The papers of Oliver M. Gale, who served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from 1957 to 1960, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in 1971 and 2005 by Mr. Gale.

Linear feet shelf space occupied: 1.3
Approximate number of pages: 600

In October 2005 Mr. Gale executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Copyright in the unpublished writings of Oliver M. Gale in these papers and in other collections of papers deposited in the National Archives system is assigned to the Government of the United States.

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

1. Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of a living person.

2. Papers and other historical materials that are specifically authorized under criteria established by statute or executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such statute or executive order.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Oliver M. Gale Papers consist of a journal covering his service at the Pentagon from July 1957 to June 1960 and a memorandum he authored in 1971 describing his duties as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, the mechanics of the operation of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and McElroy’s influence and contributions. When McElroy, President of Proctor and Gamble, was appointed Secretary of Defense in 1957, he brought Gale, who was head of the public relations division at Proctor and Gamble, with him as his Special Assistant. Gale’s duties included preparation of statements, speeches, and background materials for the Secretary of Defense, press relations, White House liaison, contacts with Congressional leaders, and handling McElroy’s personal correspondence.

Gale’s “Washington Journal” provides interesting insights into many of the key national security/defense issues which faced the Eisenhower Administration in the late 1950s. His daily commentary provides clear, detailed descriptions of events and personalities surrounding the “missile gap” controversy, Defense Department reorganization, rivalry between the services for funds and programs, the political and policy effects of Sputnik, and complications involved in the budget process.

As McElroy’s assistant Gale was involved in many meetings, conferences, and hearings involving U.S. defense matters, and he had close contact with many prominent individuals in the Defense Department, Congress, the military, the White House, the press, and private industry. His journal contains many candid remarks concerning the contributions of various individuals to the process of establishing and supporting U.S. defense policies and programs. Some of the individuals mentioned in his journal are Senator Lyndon Johnson, Admiral Hyman Rickover, Senator Prescott Bush, Representative Carl Vinson, Nelson Rockefeller, Murray Snyder, Allen Dulles, Admiral Burke, Secretary of the Army Brucker, Don Quarles, General Twining, Thomas Gates, Admiral Radford, Joseph Alsop, Robert Merriam, and Carter Burgess.

The journal provides an insider’s view of the effect of news stories on a powerful agency. There are anecdotal accounts of misstatements by Defense Department officials, press leaks, erroneous news stories, and conflicting statements by different Defense officials. Besides describing numerous hearings, staff meetings, and trips by the Secretary of Defense, Gale also comments on social affairs and the wide variety of people he had the occasion to meet.

Gale’s journal and memorandum will serve as an excellent resource for historians researching defense policies, issues, and programs in the late 1950s, as well as providing insight into the varied personalities who were involved in the process. Researchers studying missile and space programs, the budget process, and relations the Department of Defense had with Congress, defense contractors, and the press will find some interesting comments on these subjects.

All of the materials have been opened for research except for two brief journal entries regarding nuclear matters. Twenty-three photographs have been transferred to the audiovisual department. The original copy of the journal is closed for preservation reasons. A preservation copy is available for research use.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

July 27, 1909  Born, Ventura, California

1927  Graduated from Choate School

1931  Graduated from Harvard, A.B. degree

August 29, 1931  Married Miriam Grosvenor (children, Deborah G. and William M.)

1931-1933  Teacher, Francis W. Parker School, Chicago, Illinois

1933-1935  Reporter and rewrite man, Boston Herald

1937  Earned an M.B.A. degree

1937-1949  Member of advertising department, Proctor and Gamble Co.

1949-1954  Associate manager, Public Relations Division, Proctor and Gamble Co.

1954-1957  Manager, Public Relations Division, Proctor and Gamble Co.

1957-1960  Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

June-November 1960  White House assignment with Republican National Committee to set up an “Answer Desk” unit

1961-1970s  Public Relations Consultant, Cincinnati, Ohio

1970s-  Retired, Cincinnati, Ohio
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Washington Journal, Vol. I, July 1957 to Dec. 1958 (2) [October 14-December 17, 1957; McElroy incident with White House press; “Sea Wolf,” Adm. Hyman Rickover, Adm. Frederick B. Warder; brief voyage in sub; Allen Dulles, briefing, U-2; meeting re budget and need for program cuts, R. Anderson, Percy Brundage, R. Saulnier, and McElroy; memo re DoD relationships with contractors and suppliers; misstatement by J. Sinclair Armstrong, Asst. Secretary of Navy; Senators Russell and Johnson briefed on missile programs following Sputnik; Johnson did not appear to pay attention; budget process and presentations; dinner party on yacht, “Sequoia;” Johnson’s Subcommittee on Preparedness holds hearings on missile programs; White House response to Johnson hearings, U.S. behind in missile race due to inactivity from 1946 to 1953; Senator Prescott Bush, “smart,” “gentlemanly;” Edwin Weisl; Cy Vance; Dr. Edward Teller; Dr. |
Vannevar Bush; Central Intelligence Agency, presentation at hearings; McElroy questioned by Sen. Symington; trip to Europe, NATO meetings; Duncan Sandys, British Defense Minister; rocket bases in England; Berlin, Mayor Willy Brandt; SHAPE, Gen. Lemnitzer, Gen. Norstad; Verona, Italy; Gen. Harvey Fischer, Maj. Gen. Antonio Scaramuzza]

Washington Journal, Vol. I, July 1957 to Dec. 1958 (3) [December 17, 1957- March 14, 1958; hearings of House Armed Services Committee, Carl Vinson, chairman; Bob Lanphier, executive vice-president of Convair, assisting Johnson and Weis, a “snake-in-the-grass;” breakfasts for congressional leaders; Gale’s role in preparing statements and speeches for McElroy; McElroy meeting, discuss how DoD officials should respond to questions at hearings; Bob Smart, counsel for Vinson Comm.; Gen. Twining told off Sen. Symington; questions regarding legality of Advanced Research Projects Agency; reorganization of Pentagon; aircraft industry complains about government treatment of contractors; Symington and Johnson clash at hearings; provincialism and selfish interests of legislators; President attends meeting of special panel on Pentagon reorganization, January 25; hearings on FY 59 appropriations; Vinson, “most powerful man in Congress ... on military matters;” Hoover Commission recommendations; first U.S. satellite; Gen. Medaris; von Braun; Roy Johnson; process for preparing DoD statements; Gen. Maxwell Taylor; meeting with Secretary Weeks regarding Reciprocal Trade Act; Lewis Strauss; Gen. Storke; Pershing missile to replace Redstone; Chauncy Robbins; rivalry between services regarding missile programs; Revised Pay Bill; Term Retention Contract for Reserve Officers; Mutual Security Bill; Symington meeting with McElroy; trip to Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico, meetings on reorganization of DoD; comments on contributions of Generals Bradley, Gruenther and Radford, as well as Nelson Rockefeller, Charles Coolidge, McElroy, and Bill Foster; fishing experience; Mutual Security; congressional hearings; Pay Bill; McElroy’s statement to Johnson committee; Minute Man missile assigned to Air Force; IRBMs deployed in England, compromise on who would man them; recommendations regarding nuclear propelled aircraft; news leaks; social functions; reorganization plans]

Washington Journal, Vol. I, July 1957 to Dec. 1958 (4) [March 14-May 21, 1958; DoD reorganization; Nelson Rockefeller; Marcel Wagner, lobbyist; Carter Burgess; Fred Seaton; Murray Snyder, efforts to publicize reorganization plans; Gale’s role in preparing McElroy for hearings and handling press contacts; additional FY 59 appropriations; McElroy refuses to cut programs; Jerry Seigel, Johnson’s assistant; Dulles comments on why USSR may have propaganda advantage; President’s reorganization message; directive on need for DoD staff to back reorganization plan (“gag rule”); McElroy to Paris, NATO meetings; working group on reorganization; Vinson opposes reorganization plan; Douglas Price; DDE speech on reorganization; Bob Holt; Armed Services Committee hearings, McElroy answers questions by Vinson; hearings before House Appropriations Committee; Joseph Alsop interviews McElroy; dinner at home of Senator Bush; McElroy suggested as possible vice-presidential candidate for
1960; problem of conflicting statements re defense needs of fissionable materials; response to threats against Nixon in South America; Vinson Bill on reorganization; May 1958 situation in Lebanon; schedule of talks by McElroy; Patrick Air Force Base, Florida; missile tests; tour by Governors; cuts to National Guard funds and personnel]

Washington Journal, Vol. I, July 1957 to Dec. 1958 (5) [May 21-July 7, 1958; talks, speeches, and press conferences by McElroy; meeting with governors; problems in defense bill reported out by the Vinson Committee; Armed Forces Policy Comm., reductions in officers levels; McElroy at dinner of Washington Press Corps, need for reduction in force levels and greater flexibility for executives; Chavez, chairman of Senate Appropriation Committee, “temperamental;” Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, seminar; George A. Morgan; Dr. Saulnier; Gen. Max Taylor; hearings on defense reorganization bill; meeting on military strategy, Dulles, Cutler, JCS, etc.; Sen. M. C. Smith; Sen. Jackson; weapons priority at DoD; Abbott Washburn, USIA; Henry Loomis, Voice of America; Quantico, Secretaries’ Conference; Allen Dulles and Christian Herter report on Lebanon; Adm. Stump; remarks by President, geographical priorities; service chiefs push programs for own branch; McElroy critical of those not backing DoE’s proposals; Adm. Burke; controversy over McElroy’s criticism of Burke; letter to Sen. Russell; R. Anderson, inflation; Supreme Court decision on search and seizure; Prince Daud, prime minister of Afghanistan; outside witnesses oppose Defense reorganization; Symington supports changes; Perk McGuire, presentation at hearings; letter and memo by Sec. Brucker and Sec. Gates critical of reorganization plans; Adams-Goldfine affair; Navy League]

Washington Journal, Vol. I, July 1957 to Dec. 1958 (6) [July 7-October 3, 1958; Adm. Burke; Wm. Franke; Senate Appropriations Comm. hearings on military assistance program, interest of Senators; meeting with Sen. Russell; trip to Pacific, Hawaii, Eniwetok; Admiral Felix Stump; Middle East situation; reorganization bill; Armed Forces Policy Committee, Army and Navy want more emphasis on limited war in National Security Council policy paper; briefing on Lebanon; Frank Wisner, deputy to Allen Dulles; plane to take Edgar Eisenhower to Canada; meeting of Armed Forces Policy Comm. and AEC re nuclear tests in Pacific; article re SAC base in Spain; debriefing on Cabinet meeting; Formosa situation; uproar over alleged surrender study; comments on Marquis Childs and other members of the press; rivalry between Air Force Bomarc and Army Nike-Hercules programs; anecdote re “creepy” visit; September 15, visit Atlantic Fleet, SACLANT headquarters, Adm. Jerauld Wright, USS Leyte, attack exercises, landing on a carrier; Cleveland, Ohio, Hunt Club, Courtney Burton, Olin Spencer; Duncan Sandys, British Defense Minister, confers with McElroy, joint communiqué, “positive statements that said nothing;” press leak re negotiations with Italy for IRBM bases; McElroy’s around the world trip, September 27-November 5, 1958; itinerary; Hawaii, CinCPac HQ; Wake Island; Guam, Adm. Erdmann; Okinawa]
Defense return to Proctor and Gamble McElroy DDE group Pearl Wanamaker for slander Johnson Preparedness Subcommittee staff hearing Wa description of corres sent into orbit not bases "comment on IRBM Patterson Nov January Preparedness Subcommittee staff [149x350] reporter [160x405]uary [162x323]Redstone Arsenal [165x392]ember [165x253]Washington Journal [165x709]hin [168x240]; [168x516]. [170x336]; [172x129]nd McElroy [178x115]; N [181x709]s; [182x129]y; [183x212]; [184x143]snyder; Johnson subcommittee hearings viewed at Pres. [185x709]r [186x640]Prime Minister Menderes [187x654], Gen. Le [188x695]Korea [189x654]t Riddleberger; Johnson subcommittee hearings [187x171]s; [188x502], Prime Minister Menderes [188x543], E. [189x392]; N [190x253]1958; [191x419]1958; [192x571]. [193x392]; N [194x350]; [195x530]. [196x474]; [197x640]; [198x543], [198x461]; [199x378]; [200x350]; [201x405]; [202x557]; [203x378]; [204x184]; [205x695], Lt. Gen. Donald Booth; Japan, describes Japanese people and life style; MacArthur briefing on U.S.-Japanese relations, World War II was Japan’s first defeat in 2500 years; Foreign Minister Fujiyama; Defense Minister Gisen Sato; Korea, Gen. G. H. Decker, Ambassador Alter Dowling, Pres. Syngman Rhee; military demonstrations; Kyoto, Japan, description of various sites and customs; Taiwan, Pres. Chiang Kai-shek, RAdm. Roland N. Smoot; Gen. Lester S. Bork; description of people, installations, and terrain in Taiwan; Ambassador Chip Bohlen; lists of dinner and luncheon guests]
Washington Journal. Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (2) [February 25-May 14, 1959; Gen. Traub’s testimony; Drummond story on McElroy; cables cut in North Atlantic; House Science and Aeronautics Committee hearing; Congressman Joe Holt; McElroy on “Meet the Press;” speech draft for DDE on defense; Malcolm Moos; Gridiron Club dinner; New York Times, Argus story, high altitude nuclear firings; Saltonstall; Dirksen; Al Toner, M-15 rifle; Thomas White, Air Force Chief, complains other services not playing fair; role of George Vaughan; Gen. Powers testimony; Sen. Johnson opposes closing Camp Gerry in Texas; party on Sequoia; Charles Percy, Republican Party task force; McElroy, bet with Congressman Flood on missiles in Britain; April 18, reception in honor of Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba; Prince Bernhard; speaking engagements for McElroy; Calvin Bullock Forum; Alsop column attacking Don Quarles re “missile gap;” sentiment in Pentagon re Quarles succeeding McElroy; Sen. Symington re Thor missiles in Britain; Senate Appropriations Committee hearing; Nike-Hercules and Bomarc missile plans; Gen. Twining; Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing; Sen. Morse; death of Quarles; Gates replaces Quarles]

Washington Journal. Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (3) [May 15-August 26, 1959; Admiral Radford, special advisor to McElroy; Joint Chiefs indecisive; Symington attack on Twining; McElroy suspends plan to resign; problems in Congress, amendments to force review of all defense expenditures and stop Nike-Hercules production; Army attacks Bomarc and defends Nike-Hercules, Air Force responds; Brucker very upset over move to end Nike-Hercules program; Armed Forces Policy Comm.-ROTC policy; John Foster Dulles funeral; nuclear propelled plane; ARPA-military space program; continental air defense plans; Senate Armed Services Comm. hearing; Mahon committee; Vinson committee; foreign aid to neutrals; Rep. Brooks; Lewis Strauss; Nixon speaks to Special Assistants Group; dinner on Sequoia; Quantico, Secretaries Conference, briefings re Soviet Union, new centers of power, economic situation, Afghanistan, India; 1961 budget; CBS proposed documentary; Newsweek unfriendly story; Sen. Jackson-subcommittee to study how government makes decisions; George Vaughan-legislative liaison; Admiral Rickover comments on Soviet schools; George V. Allen re American Exhibition in Moscow; preparations for Jackson study; George Bunker, Martin Co.; McElroy planning to resign in December; McElroy bans book by Gen. Powers, commander of SAC]

Washington Journal. Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (4) [August 27-November 20, 1959; Bennett Cerf; Congressman Moss; Federal Campaign; Gen. F. Armstrong, Alaska vulnerable to Soviet invasion; Sen. Bartlett; policy statement by Republican Party; United Givers Fund; Bill Patterson, Convair; Wilfred McNeil resigns; George Vaughan; Roy Johnson; Gale discusses job future with Gates; Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) transfer space programs to NASA; incident in Turkey regarding arrest of U.S. servicemen; White House Correspondents Dinner; speech to Women’s Advertising Club of Cleveland;
resignation of Gen. Medaris, Army missile chief; ABMA transferred to NASA; Critchfield picked to replace Johnson at ARPA; trip to California and briefing on B-70, X-15, etc.; briefings on ICBMs and IRBMs; McElroy resigns effective December 1, 1959; United Givers Fund; Critchfield backs out of ARPA job, possible conflict of interest]

Washington Journal, Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (5) [November 20, 1959-February 15, 1960; Charles Shuff; Gen. Palmer; Time Magazine critical of McElroy; Thomas Gates, new Secretary of Defense; Charles Finucane; Carey Randall; George Vaughan; James Douglas; Dudley Sharp; Carter Burgess; Thomas and Ann Gates; movie, “On the Beach;” Adm. Radford; reasons McElroy returned to Proctor and Gamble; Brucker; Gates testimony before Mahon Committee re U.S. defenses; Symington re intelligence data and “missile gap;” McElroy looking for lobbyist for Proctor and Gamble; Gen. Powers regarding need for airborne alert; defense taking a beating in the press; Johnson hearings on state of U.S. preparedness; Allen Dulles presentation to Johnson Committee; Senator Prescott Bush; Arthur Krock; Gates vs. the press; Gen. Carey Randall resigns; Murray Snyder job plans; Abbott Washburn recruits Gale to advise Nixon on public relations matters; Gale recommend program of P.R. activities to Gates; Gales assigned to head research task force or “truth squad” to respond to critics of Defense policies]

Washington Journal, Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (6) [February 16-May 25, 1960; Air Force Manual accuses pastors and officials of the National Council of Churches of being Communist, reaction by press and Congress; Sen. Bush; Gen. Lemnitzer, House Foreign Affairs Committee, military assistance; efforts of Gale’s research task force; Bryce Harlow; briefing on Israel and UAR; R. Merriam requests list of strategic weapons for White House; comments on poor state of P.R. efforts; concern Republicans may lose upcoming election because they don’t get story out; flights to Berlin; Reuben Robertson; Gates at Johnson Committee hearings; Time-Life luncheon; Dr. Wm. Elliott; Sec. Mueller; Armed Forces Policy Comm. regarding summit meeting preparations, problems between allies; Jackson Committee hearings; Pentagon leaks; Lanphier leaves Convair, critical of Gates and Defense Department; Bomarc missile; details regarding meetings and speech and statement preparation; Carter Burgess, critical issues on Defense; Adm. Burke, UN General Assembly; Gale turns down offer to join group for Nixon, does not want to work through George Vaughan; President authorizes increase in Polaris and Atlas; “White Paper” or letter to Carter Burgess by Gale, supports defense policy; criticism of the letter; Symington; Air Force paper critical of President’s policies; Dr. Teller. Project Plowshare; Gale interviews for another job; Congressman Mahon, there is no “deterrent gap;” dinner on Sequoia; Joe Alsop; Canadian and UK students to be admitted to National War College-DDE doesn’t like it; Paris summit; Vaughan gives up on Nixon organization, returns to California; Staff Council meeting]
Washington Journal, Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (7) [May 26-June 30, 1960; John Hamlin working on defense paper for Nixon; Gates statement to Jackson Committee, defends National Security Council; Nelson Rockefeller critical of Defense; Gale provides questions media can ask Rockefeller; U-2 overflights; Bob Merriam; job prospects; Quantico Conference; Gale leaves Pentagon on June 22, receives Meritorious Civilian Service Award; appendices; hearings re nomination of McElroy; chart or directory of Office of Secretary of Defense; personnel forms; memo describes nature and purpose of Gale’s work; letter, March 25, 1960, Gale to Carter Burgess re detailed explanation of defense systems, a response to criticism and “missile gap” charges; answers to questions regarding limited war, possible Soviet sneak attack, reasons for cutting the B-70 program, need for an airborne alert, current budget enough for a modern Army, intelligence figures on missiles, ratio of Soviet missile superiority, Nike-Zeus as defense against ballistic missiles; distribution lists for “Dear Carter” letter; memo by Gale, “Public Relations Program for Defense;” Gates authorizes a research group task force to provide the facts on U.S. defense situation, February 17, 1960; history of letter to Carter Burgess; hearings, Symington questions Gen. White in connection with letter from Gale to Burgess, re ICBMs, bombers, etc.; 1959 clipping re possible presidential candidates]

A72-1 Memorandum by Oliver M. Gale-February 1, 1971 [reasons why McElroy asked Gale to serve as his Special Assistant; Gale’s duties; Gen. Carey Randall; matters which Gale handled for McElroy, statements, press relations, personal correspondence, projecting the Secretary’s views, preparation for and backup at Congressional hearings, liaison with White House staff, liaison with Congress, semi-personal matters; the mechanics of the Office of the Secretary, preparation of statements for hearings, drafting speeches, writing policy statements, handling correspondence, dealing with the press, helping McElroy project his views; “White Paper” or letter to Carter Burgess explaining defense positions of Eisenhower Administration; “points of strength” which assisted McElroy in his job; personal qualities of McElroy; McElroy’s relations with Chiefs of Staff; roles of Don Quarles, Mac McNeil, and Herb York; Thomas Gates; Secretary McNamara; Armed Forces Policy Council; briefings; working through the Pentagon organization; McElroy’s work with Congress, presentations at Congressional hearings; social affairs; contributions made by McElroy, response to Sputnik, fiscal controls, Reorganization Act of 1958]

[CLOSED]


Washington Journal, Vol. II, Jan. 1959 to June 1960 (1)-(7) [original copy; closed for preservation reasons]

END OF CONTAINER LIST