were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his cousin William W. Upton in July 1998.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 800
Approximate number of items: 400

William Upton signed an instrument of gift for the papers on August 18, 1998. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Robert P. Burroughs in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Robert P. Burroughs was a businessman in Manchester, New Hampshire, who specialized in designing pension plans for corporations. He was also active in Republican politics. He served as Republican National Committeeman from New Hampshire during the 1940s and actively supported Dwight D. Eisenhower during the 1952 and 1956 presidential campaigns. In late 1953 he sponsored a nation-wide poll to determine voter satisfaction with the policies of the Eisenhower administration. Burroughs was appointed to represent the U.S. at independence ceremonies in the Cameroons in 1959 and at the inauguration of the president of Liberia in 1960. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Company during the Eisenhower administration.

The papers of Robert Burroughs pertain primarily to the 1953 public opinion poll. Burroughs designed two elaborate forms that contained spaces for recording voter attitudes on a variety of government policies. He then sent copies of the forms to a prominent Republican in each state. The recipients were usually his personal friends or someone who had supported Eisenhower in 1952. The recipient filled in the blanks based on his personal knowledge of political attitudes in his state, although a few recipients sought advice from their friends or conducted polls of their own to obtain the information. The forms were then returned to Burroughs who tabulated the results of his survey on oversized ledger sheets. Responses were received for most states, although the amount of detail varied widely. Some of the transmittal letters contain comments on Republican politics in the states. The responses are arranged alphabetically by state.

The collection also contains a small quantity of material on Latin America. Burroughs apparently obtained the material in preparation for meetings with Milton Eisenhower in 1956 and 1958, although a few items are dated as late as 1959. Most of the material was compiled by Francis Alstock, a friend of Burroughs, and relates to specific issues involving U.S. relations with Mexico, including the 3-mile territorial limit for international waters, US-Mexican air line service, Mexican politician Antonio Bermudez, and a boundary dispute caused by the shifting course of the Rio Grande River at El Paso, Texas. A few documents pertain to Panama.

CONTAINER LIST

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| 1 | 1953 Poll – Analysis (1) (2) |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Alabama |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Arizona-California [Barry Goldwater] |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Connecticut-Idaho [Meade Alcorn] |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Indiana-Kansas |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Maine-Maryland [blacks in Maryland] |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Missouri-North Dakota |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Oklahoma-Virginia |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – Washington (1)-(3) |
| | 1953 Poll – Results – West Virginia-Wyoming |
| | Milton Eisenhower Meetings (1)-(4) [Panama – President Ernesto De La Guardia, agriculture, wages; Mexico – Antonio Bermudez, 3-mile territorial limit, airline service, Chamizal Channel at El Paso, Texas] |

END OF CONTAINER LIST