The papers of Arthur Larson were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by his son Lex Larson in March 1994 and January 1997.

- Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 13
- Approximate number of pages: 23,000
- Approximate number of items: 10,000

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mr. Lex Larson on July 7, 1995. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Arthur Larson in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States are reserved to Lex Larson until his death, and thereafter pass to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.
Arthur Larson, legal scholar and speech writer, was born in South Dakota of Norwegian descent. He attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and received a Rhodes scholarship to Pembroke College at Oxford University. He worked as a practicing attorney for a few years in the 1930s, but eventually became a law professor and taught at various law schools from 1939 to 1954, except for a brief period of government service during World War II. His main field of interest was workmen’s compensation law, and he compiled a major reference book on the subject which was published in 1952. This brought him to the attention of the U.S. Department of Labor. A friend from law school, John J. Gilhooley, was serving as an assistant to Secretary James Mitchell, and arranged to have Larson appointed Undersecretary of Labor in March 1954.

As undersecretary, Larson represented the Labor Department at cabinet meetings in the absence of the secretary. This brought him into frequent contact with President Eisenhower who was impressed by Larson’s speechwriting ability and his internationalist philosophy. In late 1956, after the Suez and Hungarian crises, Eisenhower appointed Larson to head the U.S. Information Agency which was responsible for publicizing U.S. policies abroad.

In late 1957, after the Russians launched Sputnik, President Eisenhower transferred Larson to the White House to help write a series of speeches on science and national security policy. Larson’s title was Special Assistant to the President. He became one of Eisenhower’s main speech writers, and had a major role in developing the 1958 State of the Union message. He was also an avid internationalist and favored strengthening the United Nations and repealing the Connally Amendment which limited U.S. involvement in the World Court. Larson often tried to get Eisenhower to mention these topics in his speeches.

Larson’s internationalist philosophy also led him to support international law and the adjudication of disputes between nations. In 1958 several lawyers connected with the American Bar Association proposed the development of a research center to study international law. Larson resigned from the White House staff in July 1958 to head the project, which eventually became the World Rule of Law Research Center at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Larson served as director of the Center until his retirement in 1980. However, he also remained in close contact with Eisenhower. He served as Special Consultant to the President from 1958 to 1961 and assisted with some of Eisenhower’s speeches during this period. In the late 1960s he wrote a book entitled Eisenhower: The President Nobody Knew, which described Eisenhower as an activist president who was firmly in control of his administration.

The papers of Arthur Larson are a fragmentary collection pertaining primarily to his relationship with President Eisenhower and his service as director of the Rule of Law Center. Most other areas of Larson’s career are poorly documented. The collection is divided into four series. The first series contains drafts of speeches which Larson helped prepare for Eisenhower. Many of the drafts bear handwritten notations by Eisenhower and show the care with which he followed the evolution of the text.
The second series consists of copies of speeches, articles and research reports compiled by Larson and the staff of the Rule of Law Center. The material was originally filed in a set of binders in roughly chronological order. The documents during the early and mid-1960s cover a wide range of topics on international law, such as the role of the United Nations and the World Court, the adjudication of international disputes, the codification of international law, and legal practices in underdeveloped countries and non-Western cultures, particularly Hindu and Islamic law. From the late 1960s onward the material pertains mostly to Larson’s continuing interest in workmen’s compensation law in the U.S.

The third series consists of information on Larson’s writings. Larson wrote extensively on legal matters and political philosophy but only a small portion of his writings are represented in this series. Apart from a few of his speeches and articles, most of the material pertains to his book on Dwight D. Eisenhower and his memoirs. Larson’s memoirs consist of drafts of several chapters on his early life and legal career. This is the only material in the collection on his career before the Eisenhower administration, except for a scrapbook which he kept at Pembroke College in England in the early 1930s. The series also contains the final version of Larson’s memoirs as completed by his son Lex Larson after his father’s death in 1993.

Larson’s book, *Eisenhower: The President Nobody Knew*, which was published in 1968, was drawn primarily from Larson’s personal observations of Eisenhower. Larson had a habit of carrying small notebooks with him in which he recorded jokes and bon mots which came to his attention, notes for articles or speeches on which he was working at the time, and notes on his meetings with important people. These original notebooks are in the Subject Series. However, while working on his Eisenhower book, Larson had his staff go through the notebooks and transcribe all the entries relating to his meetings with Eisenhower and the White House staff. Larson then cut the transcripts into small pieces, usually individual paragraphs, and arranged the pieces by subject matter, apparently as a way of helping to organize his thoughts. The files on the Eisenhower book contain these pieces, arranged by the chapters or subjects to which they pertain. The files also contain a few drafts of portions of the book, although the drafts are fragmentary and incomplete.

The fourth series is a subject file, containing Larson’s scrapbooks, notebooks, and a small quantity of correspondence. Of particular importance are Larson’s memorandum books which cover his work during the Eisenhower administration. To assist researchers in using the memorandum books, the Eisenhower Library staff made electrostatic copies of the pieces of the transcripts in the Writings Series. The copies were then reassembled in their original order and filed with the books containing the original handwritten entries. While comparing the transcripts with the notebooks it was found that Larson’s staff had trouble reading his handwriting. Many transcripts have dashes which indicate illegible words in the notebooks. In a few cases the staff mis-read his entry and used different words than what appear in the notebooks. Researchers are urged to always compare the transcripts with the notebooks in order to determine the correct wording of any passages of interest.

The correspondence in the Subject Series pertains mostly to Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Romney. The Eisenhower correspondence covers the period after Larson left the White House.
and shows his continuing contacts with the President. The Romney correspondence is from 1967 and shows Larson’s efforts to have Romney make a major speech on Vietnam in preparation for the 1968 presidential campaign.

The scrapbooks in the Subject Series mostly cover the period from 1954 to 1971 and consist of news clippings and other publicity material pertaining to Larson’s government career and his work at the Rule of Law Center. Of particular importance is an early scrapbook covering his student days at Pembroke College in England from 1932 to 1935.
CHRONOLOGY

July 4, 1910  Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota
1932-35  Rhodes scholar at Pembroke College, Oxford University, England
July 30, 1935  Married Florence Newcomb
1935-39  Attorney with Quarles, Spence and Quarles, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1939-41  Associate professor of law, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
1941-44  Staff member, Office of Price Administration
1944-45  Staff member, Foreign Economic Administration
1945-53  Professor of law, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
1953-54  Dean, University of Pittsburgh Law School, Pennsylvania
1954-56  Undersecretary of Labor
1956-57  Director, U.S. Information Agency
1957-58  Special Assistant to the President
1958-80  Director, Rule of Law Center, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
March 1993  Died
SERIES DESCRIPTION

<table>
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<th>Box. No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>I. Presidential Speeches. 1956-61. 5 2 boxes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information on speeches of President Eisenhower which Larson helped prepare. Included are drafts of the speeches, many of which have annotations by Eisenhower, and press releases containing the final version of the speech as given by the President. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>II. Rule of Law Center Office File. 1960-76. 9 boxes.</td>
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<td>Copies of speeches, articles and research papers prepared by Larson and the staff of the Rule of Law Center at Duke University. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>15-17</td>
<td>III. Writings. 2 2 boxes.</td>
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<td>Copies of articles and speeches by Larson, drafts of his memoirs, and drafts and research notes for his book about Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Eisenhower book material includes extensive transcripts of Larson’s memorandum books from the Subject Series.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-30</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous material pertaining to Larson’s career, including his appointment books, memorandum books, scrapbooks, and a small quantity of correspondence. Arranged alphabetically.</td>
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Lexington Campaign Speech Oct. 1, 1956 (1)-(4)  
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Science and Security Nov. 7, 1957 (1)-(4)  
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State of Union 1958 Draft #8 (1)-(3)  
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State of Union 1958 Miscellaneous Drafts (1)(2)

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Proposed Message on Rule of Law Aug. 1959 (1)(2)

Proposed Message on Rule of Law Aug. 1959 (3)(4)
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<td>USSR; legal conference at Lagos, Nigeria; UN and Africa; Congo; Red China; legal aspects of Bay of Pigs invasion</td>
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<td>May-November 1962 (1)-(9)</td>
<td>Cuba; UN armed forces; history of Rule of Law Center, 1959-62; space law; social security</td>
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<td>September 1962-May 1963 (1)-(4)</td>
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<td>September 1962-May 1963 (5)-(9)</td>
<td>workmen’s compensation; Cuban missile crisis</td>
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<td>May 1963-January 1964 (1)-(7)</td>
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<td>Southeast Asia; UN peacekeeping forces; codification of international law; International Labor Organization</td>
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<td>VII</td>
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<td>Hindu law; Islamic law; UN and the Congo; Mexico City conference on international law; International Law Commission; UNESCO; Poland</td>
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<td>VIII</td>
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Volume XI April 1970-December 1972 (1)(2) [workmen’s compensation]
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Volume XII January 1973-September 1975 (1)-(8) [sex discrimination and maternity benefits; workmen’s compensation]
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Series III: Writings

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Memoirs But I Read it in the Paper [appointment of Boyd Leedom to National Labor Relations Board]
Memoirs Confirmation
Memoirs Country Boy
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17 Memoirs Harpies of Berlin
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Memoirs Travel Tales
Memoirs Vietnam
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Papers The Cuba Fiasco and the Rule of Law
Papers The Facts, the Law, and the Connally Amendment
Papers A Future for the U.N.
Papers Parties - Or Pandemonium?
Papers What We Are For
Play A Game of Chance
Speech Oct. 21, 1954
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Speech Nov. 2-3, 1959
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     Eisenhower, Dwight D. (2)

     Eisenhower, Dwight D. (3) [DDE re Kennedy administration; test ban treaty]

     Eisenhower, Dwight D. (4) [test ban treaty; financing UN by sale of bonds]

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Fund for Education in World Order
Interviews 1988-92 [Larson re DDE’s reaction to Sputnik]

Labor Dept. - Swearing-in Ceremony 1954

Lectures


Memorandum Book #1 May 1956 [notes for DDE’s Panama speech; meeting with DDE May 19 re Republican national convention speech, Adlai Stevenson, middle-of-road philosophy; notes for convention speech]

Memorandum Book #2 July 1956 [notes on history of Republican party; anecdotes re Cabinet meeting July 25; James Mitchell’s work to settle strikes, his meeting with Harry Bridges, 1956 steel strike; Stassen’s support of Herter for vice president; meeting with DDE July 26 re Republican convention speech, Robert Taft, mutual security, Emmett Hughes and Kevin McCann]

Memorandum Book #3 July 1956 [notes on economy; meeting with DDE July 20 re Republican convention speech, 1956 campaign issues; notes on history of Republican party]

Memorandum Book #4 July 1956 [meeting with DDE Aug. 6 re Republican convention speech, 1956 campaign issues, international tensions; meetings with DDE Aug. 7 and 9 re Republican convention speech; notes re political philosophy; meeting with DDE Aug. 14 re speeches at Democratic convention, Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, FDR]

Memorandum Book #5 August 1956 [notes re Democratic convention, political philosophy; meetings with DDE, Sept. 24, 27, 28 and 29 re upcoming speeches, Adlai Stevenson, Suez, Somoza of Nicaragua, Winston Churchill, Admiral King; notes on economy; Larson’s comparison of DDE and Stevenson]

Memorandum Book #6 USIA [1957 budget; meeting with DDE, Jan 8, 1957, re USIA; analysis of 9/17/55 Saturday Review article re USIA mission; use of radio and TV; Andrew Berding re budget, books, publicity in Iron Curtain countries, Hungary and Suez crises; meeting with DDE, Nov 9, 1956, re appointment to USIA; meetings with staff re USIA projects, morale; OCB meetings; OCB-NSC relationship; planning for inspection trip]

Memorandum Book USIA #2 [inspection trip to Europe and Asia, Jan-Feb 1957. UK: relations with press; cultural and educational programs; Amb. Aldrich and staff. Pakistan: films; use of local help in USIA offices; public relations; East Pakistan;
Pakistani military forces; village aid; comments by US Ambassador re Pakistani relations with India, Afghanistan and Red China; economy and industry; meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister. India: Chester Bowles; meeting with Nehru; films; village aid; Hungary; education; Kashmir; USIA staff; wheat loan program; press

Memorandum Book USIA #3 [inspection trip, Feb 1957. Iraq: press; film; radio; education; libraries; VOA; aid programs; military aid; meetings with Iraqi leaders re TV, radio. Lebanon: meetings re Mid East radio, VOA, Cyprus; meetings with Lebanese leaders re Soviet aid to Mid East. Egypt: library; films; press; meeting with Nasser re US press, UK, Russia, Arab unity, Baghdad Pact; story of how Nasser signaled takeover of Suez Canal. Conclusions re Mid East: Arab reaction to Eisenhower Doctrine; fear of Israel; need for USIA educational programs; effectiveness of VOA; Russian gains; Cyprus; Nasser]

Memorandum Book USIA #4 [inspection trip, Feb 1957. Italy: political parties; private enterprise; labor unions; Communists; Prime Minister Segni; education; People-to-People. General conclusions about trip. Meetings with DDE, Feb 21 and 23, 1957, re VOA speech. Notes for Larson’s political speeches: Democratic and Republican philosophies; books and propaganda]

Memorandum Book March 1957 [notes re politics; meeting with DDE June 6-7 re missile tests, Harold Stassen; meeting with DDE Apr 5 re People-to-People Foundation, USIA budget; meeting with DDE June 25 re VOA; Larson’s trip to Hawaii; army and navy public relations; meeting with DDE May 4 re George Humphrey; meeting with DDE June 5 re politics; notes for DDE’s June 7 speeches; House and Senate budget hearings; USIA and women; meeting with DDE May 22 re politics and big business; seniority system and conservatism; meeting with DDE May 28 re William Knowland]

Memorandum Book October 1957 #1 [USIA briefing re political conditions in Asia; meeting with DDE Oct 1 re Little Rock and school integration, Larson’s problems with senators, moving Larson to White House to be speech writer, finding successor at USIA; NSC meeting Oct 10 re publicity for satellite program; meeting with DDE Oct 10 re funding for People-to-People Foundation; USIA budget]

Memorandum Book October 1957 #2 [notes for speech re science and space program; Larson’s move to White House; meeting with Sherman Adams Oct 28 re planning presidential speeches; Cabinet meeting Oct 18 re economy; notes for proposed speeches; meetings with DDE Oct 18 and 22 re upcoming speeches, Robert Cutler]

Memorandum Book November 1957 #1 [notes for science speech; meetings with Walter Lippmann and John Foster Dulles, Nov 1 re Mid East; meeting re Science Advisory Committee; notes for speeches re foreign policy, economy; meeting with Sherman Adams Nov 8 re Larson’s work; meeting with DDE Nov 5 re science speech]
Memorandum Book November 1957 #2 [meeting with DDE Nov 11 re mutual security speech; notes re mutual security speech; reaction at White House to news of DDE’s illness, Nov 26; notes re social security; meeting with DDE Nov 13 re speeches, France and Tunisia]

Memorandum Book December 1957 [planning 1958 State of Union speech; meetings with Sherman Adams and DDE re State of Union; Cabinet meeting Jan 10; notes for speeches]

Memorandum Book January 1958 [DDE re Nixon; Bryce Harlow; notes for speeches; meeting with DDE Feb 10 re foreign aid speech; meeting with DDE Jan 20 re Chicago speech, Mamie on trips, defense reorganization; meeting with DDE Jan 29 re trip to Arthur Eisenhower’s funeral, South Dakota politics; Ambassador Thompson re Khrushchev and USSR]

Memorandum Book March 1958 [meetings with DDE, Mar 6 and 8 re student exchange program, upcoming speeches; notes for speeches; Clarence Randall re sub-Saharan Africa; Joseph Alsop re foreign policy; meeting with DDE Mar 26 re foreign policy speech; Marion Folsom re social security; Carl Sandburg; Segovia concert; Cabinet meetings of May 2 and 20 re economy]

Memorandum Book May 1958 [notes for speeches; Nixon re importance of intellectuals in South America; Charles Rhyne re World Law Institute; notes on goals of Institute; DDE re Coty of France; Cabinet meeting June 6 re social security; meeting at Duke University re organizing law institute; meetings with DDE and JF Dulles July 2 re plans for World Law Institute]

Memorandum Book July 1958 [meeting with DDE July 3 re Larson’s departure for Duke; NSC meeting Aug 7 re African independence; Cabinet meeting Aug 8 re drought relief; meeting with Nixon July 9 re Larson’s departure for Duke, Goldfine scandal; meetings with Thomas Dewey and Henry Luce re law center; meetings with DDE July 18, 25 and Aug 1 re international law, Henry Luce, Thomas Dewey, Charles Wilson, need to consult with JF Dulles; meeting with William Rogers re international law; notes re social security; NSC meeting July 24 re Near East situation]

Memorandum Book September 1958 [planning for Rule of Law Center; research on international law being done by other organizations; sources of funds; research projects for new Center; possibility of creating machine-readable data base of legal decisions]

Memorandum Book October 1958 [planning for Rule of Law Center; possible research projects on international law and arbitration; sources of funds]
Memorandum Book November 1958 [foreign broadcasting; sources of funds for Rule of Law Center; American Bar Association; Investment Law Conference, Nov 21, re foreign investments, nationalization of business by foreign governments]

Memorandum Book December 1958 [planning for Rule of Law Center; meeting with DDE, Dec 8, re planning 1959 State of Union speech; possible research projects on international law; sources of funds; meeting with DDE, Jan 5, 1959, re upcoming speeches, Charles Wilson and People-to-People program, Amos Peaslee, Harold Stassen, DDE’s fingernails; notes for proposed book on philosophy of government]

Memorandum Book February-March 1959 [plans for study of international law; notes for proposed book on philosophy of government and political parties; notes re international law and arbitration]

Memorandum Book May 1959 [Ann Whitman re DDE’s speech trips, forgetting his reading glasses; notes re stock ownership by workers; attempts to get grants for Rule of Law Center from Ford and Rockefeller Foundations; possible research projects on international law, foreign investments, rivers]

Memorandum Book November 1959 [meetings with DDE, Nov 25, and Nixon, Malcolm Moos, David Kendall and others re 1960 State of Union speech, international treaties, Connelly amendment; research on international law; sources of funds for Rule of Law Center; possible UN support]

Memorandum Book March 1960 [conference on resolving international tensions; analysis of books on international law]

Memorandum Book August 1960 [conferences on international adjudication; meetings with DDE, Aug 15 and 29, re proposed speech to American Bar Association on international law, Connelly Amendment, Edgar Eisenhower; state interest in international law]

Memorandum Book January 1961 [notes re philosophy of government; division of labor between executive and congress; Malaysian university; Cuba; planning trip to Crimea; sources of funds for Rule of Law Center]

Memorandum Book January 1962 [proposed research projects for Rule of Law Center; notes for proposed book on UN; NASA and space law; politics]

Memorandum Book April 1962 [conference on international law, Rome, Italy: role of World Court; international arbitration; role of UN and regional organizations; cultural and legal pluralism in Africa]
Memorandum Book October 1962 [publication of proposed books; U Thant; research on peace; conference at Andover, Oct 21-22, re east-west relations]

Memorandum Book December 1962 [proposed research projects; U Thant; conference on health insurance, Dec 19; research on peace; notes for speech re UN and Congo, Jan 22, 1963]

Memorandum Book 1963-64 [notes re Republican philosophy; Texas oil property; meeting with DDE, Mar. 9, 1964, re 1964 campaign, Goldwater, Scranton, Nixon, Lodge, Romney, LBJ, Nelson Rockefeller; notes re effect of industrialization on underdeveloped countries]

Memorandum Book Fall 1964 [opposition to extremist groups; 1964 campaign]

Memorandum Book Undated (1) [mid-1960s; notes re Southeast Asia, Communism]

Memorandum Book Undated (2) [notes re workmen’s compensation and insurance]

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Rockefeller, Nelson A.

Romney, George (1)(2)

Romney Speeches (1)(2) [meetings with Romney, Feb 1967, re proposed foreign policy speeches]

Romney - Vietnam Speech 1967 (1)-(3)

Romney - Vietnam Speech 1967 (4)(5)

Rule of Law Center

Rule of Law Center Publications (1)(2)

Scrapbook 1932-38 (1)-(3) [Larson’s attendance at Pembroke College, Oxford]

Scrapbook 1954-55 (1)(2)

Scrapbook 1956

Scrapbook 1958-63 (1)-(3)

Scrapbook 1964-69 (1)

Scrapbook 1964-69 (2)-(8)

Scrapbook 1970-71

Scrapbook Material 1967-69

Social Security
Tidmarsh, Ruth (1)(2)

Trip to Russia 1961 (1)(2) [notes of Larson’s impressions of USSR; notes of July 1961 conference on arms control at Burgenstock, Switz, re disarmament, space, NATO, Germany]

Washington Cathedral

White House [Cabinet briefing re USIA programs, Jan 18, 1957; National Federation of Lutheran Clubs meeting]

29 Scrapbook 1954-55 (half-suit)

Scrapbook 1956

30 Scrapbook 1958-63 (half-suit)

Scrapbook 1970-71

END OF CONTAINER LIST