

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

BECKER, RALPH: Papers, 1957-87

Accession 88-14
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: February 2001

The papers of Ralph Becker were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Becker in November 1987.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 1600
Approximate number of items: 500

Ralph Becker signed an instrument of gift for the papers on August 10, 1987. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Becker in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States 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

Ralph Becker (1907-1994) was an attorney in Washington, DC. He was active in Republican politics and had a strong interest in cultural matters. In 1958 President Eisenhower appointed him to the Board of Directors of the National Cultural Center which had been created by Congress to develop a center for the performing arts in Washington, DC. The National Cultural Center, renamed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1964, was completed in 1971. Becker served on the Board of Directors and as general counsel to the Center for almost 20 years. He later wrote a book about the development of the Center which was published in 1990 under the title Miracle on the Potomac.

The papers of Ralph Becker pertain primarily to his interest in the Kennedy Center. Of particular importance is an early draft of his book. The early draft contains considerable background material on the Center that was not included in the final published version. This includes an extensive historical discussion of support by the federal government for cultural activities in Washington, DC, particularly President Eisenhower's personal interest in the matter. The collection also contains numerous programs, schedules and publicity literature concerning performances and special events at the Center after its completion.

A few miscellaneous files on other cultural matters are also included in the collection. Most of these pertain to Becker's interest in the Eisenhower Library, and to his sponsorship of a special bust of President Eisenhower by the artist Nison Tregor in 1957.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Eisenhower Library

Kennedy Center Book Draft (1)-(10)

Kennedy Center Clippings

Kennedy Center Education Program Literature (1)-(3) |
| 2 | Kennedy Center Education Program Press Clippings 1987 (1)-(4)

Kennedy Center Honors (1)-(3)

Kennedy Center Literature (1)-(4)

Miscellaneous Literature [dedication of Ford's Theatre 1968; 1958 tour of Latin America by New York Philharmonic Orchestra]

Personal Material

Tregor Bust (1) (2) |

END OF CONTAINER LIST