Following his departure from the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA), Richard M. Bissell joined the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) in 1964 as Director of Marketing and Economic Planning. Drawing on his background as an economist, Bissell was tasked with providing “economic guidance in expanding areas of nongovernment business, as well as in new technical programs under investigation.” He remained with UAC until his resignation in 1974.

This series contains papers created and gathered by Bissell concerning various facets of his work with UAC. Correspondence, notes, clippings, planning papers written by Bissell for business purposes, subject files on individuals associated with UAC, information concerning seminars in support of his planning role at UAC, and his responses to research questionnaires on behalf of UAC are included in this series. Folders are arranged alphabetically and chronologically thereunder. As was his habit, Bissell sometimes had background or personal information taped to the inside front cover of a folder and that information remains where it was found.

The greater resource of substantive information about the day-to-day activities of Bissell’s office may be found in the Correspondence Series of this collection. Bissell’s employment and personnel records for UAC may be found in the Personal Information and Biographical Series.

The folders in this series that contain information regarding Harvard Business School’s Formal Planning Systems represent rich information concerning the state of UAC’s internal planning processes. The bulk of the information in them concerning UAC appears in the form of questionnaires submitted by Bissell to the Harvard Business School. The purpose of Harvard’s research was to create data banks for MBA student research reports, identify hypotheses for further research and identify sites for field research.

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Joint Arms Control Seminar, Harvard – MIT [symposium records, meeting minutes, correspondence and related materials concerning the Joint Arms Control Seminar]


Miscellaneous UAC [Esquire article entitled “The Death of all Children”; Conference Sponsored by Engineering Foundation on Complex Problem Solving; “Critical Elements of a National Transportation System” by Edward N. Hall]


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