The papers of John S. Bragdon were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in March 1964 by Mrs. John Stewart Bragdon. In March 1964 Mrs. Bragdon executed an instrument of gift for these papers.

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Literary rights in these papers are reserved to Mrs. John Stewart Bragdon during her lifetime and, thereafter, to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donor the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to family and private business affairs.

2. Papers relating to family and private business affairs of other persons who have corresponded with General Bragdon.

3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.

4. Papers containing statements made by or to the donor in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.

5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.
The President’s Council of Economic Advisors in 1954 established a small unit which was to coordinate the planning of public works. Major General John S. Bragdon served as head of this unit beginning in April 1954. The work of this unit confirmed the need for continued systematic attention to this function and on August 12, 1955, President Eisenhower appointed Major General Bragdon as Special Assistant to the President to Coordinate Public Works Planning.

This position was placed in the Special Projects Group of the White House Staff. As Coordinator of Public Works Planning General Bragdon was to keep the President informed on the following:

(a) The various types and amount of the public facilities required by an expanding economy to meet human needs at the national, state and local levels.

(b) The current long-range plans and programs for accomplishment of such works by agencies of the Federal Government and by similar agencies of the states and local governments, and the interrelationships of these programs.

(c) The possibility for the acceleration of public works construction in the event that economic conditions make such acceleration desirable.

The Coordinator was also to assist the Federal Government agencies responsible for public works with their planning programs and was to establish an Advisory Committee on Public Works to include persons designated from various Federal Government agencies and state, city and local government.

General Bragdon served as Coordinator of Public Works Planning until April 26, 1960 when he was appointed by President Eisenhower to membership on Civil Aeronautics Board. The records of the Special Assistant for Public Works Planning consist of correspondence, memoranda, reports, press releases, and some printed material relating to General Bragdon’s efforts to obtain legislation for a “shelf” of public works to be used in periods of economic downturn; material relating to the development of the national highway system and General Bragdon’s efforts to make it a toll system, material relating to negotiations with Canada over the Columbia River and much material relating to comprehensive public works planning and General Bragdon’s attempts to push this concept in speeches to various interested organization around the country.

NOTE: On December 24, 1968, a shipment of records which originated in the office of General John S. Bragdon was received at the Eisenhower Library as Accession A69-28. These records were found in the attic of the Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. Originally the files were arranged in folders under eleven categories,* but the folders have now been alphabetized and interfiled into the previously received Records of the Special Assistant to the President to Coordinate Public Works Planning, which came to the Library with the White House Central Files in 1961.
A list of folder titles of this accession as reconstituted prior to interfiling is available.
## CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | Acceleration (Potential) by Administrative Action and New Funds  
Action, Inc. - Newark Conferences  
Ad Hoc Interagency Committee Metropolitan Area Problems  
Administrative Actions for 1955  
701...Administration & Amendment 1959 Urban Planning (Widnall Amendment)  
701...Administration & Amendment 1960 Urban Planning  
Advance Acquisition of Sites  
1954 Advisory Commission “Local Government’s Place in the Federal System”  
Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations  
Advisory Committee - Federal Public Works #1 |
| 2      | Advisory Committee - Federal Public Works #2  
Advisory Committee - Public Works Planning Unit  
Advisory Committee - State-Local #1  
Advisory Committee - State-Local #2  
Advisory Committee - State-Local Meeting, June 18-19, 1956  
Agriculture (General)  
Agriculture Report  
Ainsworth Unit - Missouri River Basin  
Air Pollution Control  
Airport Data (1) |
Airport Data (2)

Alaska International Rail & Highway Commission

Alaska Rampart Dam

Alert (Operation) 1955

American Association of State Highway Officials

American Automobile Association

American Bridge and Tunnel Association

American Bridge and Turnpike

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Institute of Architects

American Institute of Consulting Engineers

American Institute of Planners

American Military Engineers, Society of

American Municipal Association

American Public Works Association, 1954-1959 #1

American Public Works Association, 1954-1959 #2

American Right-of-Way Association

American Road Builders Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Planning Officials (General)

American Society of Planning Officials (Long Range Planning)

American Society of Public Administration

American Telephone and Telegraph Company
Amistad Dam (Formerly Diablo) 1960

Amistad Dam (Formerly Diablo) June-June 1959

Amistad Dam (Formerly Diablo) July-Dec. 1959

Anti-Recession Planning

Appropriations Public Works - 1955

Appropriations Public Works - 1957


Area Development Program

Area Development Division Data 1955-56

Argraves, Newman E.

Arkansas-Red-White River Basin (Arkansas and Oklahoma)

Army, Department of - Corps of Engineers

Army, Department of - Corps of Engineers (Merger with Bureau of Reclamation)

Army, Department of - Corps of Engineers (Rivers and Harbors)

Asphalt Institute

Assignments

Assignments - Administrative Action Affecting EC. G. & S.

Assignments - Review of Data for Mid-Year Economic Report

Associated General Contractors of America

Association of State Planning and Development Agencies Directory 1957

Atomic Energy Commission

Aviation Facilities
“A” (miscellaneous)

Biographies - S-L Advisory Committee

Boards: Engineers for Rivers and Harbors - 1958

Boards: Engineers for Rivers and Harbors - 1959

Boards: Water Engineers (Texas)

Boards: Water Pollution Control Advisory

Boards: Water Resources (Kansas)

Bond Study - Debt Data

Bonds - Tax Exemptions

Bonneville Power Corporation

Bragdon, General, Memoranda to

Brazos River Authority

Budget, Bureau of

Budget, Bureau of - A-35 Circular (Public Works Program)

Budget, Bureau of - A-47 Circular (Water Resources)

Budget, Bureau of (General)

Budget, Bureau of (Highways)

Budget, Bureau of (“701” Planning)

Budget Message - 1958

Buttes Dam Project

Bureau of Budget Directory

Bureau of Public Roads - Memos
Business & Economic Conditions (Review by the First National City Bank of N.Y.)

Cabinet Committee - Energy Supplies & Resources

Cabinet Presentation - Drought - August 8, 1958

Cabinet Presentation - Implementation of PACWAP

Cabinet Presentation - Revision of “701”

Cabinet presentation Stabilization - Nov. 15, 1957

California (1)

8  California (2)(3)

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1954 thru 1956

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1955 thru 1957

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1957

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1958

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1959 #1

Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1959 #2

9  Canadian Boundary Water Problems - 1960

Capital Improvements, Fiscal Policy

Capital Improvements, Programs (1)(2)

Carlyle and Shelbyville Projects

Cement Production

Central Intelligence Agency

Census, Bureau of (General)

Central Valley Project California (Trinity River)
Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.

DR. CHAWNER’S FILES

10 Administrative Actions

Economic Policies to Promote Economic Growth
Legislation (Transportation and Communication)
Public Works and Growth (Letters to Agencies for Comments)
Educational Buildings
Health, Education and Welfare (Data on Needs)
Public Works Planning re Public Health
Stabilization Policy Study
General

11 Civil Aeronautics Administration

Civil Aeronautics Board of
Civil Service Commission
Clay Committee
Clippings [Tolls Roads and Highways]
Coast and Geodetic Survey
College Housing Program
Colorado
Colorado River Project - 1955-1956
Combating Recession Material - Mr. Severson
Commerce, Department of
Commerce, Department of - Federal

Commerce, Transportation Policy

Commerce, Department of (Highways) #1

Commerce, Department of (Highways) #2

Commerce, Department of (Highways) Regional Meetings (BAR)

Commerce, Department of (Progress Reports Interstate Systems, (BAR)

Commerce, Department of (Report of Boston Conference on Highways) (BAR)

Commissions: Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

Commissions: Delaware River Basin

Commissions: Federal Power

Commissions: National Capital Planning

Commissions: Outdoor Recreations Resources Review

Commissions: Potomac River Basin

Commissions: U.S. Study-Texas (General) 1958

Committees: Cabinet Committee on Price Stability and Economic Growth

Committees: Concerned with Public Work (Senate list)

Committees: Economic Development

Committees: Federal Public Works, Advisory Committee on

Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Nashville Meeting)

Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (New Hampshire Meeting)

Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Sept.-Dec. 1957) #1

Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Sept.-Dec. 1957) #2
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (July-Aug. 1957)
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Chicago Meeting) #1
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Chicago Meeting) #2
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Washington, D.C. Meeting) #1
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action (Washington, D.C. Meeting) #2
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action - 1959
Committees: Federal-State Joint Action - 1958
Committees: Interagency on Metropolitan Problems (Merriam)
Committees: Interagency on Water Resources (1953-1960)

Committees: Joint Economic Committee on International Influences on American Economy
Committees: National Goals
Committees: President’s Advisory on Government Organization (1)
Committees: President’s Advisory on Government Organization (2)
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy (Report)
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - 1960
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - May-Dec. 1959
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - Jan.-Apr. 1959
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - 1958
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - 1957
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - 1956
Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - July-Dec. 1955

#1

Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy - July-Dec. 1955

#2

Committees: President’s Advisory on Water Resources Policy (Organization)

17  Committee to Coordinate Federal Urban Area Assistance Programs

Community Facilities

Compacts: Big Blue River

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1960

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1959

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1958

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1957

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1955-1956

Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1955-1956

18  Compacts: Columbia Interstate - 1953-1955

Compacts: General

Compacts: Great Lakes Basin

Compacts: Klamath River

Compacts: Little Missouri River

Compacts: Merrimack River Flood Control

Compacts: Missouri-Kansas

Compacts: Niobrara River, Ponca Creek

Compacts: Northeastern Water and Land
Compacts: Pecos River
Compacts: Tennessee River Basin
Compacts: Wabash Valley
Comprehensive Planning - Clark Bill
Comprehensive Planning - States - Gen.
Comprehensive Planning - States - California
Comprehensive Planning - States - Florida
Comprehensive Planning - States - Maryland
Comprehensive Planning - States - New Jersey
Comprehensive Planning - States - New York
Comprehensive Planning - States - Oregon
Comprehensive Planning - States - Tennessee
Comprehensive Planning - States - Urban/Metropolitan-Fort Worth
Comprehensive Planning - States - Urban/Metropolitan - Washington, D.C. 1959
Comprehensive Planning - States - Urban/Metropolitan - Washington, D.C. 1960
Comprehensive Planning - States - Urban/Metropolitan (General)
Comprehensive/Coordination Organization (Public Work Planning)
Congressional Directory - 85th Congress, 1st Session, March 1957
701...1959 Congressional Testimony
Connecticut
Connecticut Region I
Construction - Schools
Contra-Cyclical Debt Policy

Contract - Lindeman, Bertram H. (Contract No. WH-D-7) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Mitchell, Robert B. (Contract No. WH-D-8) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - National Planning Association (Contract No. WH-D-1) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Pennsylvania, University of (Contract No. WH-D-3) #1 [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Pennsylvania, University of (Contract No. WH-D-3) #2 [Public Works Planning]

21 Contract - Princeton University (Contact No. WH-D-4) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Public Administration Service #1 (Contract No. WH-D-2) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Public Administration Service #2 (Contract No. WH-D-2) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Stanford Research Institute (Contract No. WH-D-5) [Public Works Planning]

Contract - Stanford Research Institute (Contract No. WH-D-6) [Public Works Planning]

Conference - Cooperative Housing

Conference - Flood Plain Regulation and Insurance

Construction Costs

Construction (Military) and Housing (Military)

Coordinator, Office of (PWPU)

22 Construction (Private Non-Residential) 1953-1954

Construction Program Progress
Construction and Repair on Rivers and Bridges

Construction in the United States

Consulting Engineers

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning 1959-1960

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning 1957

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning 1956

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning 1955

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning #1

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning #2

Co-Ordinator of Public Works Planning Water Resources Duties

23 Coordinated Urban Planning - Highways 1 1/2%

Correspondence (General)

Correspondence (General) - 1960

Correspondence (General) - 1959

Correspondence Log - 1959

Correspondence Log - 1958

Correspondence Log - 1957

Correspondence Log - 1956

Correspondence Log - 1954-55

Cost-Sharing - Water

Cougar Dam - Reservoir, Eugene, Oregon

Council [of Economic Advisors] Memoranda to

Council of Economic Advisors - Anti Recession Signals
Council of Economic Advisers (Highways)
Council of Economic Advisers - Report to President (1954)
Council of Economic Advisers - Staff Meetings
Council of Economic Advisers - Task Forces
Curwensville Dam
“C” Miscellaneous

24 Data (Availability of) James F. Day, John (Project) - Columbia River
Dearing, Albin, Proposal [Water Pollution Control]
Defense, Department of (General)
Depressed Areas, Redevelopment of
Drought - Consultants Comments on
Drought - Draft of “Drought Report”
Drought - 1960
Drought - April 1 - Dec. 30, 1959
Drought - Jan. 1 - Mar. 30, 1959

Drought - Aug. And Sept. 1958
Drought - July 1956
Drought - Jan.-June 1958

26 Drought - 1957 #1
Drought - 1957 #2
Drought - 1957 #3
Drought - 1957 #4

Economic Growth, Obstacles to #1
Economic Growth, Obstacles to #2
Economic Growth, Obstacles to #3
Economic Growth, Obstacles to #4
Economic Report - 1956 #1
Economic Report - 1956 #2
Economic Report - 1955

Economic Report - 1955 - Hearings
Economic Report (Mid-Year 1954)
Economic Report of the President - 1959
Economic Report of the President - 1958
Economic Report of the President - 1957
Education [Federal Aid to]
Education
Engineers, Corps of (Civil)
Executive Office Building [New, Proposed]
Expenditures for Civil Works - BOB Tables

Facilities Survey - Education
Fact Sheet - Public Works
Falcom Dam [Irrigation Repayment]

Feasible Toll Road Mileage and Construction Cost

Federal Aid Data

Federal Aviation Agency [Military Men in Positions of Importance]

Federal Buildings Construction Program

Federal Civil Defense Administration [Shelters]

Federal Construction Programs and Appropriations #1

Federal Construction Programs and Appropriations #2

Federal Office Space

Federal Power Commission [Misc.]

30

Federal Public Works - Montana

Federal Reserve Bank

Federal Reserve Banks

Federal Section - Memoranda to

Final Report - Henry J. Kaltenbach

Finances for Public Works - Summary of City and State

Financing - [Highways]

Financing - Federal Highway System

Fiscal Capacity

Fleming Letter - May 31, 1949 - Public Works

Flood Disasters

Flood Insurance (Joint Fed-State Action Committee)]
Foreign Visitors to Public Works Planning Unit

Foundations [Interest in Public Works]

Fringe Parking - Parking Facilities

31  Garrison Diversion Unit [Cost - Benefit Feasibility]
    General Correspondence - 1958 #1
    General Correspondence - 1958 #2
    General Correspondence - 1958 #3
    General Correspondence - 1957 #1

32  General Correspondence - 1957 #2
    General Correspondence - 1957 #3
    General Correspondence - 1956
    General Correspondence - 1955
    General Correspondence - 1954

33  General (Land Acquisition and Right-of-Way)
    General (Public Works Planning)
    General Location of National System of Interstate Highways
    General Services Administration [Public Buildings Needs & Construction]
    General #1
    General #2
    General #3
    Geological Survey
    Georgia
Glossary of Selected Terms

34  Governors’ Conference - 1957 #1
    Governors’ Conference - 1957 #2
    Governors’ Conference - 1956
    Governors’ Conference - 1954

    Grants for Planning
    Grants-in-Aid 1959
    Grants-in-Aid 1958
    Grants-in-Aid 1957
    Grants-in-Aid 1956

35  Great Lakes Diversion [Into Illinois Waterway at Chicago]

    Gross National Product
    Hartwell Project [Savannah River, Georgia & South Carolina, justification for]
    Hauge, Gabriel, Memoranda to
    Health, Education and Welfare - General
    Health, Education and Welfare - Highways

    Heart River Irrigation Project

    Heer, Dr. Clarence (Article) [State and Local Finances]

    Hell’s Canyon [Feasibility of]

    Hines, Lawrence G., Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire [“Fiscal Flexibility of Federal Public Works Expenditures”]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Highways - Jan. 1 - July 1, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1957 (July through December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1957 (January through June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Highways - 1955 (September through December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1955 (April through August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1955 (January through December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1954 (April through August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - 1954 (January through March)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways Development - Subcommittee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - Legislative History Interstate System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - Legislative Intent - Urban Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways (New) Conference on - Hartford, Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways – President’s Advisory Committee - 10 year report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highway Research Board #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highway Research Board #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highways - Review of Section 210, Highway Act of 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highways - Self-liquidating

39
Highway Review Program (General) October-December 1960
Highway Review Program (General) August-September 1960
Highway Review Program (General) May-July 1960
Highway Review Program (General) April 1960 #1
Highway Review Program (General) April 1960 #2
Highway Review Program (General) Mar. 16 - Mar. 31, 1960
Highway Review Program (General) Mar. 1 - Mar. 15, 1960
Highway Review Program (General) Feb. 16 - Feb. 28, 1960
Highway Review Program (General) Feb. 1 - Feb. 15, 1960
Highway Review Program (General) Jan. 16 - Jan. 31, 1960
Highway Review Program (General) Jan. 1 - Jan. 15, 1960

40
Highway Review Program (General) Dec. 16 - Dec. 30, 1959
Highway Review Program (General) Dec. 1 - Dec. 15, 1959
Highway Review Program (General) Nov. 16 - Nov. 30, 1959
Highway Review Program (General) Nov. 1 - Nov. 15, 1959
Highway Review Program (General) Oct. 16 - Oct. 30, 1959
Highway Review Program (General) Oct. 1 - Oct. 15, 195

41
Highway Review Program (General) September 1959
Highway Review Program (General) August 1959
Highway Review Program (General) July 2 - July 31, 1959
Highway Review Program - Comments re Interstate System (Welch)

Highway Review Program - Directive of the President

Highway Review Program - Interim Report

Highway Review Program Objectives of Federal Aid Highway System

Highway Review Program - Presentation to Cabinet

Highways - State Plans (Georgia)

Highways - State Plans (Illinois)

Highways - State Plans (Indiana)

Highways - State Plans (Massachusetts)

Highways - State Plans (New Jersey)

Highways - State Plans (New York)

Highways - State Plans (Ohio)

Highways - State Plans (Pennsylvania)

Highways - State Plans (General)

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - 1960

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - July-Dec. 1959

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - January-June 1959 #1

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - January-June 1959 #2

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - 1958
Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 701 Housing Act - Urban Planning - 1955-1956

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Sec. 702 Housing Act - Urban Planning - 1954-1955

Housing and Home Finance Agency - Urban Renewal Administration 1958-1960

Housing and Home Finance Agency Planning Advances #1

Housing and Home Finance Agency Planning Advances #2

Housing and Home Finance Agency Planning Advances #3

Immigration Naturalization Service - New York [negotiations for new building]

Industries, Analysis of

Illinois Region IV

Information on Water Pollution Programs

Intent of Congress - Memo of Law (Relating to the Objectives of the Interstate System)

Interdepartmental Committees, Served by CEA Staff

Intergovernmental Relations (1)

Intergovernmental Relations (2)

Interim Report - Henry J. Kaltenbach (Interstate Highway System)

Interior, Department of

Interior, Department of (Bureau of Reclamation)

Interior, Department of (Water and Power Activities)

International Cooperation Administration [Water Resources Programs and Projects]

Interstate Highway System [Early Proposals]
46 Inquiries: Congressional
Inquiries: General
Inquiries: Highways - (General)
Inquiries: Highways - (California)
Inquiries: Highways - (Florida)
Inquiries: Highways - (Georgia)
Inquiries: Highways - (Illinois)
Inquiries: Highways - (Maryland)
Inquiries: Highways - (Massachusetts)
Inquiries: Highways - (Michigan)
Inquiries: Highways - (Nebraska)
Inquiries: Highways - (Nevada) #1
Inquiries: Highways - (Nevada) #2

47 Inquiries: Highways - (New Jersey)
Inquiries: Highways - (New York)
Inquiries: Highways - (Hearings on Lower Manhattan Expressway, New York)
Inquiries: Highways - (Ohio)
Inquiries: Highways - (Pennsylvania)
Inquiries: Highways - (General)

48 Inventory - 1961 - Federal Public Works
Inventory - 1960 - Federal Public Works
Inventory - 1959 (Analysis of)
Inventory - 1958
Inventory - 1958 - Federal Public Works
Inventory - 1958 (Captain Risteen)

49
Inventory - 1957 - Federal Public Works
Inventory - 1956-1957 (Captain Risteen)
Joint Action Committee - Meeting Folder
Joint Economic Committee
Joint Federal-State Action Committee (1)

50
Joint Federal-State Action Committee (2)(3)
Joint Federal-State Action Committee Agenda and Staff Report
Joint Federal-State Action Committee Meeting 5/18-19/59
Joint Federal-State Action Committee Chicago Meeting 10/26/59
Joint Federal-State Action Committee Meeting 10/26/59
Joint Federal-State Action Committee Chicago Meeting 10/26/59 - Extra copies

51
“Jupiter” [Acceleration of Federal Public Works Programs, 1956]
Justice, Department of [Relocation of New FBI Building]
Justification for Planning
Henry J. Kaltenbach - Personal
Kentucky (1)(2)
Kings River, Pine Flat Project
Kinzua (Allegheny) Dam Project #1
Kinzua (Allegheny) Dam Project #2
Kinzua (Allegheny) Dam Project #3

52  Labor, Department of - Area Labor Market Trends
    Land Acquisition [for Wildlife Preservation]
    Land Acquisition [Public Works]
    Land Grant Colleges and Universities, Association of
    League of Women Voters of the United States
    Lease - Purchase [of Federal Offices]
    Lease - Purchase - Public Works
    Legislation (Comments on Bills) Jan.-July 1958
    Legislation (Comments on Bills) 1957
    Legislation (Comments on Bills) 1956

53  Legislation (Comments on Bills) 1954-1955
    Legislation (Memos on Bills, etc.) 1960 #1
    Legislation (Memos on Bills, etc.) 1960 #2
    Legislation (Memos on Bills, etc.) 1959 #1
    Legislation (Memos on Bills, etc.) 1959 #2
    Legislation (Memos on Bills, etc.) 1959 (General)

54  Legislation
    Legislative Action - 1955
    Legislative Actions Affecting Economic Growth and Stabilization
Legislation Having Significant Economic Implication - 1956

Legislative Notes - 1959

Legislative Program - 85th Congress

Legislation, Reports & Bills (Urban Renewal Planning) (1)(2)

Legislation - Reports on Hearings

Legislation (Rivers and Harbors Act - PL 86-645) 1960

Legislation (Rivers and Harbor Act S. 497)

Legislation (Rivers and harbor Bill HR 12080)

Legislation (Stand-By) for Administration of Public Works

Libby Dam

55 Maine

Maritime Administration [shipbuilding capacity in U.S.]

Maryland

Maryland Region II

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Region I

Mayors, United States Conference on

McGee Bend Dam

Meek, Colonel - Memoranda for

Memoranda for H.J. Kaltenbach

Memoranda from Staff (Highways)

Methodology, Planning (Revised) S-L
56 Metropolitan Area Data
Metropolitan Area Survey 1952-54
Metropolitan Areas (Summary of Planning - Mr. Pinel)
Metropolitan Areas - Washington, D.C.
Metro Government
Metro Survey - Plans and Corres.

57 Metropolitan Surveys - Working Papers #1
Metropolitan Surveys - Working Papers #2 (1)(2)
Mica Creek Project
Michigan (1)(2)
Military-Industrial Conference [Feb. 10-11, 1955, Chicago]

58 Minnesota
Miscellaneous (Public Roads & Highways)
Mississippi river commission [membership lists]
Monograph - “Public Works Planning”
Moses-Tallamy Plan [Continental Highway Plan]
National Academy of Sciences [Coordination of Planning Meeting, March 20, 1957]
National Association of County Officials [miscellaneous]

59 National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Housing and Re-Development Officials
National Association of State Budget Officers
National Capital Transportation Agency
National Community Conference (Notes for Hauge)
National Conference on Metropolitan Problems (1)(2)
National Defense Highway System
National Highway Program, Message on
National Highway System, Interagency Committee on
National Highway (Suggested Procedures)
National Highway System - Plan “D”
National Highway System - Plan “D” Revised
National Highway Users Conference
National Industrial Conference Board
National Municipal League

60 National Parks
National Park Service
National Planning Association
National Reclamation Association
National Resources Development Association
National River and Harbor Congress
National Science Foundation (1)(2)
National Society of Professional Engineers
National Water Conservation Conference
National Watershed Congress - Lincoln, Nebraska
Navy Tanker Construction Program

Needs, Collection of Public Works

Need for Planning

61

Needs for Public Works (PWPU)

Needs (Questionnaire Data) Urban Renewal

Nevada

New England Flood Disaster - 1955

New Jersey

New Jersey Region I

New York

Newspaper Clippings

Niagara River - Redevelopment for Power

Norman Project (Oklahoma)

Objectives - Highways

Office Survey (AEC)

Office Survey (CAA)

Office Survey (CIA)

Office Survey (Civil Service Commission)

Office Survey (Coast and Geodetic Survey)

Office Survey (Commerce)

Office Survey (Construction Costs)

Office Survey (Defense)

Office Survey (E.O.B.)
Office Survey (General)
Office Survey (Geological)
Office Survey (Interior)
Office Survey (Justice)
Office Survey (Moving Costs)
Office Survey (National Bureau of Standards)
Office Survey (O.D.M.)
Office Survey (S.W. Dev. Area)
Office Survey (State)
Office Survey (Tempos) [razing of]
Office Survey (Treasury)
Office Survey (Veterans) [razing of]
Office Survey (Weather Bureau) [razing of]
Office Survey (Semi-Annual Report) [razing of]
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pacific Coast Lumber Strike - June 1964
Pacific Northwest Development
Pamphlet - Public Works
Panama Canal [replacement of]
Partnership Policy [Federal Govt. & Private Sector Development of Power]
Pennsylvania
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 63      | Planning (Long-Rang) 1957 #1  
Planning (Long-Range) 1957 #2  
Planning (Long-Range) 1955-56 #3  
Planning Technician’s Conference  
Post Office Department [construction of new Post Offices]  
Potential [finance]  
Power [CEA studies]  
Proctor Dam [Texas] |
| 64      | 701...1959 Proposed Revisions thru September - Urban Planning  
Public Debt, Federal, State and Local  
Public Health Service [construction of facilities]  
Public Housing  
Public Works [CEA studies]  
Public Works Acceleration - 1954  
Public Works and Appropriations (Military)  
Public Works Appropriations Bill - 1960 |
Public Works Aspects

Public Works Expenditures

Public Works Expenditures Forecast for 1954 and 1955

Public Works Functions and Supporting Agencies

Public Works (General)

Public Works (Municipalities)

65  Public Works (Needs)

Public Works - Pamphlet - Distribution Records #1

Public Works - Pamphlet - Distribution Records #2

Public Works Planning - 1961 (Editing, Coding and Punching)

Public Works Planning - Administrative Memoranda

Public Works Planning - Federal-State-Local Funds

Public Works Publication - Planning for Public Works


Public Works Reserve, FWA (1941-1942)

Public Works Role in the Economy

Public Works Stabilization Plans - 1960

66  Public Works - State-Local - 1957 #1

Public Works - State-Local - 1957 #2

Public Works - State-Local - 1957 #3

Public Works - State-Local - 1957 #4

Public Works - State-Local - 1956
Public Works - State-Local - Through 1955

Puerto Rico

67  Reconstruction Finance Corporation [Liquidation Act]
Recreation [Water Resources Recreation Act]
Report for the President (Current Status Federal Public Works)
Reports (X-Copies) Field Study Reports (1)(2)
Reports (Weekly) Public Works Planning - Through June 1960
Reports (Weekly) Public Works Planning - 1959
Reports (Weekly) Public Works Planning - 1958
Reports (Weekly) Public Works Planning 1956 and 1957

68  Research Problems - General
Research Problem - Gulick
Research Problem - Sweeney
Research Section - Memoranda to
Resources for the Future, Inc. [Misc.]
Rhode Island Region I
Right-of-ways
Rights of Ways and Sites - Acquisition of
Rocky Beach Dam [Washington (State)]
Rural Electrification Administration [estimated construction]
St. Lawrence Seaway - 1959-60
St. Lawrence Seaway - 1955-1956-1957
St. Lawrence Seaway - 1954

St. Lawrence Seaway

Salt Creek and Tributaries [Nebraska]

San Luis Project [California]

Schools...Financing, Needs, etc.

Senate Resolution 281 [land and water resources]

Sequences in Long Range Planning

“The Changing Market for State and Local Bonds” by Harry L. Severson

Shared Tax Proposal

Shipbuilding

Situational Studies - New England/Cleveland

Skagit River [impasse with Canadians]

Small Business Construction

Southern Pacific - Request for Accelerated Amortization

Stabilization Acceleration - Intermediate Public Works (Drafts 1 thru 6)

Stabilization Plans - 1956

Stabilization Plans - 1957 #1

Stabilization Plans - 1957 #2

Stabilization Plans - 1957 #3

Stabilization Planning, Standing Committee #1

Stabilization Planning, Standing Committee #2

Stands, Bureau of
Stanford Research Institute [contract on Public Works Planning]

State, Department of [New Buildings and Public Works Planning in Foreign Countries]

State Governments, Council of

State and Local Finance

State and Local Fiscal Material

State-Local Governments Planning, Extent of

State-Local Planning for 1955 (481 City Survey)

State-Local Section - Memoranda to

State-Local Section PWPU

State-Local Survey - 1956 #1

State-Local Survey - 1956 #2

State-Local Survey - Public Works (Census)

Statement - Roger Freeman [Public Works Construction]

State Planning and Development Agencies, Association of - 1960

State Planning and Development Agencies, Association of - 1955-1959

State Planning S-L

State Planning Legislation S-L

State of the Union Message - 1959

State of the Union Message - 1958

State of the Union Message - 1957

State of the Union Message - 1956

State of the Union Message - 1955
State Tax Collections

73 Statistics (Government) - Analysis of
702...Status Reports HHFA
Steel Shortage #1
Steel Shortage #2
“Strabit” [German developed pavement for highways]
Survey, Planning Status - State-Local - Public Works
Survey, State-Local Construction Plans, Charts

74 Speech - American Institute of Architects (June 17, 1958, Los Angeles, California)
Speech - American Institute of Planners (July 17, 1959, Seattle, Washington)
Speech - American Municipal Congress (Nov. 26, 1959, St. Louis, Missouri)
Speech - American Public Works Association (Sept. 26, 1956, Ft. Worth, Texas)
Speech - American Public Works Association (Western Area Conference) (June 18, 1958, San Diego, California)
Speech - American Road Builders Association (January 30, 1957, Chicago, Illinois)
Speech - American Road Builders Association (January 30, 1957, Chicago, Illinois)
Speech - American Society of Civil Engineers (Nov. 13, 1956, Washington, D.C.)
Speech - American Society for Public Administration (May 7, 1957, Pittsburgh, Pa.)

75 Speech - Architect-Engineer Institute
Speech - Arizona Society of Professional Engineers (Nov. 14, 1958, Phoenix, Arizona) (1)(2)

Speech - Association of State Planning and Development Agencies (May 13, 1958, Des Moines, Iowa)

Speech - Associated General Contractors of America (Mar. 13, 1957, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - Association of State Planning and Development Agencies (Panel Discussion, Sept. 1959, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Speech - Association of Western State Engineers (Aug. 21, 1959, Santa Fe, New Mexico)


Speech - Columbia Basin-Inter-Agency Committee (June 12, 1959, Timberline Lodge, Oregon)

Speech - Committee on Public Works (Mar. 12, 1957, Washington, D.C.)


Speech - Conference on Public Works (Jan. 17, 1955; New York City)

Speech - Engineers Society of Pennsylvania

Speeches - General 1960

Speeches - General 1959

Speeches - General 1959

Speeches - General 1957-1958 (1)(2)

Speeches - General 1955-1956 (1)-(4)

Speech - Housing and Home Finance Agency (Feb. 8, 1960, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - Interstate Commission on Delaware River (Oct. 3, 1958, Atlantic City)
Speech - Interstate Commission on Delaware River (Oct. 3, 1958, Atlantic City)

Speech - Investment Bankers Association (Nov. 26, 1956, Miami, Florida)

Speech - Investment Bankers Association (Nov. 26, 1956, Miami, Florida)

Speech - Lafayette College (Apr. 16, 1959, Easton, Pa.)

Speech - League of California Cities (Oct. 29, 1958, Los Angeles, California)

Speech - Lincoln Day (Feb. 12, 1958, New Brighton, Pennsylvania)

Speech - Missouri Basin Research and Development Council (Oct. 11, 1957, Vermillion, South Dakota)

Speech - National Association of State Budget Officers (Aug. 13, 1958, San Francisco)

Speech - National Citizens Planning Conference (Feb. 6, 1956, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - National Citizens Planning Conference (Feb. 6, 1956, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - National Conference of State Taxpayer Executives (Feb. 15, 1956, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - National Housing Council (Dec. 2, 1959, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - National Resources Development Association (Sept. 20, 1956, Chicago, Illinois)

Speech - National Rivers and Harbors Congress (May 14, 1958, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - National Rivers and Harbors Congress (May 11, 1956, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - New England Public Works Planning Conference (Sept. 10, 1958, Boston, Massachusetts)

Speech - New Mexico City Managers’ Association (Apr. 12, 1957, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Speech - New Mexico Governors’ Conference (Sept. 3-4, 1959, Santa Fe, New Mexico)
Speech - North Central Public Works Planning Conference (Dec. 4, 1956, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Speech - Northern Virginia Society of Professional Engineers (Feb. 26, 1960, Arlington, Virginia)

Speech - Pennsylvania Municipal Finance Officers (Oct. 17, 1958, University Park, Pennsylvania)

Speech - “Road Gang” Luncheon (Feb. 28, 1957, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - Rocky Mountain Conference


Speech - Southern Governors’ Conference (Sept. 25, 1957, Sea Island, Georgia)

Speech - Urban County Congress (NACO) (Feb. 8, 1957, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - Virginia Society of Professional Engineers (Feb. 25, 1958, Norfolk, Virginia)

Speech - Water and Sewage Industry Conference (June 29, 1954, Washington, D.C.)

Speech - Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (Jan. 25, 1957, Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Speeches - Talks (General Bragdon) #1

Speeches - Talks (General Bragdon) #2

Speech - By Sherman Adam (Dec. 2, 1953, Public Works)

Speech - By Arthur Burns (May 21, 1956, Boston, Massachusetts) [inflation]


Speech - By B.F. Fairless, U.S. Steel Corporation [public works]

Speech - Nixon Notes - Conference of Governors
Speeches - General

81  Task Force No. 1 - Report on Planning

Task Force No. 5 - Agenda - Public Works - 1954

Task Force No. 5 - Minutes - Public Works - 1954

Task Force No. 5 - (General) #1 - 1954

Task Force No. 5 - (General) #2 - 1954

Task Force No. 5 - Public Works - 1953

Task Force - State & Local Govt.

Taxation

Tax Credit Proposal

Taxes

82  Telephone Conversations - General Bragdon

Tempo Building (Razing of)

Tennessee (1)(2)

Tennessee Valley Authority - 1958-1960

Tennessee Valley Authority (1)(2)

Toll Roads - Work Sheets

83  Toronto Plan, The

Transmittal Letter to the President [the first interim report on the Interstate System]

Transportation [National Highway System]

Transportation - Air
Transportation - General

Transportation - Highways, Urban

Transportation - Rail

Transportation - Water

Transportation - S-L Advisory Committee

Treasury, Department of

Treasury, Department of (Highways)

Trinity River Watershed

Turnpike Data BAR Data

Unemployment - 1960

Unemployment - 1959

Unemployment - May 1 - Dec. 30, 1958

84 Unemployment - April 1958

Unemployment - Jan. 1 - Mar. 31, 1958

Unemployment - (No date)

Urban Renewal

Urban Renewal (General)

Urban Renewal Administration - Project Directories HHFA (1)

Urban Renewal Administration - (2)

Urban Renewal Administration - (3)

85 Urban Renewal - ...PWPU Data

Urban Renewal - Speeches, printed matter
Utilities
Veterans Administration
Virginia
Virginia Region II
Volt, Vers, Seaman and Associates
Wallisville Reservoir [Texas]
Washita River Project (4 year period)
Washoe Project [Nevada and California]
Water
Water Conservation (Misc.)
Water Facilities Inventory
Water - General (1959-1960)

86 Water - General (Apr. 1957 - Dec. 1958)
Water - General (Oct. 1955 - Feb. 1957)
Water and Sewage (1)(2)
Water Pollution Control - General
Water Pollution Control (Legislation)

87 Water Pollution Control - Tijuana, Mexico
Water Pollution Control - Virginia
Water Resources - Growth Needs
Water Resources and the Law, Conference on
Water Resources - Laws Pertaining to
Water Resources - Policy up to June 30, 1955 #1
Water Resources - Policy up to June 30, 1955 #2

88 Water Resources Policy Up to June 30, 1955 #3
Water Resources Policy Up to June 30, 1955 #4
Water Resources of the Columbia River Basin
Water Resources of the Columbia River Basin
Water Resources in Kansas (1)(2)
Watershed (Needs)
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention - 1960

89 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention - 1959
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention - 1958
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention - 1957 #1
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention - 1957 #2
Water Rights Study - 1959-1960
Water Rights Study - 1958
Water Rights Study - 1956

90 Water Rights Study - Cabinet Presentation
Water and Sewage Utilities
Water and Sewage Works Mfg. Assoc., Inc.
Water Survey Map
Weather Bureau
Weekly Summary - Mr. H.J. Kaltenbach

White House Conferences, Memoranda of

White House - Highway Progress Reports to the President

White House Meetings - Reports

White House - Public Works Planning Unit Reports to the President

Wood, Robert C. (Paper on Urban Affairs)

World Construction Program

Work Sheets - Mr. H.J. Kaltenbach
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       | Atomic Energy Commission [1957-58] [AEC biomedical research; Operation PLUMBBOB]  
Central Intelligence Agency [1960] [scientific information report]  
Department of Defense [1958] [fallout shelters]  
Department of Defense Letter Dated Nov. 22, 1954 [1954-56] [relocation planning; continuity of essential operations]  
Effectiveness of Civil Defense Actions (1)(2) [1956-57] [protecting urban populations; national shelter program]  
Federal Civil Defense Memos (1)-(3) [1957-58] [fallout shelters] |
| 2       | Federal Civil Defense Reports (1)(2) [1956-58] [National Civil Defense Plan; target vulnerability; Civil Defense Legislative Program]  
General (Civil Defense) [1957-58] [shelter construction]  
Inter-Office Memos (1)-(3) [1957-59] [shelters; Rand Corp. Report on non-military defense; 1957 FCDA report “Survival In Public Shelters”: Commerce report on “Highway Needs for Civil Defense”]  
NORAD - Combat Operation Center [1958-59] [“IBM/PANERO Briefing – Hardened NORAD COC”]  
Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization [1958] [shelters]  
Office of Defense Mobilization (1)(2) [1954-58] [human effects; shelter in metropolitan areas; Security Resources Panel report on “Passive Defense”; relocation of essential functions]  
Office of Defense Mobilization- General [1953-55] [dispersal of industrial facilities; construction programs] |
| 3       | Office of Defense Mobilization Plan C [195-57] |
Quarters for Federal Agencies in Washington, D.C. [1955] [permanent government facilities]

White House Relocation Site [1959]

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS SUBSERIES

Public Works Needs - Austria [1959]

Public Works Needs - Brazil [1959]

Public Works Needs - Bulgaria [1959]

Public Works Needs - Chile [1959]

Public Works Needs - Colombia [1959]

Public Works Needs - Czechoslovakia [1959]

Public Works Needs - Denmark [1959]

Public Works Needs - Russia [1957-1958]

Public Works Needs - Sweden [1957]

Public Works Needs - United Kingdom [1959]

Schedule of Stabilization Matters [1954] [status of public works programs]

Status of National Highway Program [1954]

END OF CONTAINER LIST