The papers of Marx Leva were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by Dr. Shirley P. Leva on December 1, 1997. An additional accretion was accepted on April 27, 2001.

Linear feet: 5 feet, 11 inches

Following the death of Leva, the literary rights in his unpublished writings passed to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are 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 properly classified pursuant to such statute or Executive order.
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

April 4, 1915  Born in Selma, Alabama
1933  Graduated from Selma High School
May 25, 1937  Graduated from the University of Alabama
June 20, 1940  Graduated from Harvard Law School
1940-41  Law clerk to Justice Hugo Black
1941  Senior Attorney in Office of General Counsel, War Production Board
1942  Acting Regional Attorney for the War Production Board
July, 1942  Commissioned Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserves
October, 1942  Executive Officer and Navigator of LST 386
1943?  Married Shirley Pearlman
January, 1945  Assigned to Bureau of Ships, Navy Department
1946  Counsel to the Fiscal Director of the Navy
1947-48  Special Assistant to Secretary of the Navy/Defense James V. Forrestal
1948-49  General Counsel, Department of Defense
September, 1949-51  Assistant Secretary of Defense
1958-59  Member, U.S. President's Committee to Study the Military Assistance Program (Draper Committee)
1960  Committee on the Defense Establishment (Symington Committee)
February 2, 1997  Died at Bethesda, Maryland
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Marx Leva Papers contain materials pertaining to his legal career, his navy service, his work in government, and his personal life. They reflect his enduring interest in national security matters and to some extent in politics. Much of the collection pertains to the Truman Administration; the Leva oral history at the Truman Library may also be useful to researchers. There was no particular order to the materials as received, and they have been arranged into three slightly overlapping series described below. Materials within each series are arranged in rough chronological order.

Marx Leva was born to a Jewish family in Selma, Alabama. He distinguished himself in academics and graduated from the University of Alabama and Harvard Law School. Following graduation, Leva clerked for Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black. The Second World War interrupted his legal career, and he spent a year or more with the War Production Board before enlisting in the Navy in July, 1942. He was initially sent to North Africa. As navigator on LST 386, an early aircraft carrier, Leva participated in the invasion of Sicily, earning a Bronze Star for his actions. In January, 1945, Leva was assigned to the Bureau of Ships in the Navy Department, beginning a steady climb to Assistant Secretary of Defense in 1949. He was a key figure in the controversial unification of the armed services into the National Defense Establishment (later the Department of Defense).

To better provide for his family, Leva resigned from government service in 1951 to pursue a legal career. He became a partner in the law firm of Fowler, Leva, Hawes and Symington. He was associated with the quasi-government Institute for Defense Analyses, and served on the President’s Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program (Draper Committee) and shortly thereafter, the Committee on the Defense Establishment (Symington Committee). Researchers interested in the Draper Committee are advised that its records are available at the Library. Leva died in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1997.
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

BOXES    SERIES
1-8      SERIES 1: PRINT MATERIALS, 1939-90
9-13     SERIES 2: MILITARY AND LEGAL CAREER, 1938-87
14-15    SERIES 3: SPEECHES, STATEMENTS, AND WRITINGS, 1947-91

Series 1: PRINT MATERIALS, 1939-90
ARC: 628085

This series consists of books, reports, studies, congressional hearings, newspapers, magazines, and clippings, mostly relating to World War II and national security in the post-war era. The items reflect Leva’s Navy service in World War II, his post-war career in the Defense Department, and his work on the Draper Committee. There is a notable selection of foreign and domestic World War II-era newspapers, including many from North Africa, in English, French, Spanish, and Italian. Many of the other items consist of Congressional hearing and reports. Sixteen larger books were transferred to the Library’s book collection.

Series 2: MILITARY AND LEGAL CAREER, 1938-87
ARC: 6207454

This series consists of correspondence, clippings, press releases, statements, forms, memorandums, and other documents from Leva’s military service and law career; some personal correspondence with friends and family is also included.

Most of the records fall into four categories. The unification of the armed services into the National Defense Establishment, and later the Department of Defense in the late 1940s and early 1950s comprises the first category. As an assistant to James Forrestal and later Louis Johnson, Leva played a key role in this process, and maintained a lifelong interest in the organization of the Defense Department and national security. The second category consists of Leva’s interest in, and defense of, the life and career of Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. Leva contemplated writing a biography, and drafted several articles. Some of his correspondence concerns his interest in Forrestal. The third category concerns Leva’s participation in the Draper Committee, active in 1958-59, which studied the foreign military assistance program. The fourth category concerns the Committee on the Defense Establishment (the Symington Committee), which looked at the organization of the military establishment.

A World War II flag from Leva’s ship, LST 386, and an Algerian matchbox have been transferred to the Museum. Fifty-eight total photographs—snapshots and photo portraits—and two reels of motion picture film were transferred to the Audiovisual Department.

SERIES 3: SPEECHES, STATEMENTS, AND WRITINGS, 1947-91
ARC: 6207455

This series consists of speeches written by Leva, various statements, and writings of an historical nature. Most of the speeches involve the unification of the armed services, while most of the writings pertain to the legacy of the late Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
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*Unification of the War and Navy Departments and Postwar Organization for National Security, Report to Hon. James V. Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy*, October 22, 1945


*A Report on the International Control of Atomic Energy, prepared for the Secretary of State’s Committee on Atomic Energy, March 16, 1946*

*Salerno, American Operations from the Beaches to the Volturno (9 September to 6 October, 1943)*, American Forces in Action Series

*Survival in the Air Age, A Report by the President’s Air Policy Commission, January 1, 1948*

Final Report of the Chief of Staff, United States Army, to the Secretary of the Army, February 7, 1948

General Management of the Executive Branch: A Report to the Congress, February 1949, by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch

Report to the President on Foreign Economic Policies, November 10, 1950

Universal Military Training: Foundation of Enduring National Strength, October 1951; First Report to the Congress by the National Security Training Commission


National Defense Establishment: Unification of the Armed Services: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate, 80th Congress, First Session on S. 758 (1)

2 National Defense Establishment: Unification of the Armed Services: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate, 80th Congress, First Session on S. 758 (2)

National Security Act of 1947: Hearings before the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, House of Representatives, 80th Congress, First Session on H.R. 2319 (1)-(2)

Investigation of the B-36 Bomber Program: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, 81st Congress, First Session on H.Res. 234 (1)-(2)

Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 1 (1)-(2)

Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 2 (1)

3 Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 2 (2)

Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 3 (1)
Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 3 (2)

Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 4 (1)-(2)

Military Situation in the Far East: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 82nd Congress, First Session, Part 5—Appendix and Index (1)-(2)

Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958: Hearings before the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate, 85th Congress, Second Session on H.R. 12541

Organizing for National Security: Hearings before the Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery of the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 86th Congress, Second Session, Part I


Organizing for National Security: Mobilizing Talent for Government Service: Hearings before the Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery of the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 86th Congress, Second Session, Part III


Organizing for National Security: A Bibliography Prepared for the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 86th Congress

Organizing for National Security: Selected Materials Prepared for the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 86th Congress

Organizational History of the National Security Council: Study Submitted to the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, by its Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery, 1960

Resolution Expressing Concern of Senate over Turnover in Administrative and Policymaking Posts, June 28, 1960

Page 7 of 17
Intelligence and National Security: Report of the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, June 20, 1960

National Policy Machinery in the Soviet Union: Report of the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, March 29, 1960

National Policy Machinery in Communist China: Study Submitted to the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 1959

First Report of the Secretary of Defense, 1948

Index and Letters of Transmittal for the Reports of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Air Force, 1948

Second Report of the Secretary of Defense, 1949

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, January 1 to June 30, 1950

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, January 1 to June 30, 1951

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, July 1 to December 31, 1951

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, July 1 to December 31, 1953

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, July 1 to December 31, 1955

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, January 1 to June 30, 1956

Semiannual Report of the Secretary of Defense, July 1 to December 31, 1956

American and British First Editions and Other Books on Various Subjects; Presidential & Other Autographs: Public Auction Sale catalog, Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., 1955

Supplement to the Composite Report of the President’s Committee to Study the Military Assistance Program: Annexes, Vol. II

Interim Report, The President’s Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program, March 17, 1959

Letter to the President of the United States from the President’s Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program and the Committee’s Second Interim Report: The Organization and Administration of the Military Assistance Program, June 3, 1959
Letter to the President of the United States from the President’s Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program and the Committee’s Third Interim Report: Economic Assistance Programs and Administration, July 13, 1959

Letter to the President of the United States from the President’s Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program and the Committee’s Final Report: Conclusions Concerning the Mutual Security Program, August 17, 1959

International Control of Atomic Energy: Growth of a Policy

6  Air University Quarterly Review, Summer 1960

Armed Forces Management, November 1960

Task Force Report on Records Management [Appendix C], Prepared for the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government


Draft: Reform of the Court of Military Appeals, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Defense, May 7, 1979

Harvard Law School Class of 1940: Forty-Fifth Class Report, October 1985

Harvard Law School Class of 1940: Fiftieth Class Report, April 1990

Naval History, Spring 1990

[Transfers to the Book Collection]
Algerie Soir Magazine [11 October 1943]

El Calpense [24 March 1943]

Combat [17 April 1943; 1 May 1943; 18 September 1943; 25 September 1943]

Daily Express [6 May 1944]

Daily Herald [9 June 1944]

Daily Mail [5 June 1944]

The Daily Telegraph [28 July 1943; 9 November 1944; 20 November 1944]

The Evening Star [1 October 1943; 14 October 1943]

Italia Libera [15 February 1944]

National Jewish Ledger [22 December 1939]

News Chronicle [17 June 1944]

Oran Republicain [31 March 1943; 24 April 1943; 5 May 1943; 7 May 1943; 13 May 1943; 14 October 1943; 29 November 1943]

The Royal Gazette and Colonist Daily [2 March 1943]

South Wales Evening Post [3 May 1944]

Stars and Stripes (1)-(3) [26 March 1943, Africa; 3 May 1943, Oran; 13 May 1943, Oran; 14 May 1943, Oran; 24 May 1943, Oran; 28 May 1943, Oran; 31 May 1943, Oran; 28 August 1943, Africa; 22 September 1943, Algiers; 28 September 1943, Oran; 5 October 1943, Oran; 14 October 1943, Oran; 19 October 1943, Oran; 6 November 1943, Africa; 3 December 1943; 4 December 1943, Mediterranean; 11 December 1943, Mediterranean; 1 January 1944, Mediterranean; 15 January 1944, Mediterranean; January 1944, Tunis; 21 January 1944, Tunis; 25 January 1944, Sicily; 29 January 1944, Mediterranean; 29 January, 1944, Mediterranean-Italy; 20 March 1944, Mediterranean; 22 March 1944, Mediterranean; 23 March 1944, Mediterranean; 25 March 1944, Mediterranean; 31 March 1944, Mediterranean; 15 May 1944, New York]

Sunday Pictorial [11 June 1944]

TAM [17 April 1943]

The Times of London [19 August 1944; 24 August 1944; 1 September 1944]
Times Herald [5 February 1944]

Tunis Telegraph [26 June 1943; 30 August 1943]

La Tunisie Liberee [14 June 1943]

The Washington Daily News [22 July 1943]

The Washington Post [14 November 1943]


[Mounted Bronze Star Medal citation: this item belongs in [Awards for World War II Service] but will not fit ]

[Mounted letter of thanks from President Eisenhower for Leva’s work on Draper Committee: this item belongs in [Draper Committee] but will not fit]

8th Division News [8 March 1944]

L’Action [6 February 1944]

Armed Forces Day Review [20 May 1950]

The Boston Law School Magazine [February 1897]

Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin [August 1943]

Collier’s [16 October 1943]

Cornish Evening Herald [November 22, 1944]

Le Courrier de l’Air [30 March 1944]

The Daily Sketch [9 November 1944]

L’Echo d’Oran [24 April 1943; 4 May 1943; 31 May 1943; 23 September 1943; 8 December 1943; 9 January 1944]

The Evening News and Southern Daily Mail [28 October 1944]

Front National [11 November 44]

Illustrated [23 January 1943]

Italia Libera [15 February 1944]
Life [21 February 1949; 21 October 1963]

Missiles and Rockets [31 October 1960]

The Navy Plan for National Security

Le Patriote [11 February 1944]

Le Petit Bastiais [10 February 1944]

Sicilia Liberata [31 January 1944]

Time [16 November 1960]

Topside and Below: Orientation Cruise [6-7 November 1949, Pensacola, Florida]

The United States News [28 November 1947]

The Washington Lawyer [November/December 1990]

The Washington Post Parade [21 February 1944]

Time [23 March 1942]

[World War II clippings]

Yank: The Army Weekly [7 February 1943]

SERIES 2: MILITARY AND LEGAL CAREER

9 [Withdrawn memorabilia]

[National Military Establishment seal]

[Leva family] [1940-50?; clippings, correspondence]

Marx Leva—Military Service Record [1942-53]

LST 386 [1943-44; military documents (Leva served on this ship)]

[Les Timbres Nouveaux des Colonies Francaises Libres] [1943?]

[Awards for World War II service] [1946; correspondence, records]
Executives, Biographical A-Mc (1)-(3) [ca. 1945] [brief biographical information on various military officers and business men]

Executives, Biographical N-Z (1)-(2) [ca. 1945]

[Family business matters, 1945-47] [Leo Leva’s library; insurance, stock, gold-framed mirror from Leva’s mother; the purchase of a home, etc.]

[Personnel forms, information, ca. 1946-47] [Material related to Leva’s contract employment; correspondence; personal service contracts; etc.]

[Justice Hugo Black letters] [September 11, 1944 letter; 1946 letter from Black to Leva regarding case of man who was to receive dishonorable discharge]

[Nimitz statement, July 30, 1946] [Nimitz statement to Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion]

[Legal career and law firms, 1938, 1940, 1946] [Editor of Harvard Law Review; admission to the bar; correspondence with other lawyers]

[Personal correspondence, 1946-47] [Walter Reuther; others]

[Federal employment, 1946-47] [Correspondence, autobiographical sketches]

[National Security Act of 1947] [Copy of act]

[A Bill to Enact the National Security Training Act of 1947] [copy of bill]

National Security Act of July 26, 1947 with Amendments prior to September 1, 1949 [Secretary of Defense phone list, March 1, 1948]

10 Current Material on Unification (1)-(2)

[Meetings and notes re: the National Security Act of 1947] [August-October, 1947]

Clippings—Leva—Personal [1948-49; unification of the armed services]

[Career-related materials] [1948-53; National Military Establishment organizational chart; Joint Civilian Orientation Conference; Leva resignation; Leva biography; clippings re Leva resignation; Leva nomination as Assistant Secretary of Defense; National Security Act of 1947; Forrestal statement, March 24, 1949; press release; editorial re: tidelands]

Legislative History of Public Law 547 [1948]
Statements and Letters re: Selective Service, UMT, and Airforce Procurement (1)-(2) [1949; copies of statements and letters from James Forrestal]

Legislative Program of the National Military Establishment, 1949

[Herbert Hoover / Armed Services Unification] [1949; note of thanks from Hoover for memo; copy of Hoover statement to Armed Services Committee]

Invitations—Assistant Secretary of Defense [1949]

Statements and Speeches—Assistant Secretary of Defense [1949-50]

[Clippings, 1949]

B-36 Probe [clippings]

DOD Legislative Program for 1950 (1)-(2)

USA—Chicago [1950?; fundraising]

USA—Washington [1950]

Jefferson—Jackson Dinner, 1950

[Speeches and Statements, 1950, 1951, 1956] [Authored by Leva and others]

[Leva resignation, 1951] [Correspondence regarding resignation; letter from Harry Truman]

[Office of General Counsel Reunion, 1951]

[Robert A. Lovett correspondence] [1952, draft of Bonner Subcommittee testimony; Lovett’s speech on Forrestal Memorial Laboratory dedication, May 1952]

[Robert A. Lovett speech, June 21, 1952] [Bonner Subcommittee]

Lovett (personal) [1953-55; Robert A. Lovett]

[1953 inauguration scrapbook] [newspaper clippings and snapshots]

Committee on Hearing Officers, President’s Conference on Administrative Procedure, 1954

[Memorandum, 1958] [Letter with attached memorandum from Henry Fowler, Leva’s law partner, to Robert N. McCollom, National Electrical Manufacturers]
Association, re: national security concerns and Bonneville Power Administration; memo was written on behalf of McCollom to Secretary of the Interior

[Draper Committee]

[DDE letter to William Draper, 1959] [Thank-you note for Draper Committee’s report on “Economic Assistance: Programs and Administration”]

Institute for Defense Analyses, Draper Committee (1960 budget) [1959-60 IDA summary statements; role of the IDA in the Draper Committee]

Strauss File—Duplicates, Etc. [1959-60] [copies of letter to the editor of the Washington Post re: paper’s coverage of Lewis L. Strauss affair and associated correspondence with various persons]

[Arthur Krock memo to Leva, 1960] [brief memo with attached letter from Charles Fairman to Krock re: civil affairs responsibilities of Defense Department; reduction of civilian assistant secretaries]

Symington Committee Material (1)-(2) [1959-61; re: plan to reorganize Pentagon, cut various top jobs and replace Joint Chiefs of Staff with military advisory council]

Symington Committee Material (3)

[Symington Committee Material] (1)-(4) [ca. 1960] [work papers; notes; etc.]

Reorganization of the Department of Defense: Philosophy and Counter-Philosophy [ca. 1960; unofficial study]

Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, 1963 [two letters from Strauss to Leva, with enclosure]

[NATUS Corp. v. U.S., 1963] [U.S. Court of Claims case involving Fowler, Leva, Hawes, & Symington; petition, correspondence]

[George C. Marshall Research Library] [Invitation to the opening; 1964]

[Institute for Defense Analyses] [1964; budgeting and accounting mechanisms; administrative organization; program of presentations and training; recruiting]

[Correspondence, 1962-87] [Harry Truman letter; William O. Douglas letter; War Production Board history, staff members; Howell T. Heflin re history and intent of the National Security Act of 1947; letter to Chaim Herzog re: American reaction to Pollard affair and damage to US-Israel relationship]

Scrapbook Material (1)-(4) [Clippings and a selection of documents, from 1939 through the early 1950s; folder (1) primarily contains mementos of Leva’s
World War II service, folders (2)-(5) contain primarily clippings on Leva’s career, various awards and honors, and the unification of the armed services; these were evidently intended for a scrapbook that was never created; unusual items include a military menu using K-rations; wrapping paper from a store in Oran, a ticket for the Capri funicular; programs for Italian operas, and a propaganda sheet for German troops

[Autographed photos of Marx Leva] [List of persons who received photos, dates, and inscriptions]

SERIES 3: SPEECHES, STATEMENTS, AND WRITINGS

14 Speeches, 12 October 1948-December 1949 (1)-(3)

[Speech, Joint Orientation Conference, June 15, 1949]

[Speech, Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, November 1, 1949] [“Unification”]

Speeches, 1 January 1950-1 June 1950 (1)-(3)

Speeches, 1 June 1950-31 December 1950 (1)-(2)

[Speech, Trade Associations Executives Conference, March 15, 1950]

[Speech, Ninth Annual Convention, Massachusetts Lawyers’ Institute, June 3, 1950]

Speeches, 1953

Speeches, 1954

15 Speeches, May 1955

[Speech, Birmingham Committee on Foreign Relations, November 19, 1959]

[Speech, January 17, 1979]

[Speech, 1989]

[Speech, September 24, 1990]

[Forrestal material] (1)-(2) [1947-1953; funeral invitation, articles, article and book drafts by Leva, other materials]

Leva, Personal (Forrestal Material—Book, TV, Marc Daniels, etc.) (1)-(2) [efforts to publish a book or article on Forrestal; includes correspondence with Robert Lovett, Chester Nimitz, Michael Forrestal, Carl Vinson, others]
[“The View Back” draft, July 14, 1962] [two drafts of article on James Forrestal, intended for publication in Life or similar magazine in October, 1962]

[Oral history] [1977-82; Office of the Secretary of Defense oral history and associated correspondence]

“Barring the Door to the Med” [1987 article by Leva on U.S.S. Missouri visit to Turkey in 1946]

“LST-Large, Slow Target” [Naval History, Spring, 1990]

[“A Lifetime of Writing” draft, October 5, 1991]

“A Few Comments on Gardening in Washington” [undated]

[Early poetry]

END OF CONTAINER LIST