Elmer F. Bennett donated half of this collection to the Eisenhower Library in September 1969. The remainder of the material was received from Mr. Bennett’s widow in early 1990.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 11
Approximate number of pages: 22,400
Approximate number of items: 10,000

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mr. Bennett in September 1969. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Bennett 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 documents are withheld from research use:

1. Material relating to the family and private business affairs of Mr. Bennett or of persons who have had correspondence with him.

2. Material relating to investigations of individuals, to proposed appointments to office, or to other personnel matters.

3. Material containing statements made by or to Mr. Bennett in confidence unless the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

4. All other material containing information or statements that might be used to embarrass, damage, injure or harass any living person.

5. Material containing statements or information which might prejudice the conduct of foreign relations of the United States.

6. Materials which are security classified pursuant to law or Executive Order, or which contain information which would adversely affect the security of the United States.
Elmer F. Bennett was an attorney who held various positions in the Department of the Interior during the Eisenhower administration. Bennett specialized in the legal problems of the use of natural resources. In later years he worked for the Public Land Law Review Commission and then for the Office of Emergency Preparedness. In the latter office he dealt with the problem of oil imports and oil price increases in the early 1970s.

In September 1969 Bennett deposited portions of his papers in the Eisenhower Library. This first accession, totaling about half of the present collection, pertained to Bennett’s work in the Interior Department. The material was received in a disorganized state so the processing archivists created an artificial arrangement scheme in which the records were filed alphabetically by subject.

The second half of the collection was received from Bennett’s widow in 1990. This accretion pertained to both the Interior Department and the Office of Emergency Preparedness periods of Bennett’s career. The material was interfiled with the first accession to produce one single alphabetical sequence.

The collection in its present form contains extensive information on U.S. policy regarding natural resources. The material from the Eisenhower administration pertains largely to water use, particularly the development of the Colorado River and Columbia River basins. Bennett served on a delegation to negotiate a treaty with Canada on the use of Columbia River water, and his files contain minutes, correspondence and drafts of the treaty. Additional files cover Indian policy, administration of the Interior Department, reclamation projects and oil imports.

The material from the Office of Emergency Preparedness pertains solely to the investigation of oil imports and the increase in oil prices from 1970 to 1973. The material includes government correspondence and reports, and also information received from private oil companies. Some of the documents are originals, but there is also a large file of electrostatic copies of documents which Bennett acquired in 1982, apparently as part of a law suit in which he provided evidence.
BIOGRAPHY

September 17, 1917  Born in Longmont, Colorado

1941  Received law degree, Stanford University

1942-1948  Administrative work, U.S. War Department

1948-1951  Trial attorney, Federal Trade Commission

1951-1953  Legal advisor and executive secretary to Senator Eugene Millikin of Colorado

1953-1956  Legislative Council, Department of the Interior

1956-1957  Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior

1957-1958  General Counsel, Department of the Interior

1958-1961  Under Secretary of the Interior

1961-1966  Member, Ely, Duncan & Bennett (law firm)


1970-1973  Special Assistant and General Counsel, Office of Emergency Preparedness

1973-1988  Member, Loomis, Owen, Fellman & Howe (law firm)

July 10, 1989  Died in Roslyn, New York
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