The papers of Clarence Francis were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Francis in December 1976.

- Linear feet of Shelf space occupied: 4.5
- Approximate number of pages: 8,800
- Approximate number of items: 4,000

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mr. Francis in May 1977. Literary property rights are retained by the donor until his death. At that time such rights pass to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of Mr. Francis.

2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with Mr. Francis.

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

4. Papers containing statements made by or to Clarence Francis in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for 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.
Clarence Francis, business executive and internationally recognized expert on food, was born in New York in 1888. Upon graduating from Amherst College in 1910 he went to New York City intending to apply for work at the Standard Oil Corporation. By mistake, Francis went to the wrong office and soon found himself working for the Corn Products Refining Company, a small food manufacturing firm. This inauspicious beginning led to a life-long interest in the food industry. By the time Francis retired from the General Foods Corporation in 1954 he had risen to become Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In addition to his work in the food industry, Francis also served as a government consultant. By 1933 he was recognized as an expert on food production and distribution. When the National Recovery Administration, one of President Roosevelt’s New Deal agencies, was created to establish codes to regulate business operations, Francis was hired as a consultant to help draft codes for the food industry. The successful conclusion of this task led to further demands for his services. Between 1940 and 1943 he assisted in defense mobilization; from 1943 to 1945 he led a committee which studied the food services at several naval bases in the United States; he studied manpower training and utilization in the Defense Department, 1951-52; and he evaluated the Mutual Security Program in 1953.

Francis’ consultant work required taking extended leaves from his work at the General Foods Corporation. After his retirement in 1954 he was able to devote most of his time to government service. He became a special consultant to President Eisenhower with the responsibility of disposing of the vast agricultural surpluses which the federal government had accumulated. At the same time he served as chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, and was the American representative on the European Productivity Agency.

At the end of the Eisenhower administration Francis left government services and returned to private business. His last major activity was with the Economic Development Council of New York City, from which he retired in 1972 at the age of eighty-three.

The Papers of Clarence Francis cover the period from 1933 to 1973 and are arranged into three basic series. Despite his many years in service in the food industry, the papers contain practically no information on the business activities of Mr. Francis. However, his consultant work for the government and various quasi-governmental groups is well documented. Most of this documentation is contained in the first, and largest, series of the collection, the Governmental Service Series.

Each major organization for which Francis worked is represented in the Governmental Service Series, although the amount of documentation varies from agency to agency. The most detailed information on his work concerns his activities as chairman of the committee to study the navy food service and as chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report. The information about his work on the disposal of the agricultural surplus is fragmentary. For more detailed information on this phase of Francis’ activities the researcher should consult the White House.
records of Clarence Francis and also the papers and records of his assistant James Lambie, all of which are in the Eisenhower Library.

The second series in the collection is the General Series. This series contains a large collection of his speeches, as well as information on his membership in professional associations and awards which were presented to him. There is some autobiographical data compiled by Francis, including a set of memos in which he described his recollections of prominent persons and events. The “Recollections” folder is elaborately described on the attached container list.

Further information of this nature is contained in Francis’ oral history transcripts. Francis was interviewed twice, once concerning Herbert Hoover and once concerning Dwight D. Eisenhower. Several copies of the interview transcripts were found in Francis’ papers. These have been transferred to the oral history collection of the Eisenhower Library where they are available to researcher, subject to restrictions imposed by Mr. Francis.

The General Series also contains information on Francis’ participation in the work of various public service groups, as well as additional documentation on his government service.

Francis worked with these particular groups on a part-time basis and there is relatively little documentation. Of particular interest, however, is the folder on the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which mentions Francis’ fund raising work and details his efforts to have President Eisenhower attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

Francis also served on the committee which supervised the U.S. exhibition in Moscow in 1959. He traveled to Moscow to visit the exhibit and was present at the famous “kitchen debate” between Vice President Nixon and Premier Khrushchev. Francis wrote a lengthy account of his trip which is located along with other material, in the “Trip to Russia” folders.

The third series in the collection is the Correspondence Series. Although Francis corresponded with a large number of people, the series pertains primarily to only two persons, Herbert Hoover and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Hoover and Francis had first met in the 1920s when Hoover was Secretary of Commerce. However, this series contains almost no information on any relationship they might have had prior to 1954 when Francis became chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report. In this capacity he had to work closely with Mr. Hoover and the two men quickly developed a close friendship which continued until Hoover’s death in 1964. The Hoover correspondence and the material on the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report overlap in time and supplement each other to a considerable extent.

Francis was not as close to Dwight D. Eisenhower as he was to Hoover. He had not known Eisenhower well prior to being appointed a special consultant, so the two men maintained a formal relationship. As with the Hoover correspondence, the Eisenhower correspondence overlaps and complements the file on Francis’s activities as special consultant.
An interesting aspect of Francis’ papers was his practice of preparing memos after major events. After many of his meetings with Eisenhower and Hoover, Francis would write memos detailing the topics discussed, opinions held by the people present, and any other items of interest concerning the conversation. These memos are scattered through the correspondence files and contain information on the opinions and philosophies of both Hoover and Eisenhower.

In addition to the textual material, this collection contained several books and photographs. The books, including a copy of the White House Staff Book and a published text of one of Francis’ speeches, have been transferred to the Eisenhower Library book collection. The photographs have been turned over to the audiovisual collection.
Dec. 1, 1888  Born Staten Island, New York

1910  Graduated from Amherst College

May 5, 1914  Married Grace Abbott Berry

1910-1919  Worked for Corn Products Refining Company

1919-1924  National Sales Manager, Ralston Purina Company

1924-1927  Director and Vice President, Post Products

1927-1929  President, Post Products

1929-1931  Vice President in charge of Sales, General Foods Corporation

1931-35  Executive Vice President, General Foods Corporation

1935-1943  President, General Foods Corporation

1943-1954  Chairman of the Board of Directors, General Foods Corporation

1960-1963  Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Studebaker Corporation

1964-1965  Chairman, Lillard Syndications, Incorporated
1933-1934  Advisor, National Recovery Administration
1940  Member, Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense
1941-1943  Member, Defense Plant Corporation
1943-1946  Chairman, Navy Food Inspection Committee
1951-1952  Chairman, Citizens Committee for Defense Department
1952  Member, Citizens Advisory Commission on Manpower Utilization
1953  Chairman, Mutual Security Evaluation Project
1954-1960  U.S. Representative to European Productivity Agency
1954-1958  Chairman, Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report
1954-1960  Special Consultant to President Eisenhower on disposal of agricultural surpluses
1965-1971  Member, Economic Development Council of New York City
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box Nos.     Series


     Correspondence, memos, reports and orders pertaining to the service of Clarence Francis on major government advisory commissions and as a special consultant to President Eisenhower. The material is arranged by the organization with which Francis served, in chronological order.

5-9     II. GENERAL SERIES. 1933-1972. 4 containers

     Correspondence, memos, reports and printed material pertaining to various activities of Clarence Francis. The material is arranged alphabetically by subject.


     Correspondence and memos between Clarence Francis and his friends and colleagues. The material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent.
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Navy Food Inspection, Notes of Inspection Tour, May 6-18, 1945
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Navy Food Inspection, Supplementary Report
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, History Feb. - Nov. 1951 (1)(2)
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, West Coast Tour March 1951
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, Feb. - Apr. 1951
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, May - July 1951
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, October 1951
Citizens Committee for Defense Department, Nov. 1951 - Feb. 1952
Citizens Advisory Committee on Manpower Utilization, Background Information June - Oct. 1952
Citizens Advisory Committee on Manpower Utilization Nov. - Dec. 1952

3 Mutual Security Evaluation Project Jan. 1953
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Feb. 1953
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Mar. 1953
Mutual Security Evaluation Project April - May 1953
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Personnel
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Security
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Final Report (draft)
Mutual Security Evaluation Project Final Report March 24, 1953

European Productivity Agency Jan. 1954
European Productivity Agency Feb. - Nov. 1954
European Productivity Agency 1955-56
European Productivity Agency 1957
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Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report 1953 - Apr. 1955
Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report May - July 1955
Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report 1956
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National Reorganization Conference Feb. 3-4, 1957 (1)(2)
Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report Apr. - May 1958
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5 Distribution of Agricultural Surpluses 1954
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Distribution of Agricultural Surpluses 8th Semi-annual Report 1958
New York City - Economic Development Council Feb. - May 1970
New York City - Economic Development Council June - Aug. 1970

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Advertising Council
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Awards - Advertising Council 1955 (1)(2)
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Biography
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Cornell University
Economic Cooperation Administration
Eisenhower Administration, Legislative Achievements of 1954
Eisenhower Library

Federal Reserve Bank
Food Service Consultant Committee [proposed committee to study food service in the armed forces, 1950]

Fund for Adult Education

Grocery Manufacturers of America
Grocery Manufacturers of America, Luncheon Nov. 10, 1953

Hoover Library

7 Industrial Advisory Committee Savings Bonds 1948

Institute of Nutrition Sciences

Invitations

Lincoln Center [President Eisenhower at ground breaking ceremony 1959

Mexican Industrial Productivity 1958

N.Y. Chamber of Commerce
N.Y. Convention and Visitors Bureau

N.Y. Herald-Tribune

N.Y. Stock Exchange

Oral History - Eisenhower (1)(2)

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Photographs [transferred to audiovisual collection]

Printed Material (1)(2) [articles by or about Francis]

Recollections [opinions of famous people, organizations and events including Dwight D. Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Sherman Adams, Franklin Roosevelt, General Knudsen, Jesse Jones, the FBI, Food for Peace program, visits to Greece and Turkey, Richard Nixon]

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Typewriter
United Nations
War Manpower Commission 1942
War Production Board, Report of the Chairman Oct. 9, 1945
Washington File (1)-(3) [correspondence and memos sent and received by Francis while in Washington, 1954-58: mostly social in nature: scattered data on government reorganization]

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Eisenhower, Dwight D. 1952

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Eisenhower, Dwight D. 1962

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