

RICHARD M. BISSELL JR. PAPERS
NATIONAL DEFENSE PROBLEMS GROUP SERIES
1940 – 1941; Box 1

SERIES DESCRIPTION

This series contains the meeting minutes of the “National Defense Problems Group,” an organization that counted Richard M. Bissell as a member from at least November 1940 to March 1941. The group seems to have been one of the many preparedness committees in existence at the time to discuss the United States of America's industrial, economic, and defense capabilities on the eve of World War II. The group consisted almost entirely of Yale University faculty and met in Yale’s Hall of Graduate Studies.

The minutes in this series are organized in reverse chronological order. Some of the minutes contained in this series are extraordinarily detailed and present as complete transcripts of the meetings they document. Others are merely summaries of the discussions held on a given day. Questions and topics discussed in the meetings include civilian protection; hemisphere defense; economic strategy; financing the defense effort; President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” speech of January 6, 1941; the American industrial plant; and the mobilization of forces for both industry and the armed forces among other topics. A May 12, 1941, letter from “Ted” to Bissell regarding the meetings and the meeting minutes is included in folder 2B.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2B – National Defense Seminar Minutes |
| | 1B – National Defense Seminar Minutes (1) – (2) |

END OF CONTAINER LIST