The papers of Clyde A. Wheeler were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by Mr. Wheeler in 1990 and 1991.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 37
Approximate number of pages: 68,800
Approximate number of items: 30,000

An instrument of gift for these papers was signed by Mr. Wheeler in February 1991. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Wheeler in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States have been donated 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.
Clyde A. Wheeler, congressional relations expert, lobbyist, and member of the White House staff, was born at Laverne, Oklahoma, in 1921. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater from which he received his bachelor and masters degrees. After working at a variety of jobs in Kansas and Oklahoma he developed an interest in Republican politics and was hired by the Oklahoma Republican State Central committee in 1950 to help manage the state’s Republican campaign of that year. A major result of the campaign was the election of Page Belcher to the House of Representatives.

Because of Wheeler’s work in the 1950 campaign, Belcher invited him to Washington, D.C., to organize his office staff. Wheeler spent three years as Belcher’s executive secretary. He handled Belcher’s public relations, and helped manage Belcher’s district and Washington, D.C. offices. Wheeler was also active in the Young Republican Federation and was elected vice chairman of the national organization in 1953.

In February 1954, Ross Rizley, a Republican from Oklahoma who was serving as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, invited Wheeler to the Agriculture Department. Wheeler became Rizley’s confidential assistant and helped him manage Republican patronage in the department.

In March 1955, Wheeler transferred to the office of Ezra Taft Benson, the Secretary of Agriculture, where he joined Benson’s congressional liaison staff. His success in working with members of Congress attracted the attention of Bryce Harlow who was a member of President Eisenhower’s congressional liaison staff at the White House. In February 1959 Harlow, who was also from Oklahoma, arranged to have Wheeler join the White House staff as a staff assistant to the President. Wheeler continued his congressional liaison work and specialized in agriculture-related legislation.

As the Eisenhower administration neared its end, Wheeler, who wanted to return to Oklahoma, received a job offer from the Sunray Mid-Continent Oil Company of Tulsa. However, a political opportunity arose which Wheeler was unable to resist. The sixth congressional district of Oklahoma, which included his home town of Laverne, was represented by Toby Morris. In the 1960 campaign Morris was defeated for reelection in the primary by former congressman Victor Wickersham. Although the district was heavily Democratic, the bitter primary campaign left the Democrats badly split and it appeared likely that the Republicans could capture the seat. When the Republican candidate withdrew from the race in August the party leadership in the district appealed to Wheeler to represent the party in the election.

After some initial hesitation, Wheeler accepted the challenge. He resigned from the White House staff at the end of August and returned to Oklahoma where he spent the next two months campaigning actively for the Congressional seat. When the election was held on November 8, Wheeler was found to have won by only 188 votes. Wickersham, however, refused to accept such a narrow defeat and demanded a recount. When the votes were counted a second time several tallying errors were found which shifted a number of votes to Wickersham’s favor. This was enough to give Wickersham the election. In mid-December Wickersham was declared the
winner, much to the surprise of Wheeler, who had been assigned office space at the House of Representatives and was preparing for the move back to Washington. The opening at Sunray Oil was still available so Wheeler settled instead at Tulsa and took up his new job in January 1961. As Public Affairs Representative at Sunray Oil, Wheeler’s main job was to follow state and national legislation which affected Sunray Oil and the oil industry. He also developed an educational program to encourage Sunray’s employees to participate in the political process.

Outside of work Wheeler was active in community affairs. He taught Sunday school and supported Goodwill Industries and other charitable organizations in the Tulsa area. In December 1964 Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him to the Oklahoma State Board of Regents, which developed policy for the state’s colleges and universities.

During 1968 and 1969, Sunray Oil merged with the Sun Oil Company of Pennsylvania. Wheeler was on the committee which helped combine the public affairs offices of the two companies. In 1970 the reorganized company, Sun Oil Incorporated, sent him to Washington, D.C., to take charge of its government relations office. As Vice President for Government Relations, Wheeler was basically a lobbyist who worked with Congress and officials of the Executive branch of government to develop legislation favorable to the oil industry. He helped channel contributions from Sun Oil’s Political Action Committee to Congressional candidates who were known to favor the oil industry. He also helped direct charitable contributions by the company to various cultural and educational organizations in the Washington, D.C., area, such as the Center for Strategic & International Studies at Georgetown University, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Ford’s Theatre.

In April 1984 Wheeler retired from Sun Oil and returned to his ranch at Laverne, Oklahoma although he continued to work part-time as a legislative consultant to two Washington law firms until 1988.

Wheeler’s papers form a large collection which contains extensive documentation on his career in government and private industry. The bulk of the material covers the period from 1951 when he first went to Washington with Page Belcher’s staff until his final retirement in 1988. The collection is divided into eight series, the first five of which cover the main chronological periods of Wheeler’s career.

The Belcher Office Series consists primarily of printed material collected by Wheeler while working in Page Belcher’s office, and some of Wheeler’s personal correspondence. The series documents Wheeler’s interest in Republican politics but contains few references to the activities of Congressman Belcher or the operation of his office. Scholars interested in these matters should consult Belcher’s personal papers which are at the University of Oklahoma.

The Department of Agriculture Series contains printed material on Agriculture Department programs and some of Wheeler’s personal correspondence. Most of the material is from the period 1957-59 and covers Wheeler’s congressional liaison activities and his interest in Republican politics. There is very little information on Wheeler’s work for Ross Rizley during 1954 and 1955.
The White House Series contains analyses of legislation, reports on lobbying by the White House staff, and Wheeler’s personal correspondence from the period of his service at the White House. The material forms a detailed account of major agricultural legislation considered by Congress during the last two years of the Eisenhower administration. This series should be used in conjunction with the office files of other members of the White House staff who dealt with agricultural policy, particularly Bryce Harlow, Philip Areeda and Don Paarlberg.

The 1960 Campaign Series pertains to Wheeler’s race for the House of Representatives from the 6th district of Oklahoma. It contains extensive correspondence with his campaign supporters and the general public, samples of campaign literature produced by Wheeler and his staff, newspaper accounts of the campaign, and legal papers relating to the recount by which Victor Wickersham ultimately won the election. Wickersham’s papers are at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas.

The Subject Series pertains to Wheeler’s later career with Sunray and Sun Oil Companies. His work as a public affairs expert and Oil industry lobbyist is especially well documented. The series contains extensive material on the role of a lobbyist and the philosophy behind the work of political action committees. There is also extensive material on Wheeler’s outside interests, including his relationship with his alma mater Oklahoma State University, and his work on behalf of various educational and charitable organizations, particularly the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The series contains very little information on Wheeler’s work as a legislative consultant after his retirement from Sun Oil in April 1984.

The last three series in the collection are subject-oriented. The Politics Series pertains to Wheeler’s interest in the Republican party. It is divided into two subseries, of which the Alphabetical Subseries contains printed material on a variety of political topics of interest to Wheeler. These include politics at the state and local level, Democratic and Republican philosophies. The Chronological Subseries contains information on the various political campaigns in which Wheeler participated. Especially well documented is Charles “Bud” Wilkinson’s unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate from Oklahoma in 1964, and Wheeler’s fund raising efforts on behalf of Page Belcher.

The Speech Series contains reference material collected by Wheeler to help him prepare speeches. The series also contains the texts of several of Wheeler’s major speeches, most of which are from the period of his service with Sunray Oil in Oklahoma, 1961-69.

The Scrapbook Series contains scrapbooks of news clippings and memorabilia which were compiled by Wheeler and his wife during the period 1951 to 1970. Also in this series are loose clippings and memorabilia which were not filed in the scrapbooks, and a few fragmentary files, mostly school papers and letters of praise, covering Wheeler’s early life prior to 1951.
CHRONOLOGY

March 12, 1921 Born in Laverne, Oklahoma
August 1947 B.A. degree, Oklahoma State University
August 1950 M.A. degree, Oklahoma State University
January 1951-FEbruary 1954 Executive Secretary to Congressman Page Belcher (R-OK)
August 23, 1953 Married Barbara A. Dodd
February 1954-March 1955 Confidential Asst. to Ross Rizley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
March 1955-February 1959 Asst. for Congressional Liaison to Ezra Taft Benson, Secy of Agriculture
February 1959-August 1960 Staff Asst. to President Eisenhower for Congressional Relations
1960 Candidate for U. S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma
1961-68 Public Affairs Representative for Sunray Oil Company of Tulsa Oklahoma
1968-69 Helped plan merger of Sunray and Sun Oil Companies
1970-84 Director of Government Relations for Sun Oil Company
April 1, 1984 Retired from Sun Oil Company
April-December 1984 Legislative consultant to law firm of Riddell, Fox, Holroyd & Jackson
1985-88 Legislative consultant to law firm of Bishop, Liberman, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds
SERIES DESCRIPTION

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<th>Box No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>I. Belcher Office Series. 1951-54. 6 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mostly print material collected by Wheeler while working in the office of Congressman Page Belcher (R-OK), arranged by subject. The series also contains a small quantity of Wheeler’s personal correspondence, arranged alphabetically, and some material on the Young Republican organization which Wheeler was active. Page Belcher’s office files from this period are at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>II. Department of Agriculture Series. 1954-59. 2 ½ boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reference material on agricultural programs collected by Wheeler while working in the Agriculture Department, arranged by subject. Most of the material covers the period 1957-58. The series also contains a small quantity of Wheeler’s personal correspondence. The office files of Ezra Taft Benson and Ross Rizley Form this period are at the National Archives. Benson’s personal papers are at the Mormon Church archives in Salt Lake City, Utah, although the Eisenhower Library has a microfilm copy of selected files.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-20</td>
<td>III. White House Series. 1959-60. 11 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reference material on the legislative program of the Eisenhower administration, mostly regarding agriculture matters. Some of the material pertains to White House lobbying efforts in Congress. The series also contains some of Wheeler’s personal correspondence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, reports and printed material concerning Wheeler’s campaign for the U. S House of Representatives from the 6th district of Oklahoma. Victor Wickersham’s papers for this period are at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-62</td>
<td>V. Subject Series. 1961-89. 35 boxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, reports and printed material documenting Wheeler’s later career with Sunray and Sun Oil companies; his interest in the petroleum industry, lobbying, agricultural and educational matters, and Oklahoma State University. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-74</td>
<td>VI. Politics Series. 1948-84. 12 boxes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence, memoranda, reports and printed material regarding Wheeler’s interest in Republican politics, arranged in two subseries. The Alphabetical Subseries contains printed material and news clippings on a variety of political topics and individuals. The Chronological Subseries contains correspondence, reports, news clippings and campaign literature, arranged by the date of the campaign in which Wheeler was active.

75-82 VII. Speech Series. 1951-86. 8 boxes.

Reference material collected by Wheeler to help him prepare speeches; material includes pamphlets, news clippings and copies of speeches by others. The material is arranged by subject. The series also contains texts of speeches delivered by Wheeler, arranged chronologically, 1961-80.

83-87 VIII. Scrapbook Series. 1934-89. 5 boxes.

Scrapbooks of news clippings and memorabilia compiled by Clyde and Barbara Wheeler, 1951-70. The series also contains loose clippings and memorabilia which were not filed in the scrapbooks; fragmentary correspondence and school papers from Wheeler’s early life, 1934-50; and oversized items removed from other parts of the collection.
## CONTAINER LIST

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          | American Government (1)-(4)  
          | Campaign Literature (1)(2)  
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| 2       | Communism (5)-(7)  
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| 3       | MacArthur, Douglas (4)  
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| 4       | Speeches (3)-(9)  
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Sun Oil – Sun-Sunray Merger (1)

Sun Oil – Sun-Sunray Merger (2)-(6)
Sun Oil – Sun-Sunray Merger Clippings (1)-(3)
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Sympathy Letters Oct. 1962
T
Townsend, Bruce Miller
Tulsa
U. V
U.S. Information Agency
Unruh, James

62 Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1)-(7)
W (1)(2)
Washington Representatives Research Group
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Weston, W.W.
Whaley, William C.
Wheeler, Clyde – Biographies
Whittlesey, Faith
Wilkinson, Bud
X, Y, Z

63 Politics Series

Alphabetical Subseries
Campaign Financing 1970-73 (1)-(5)
Campaign Literature – Misc.
Congressional Redistricting in Oklahoma 1964-67
Democratic Politics
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (1)-(3)
Ford, Gerald R. (1)(2)
Johnson, Lyndon B. (1)

64 Johnson, Lyndon B. (2)-(5)
Johnson, Lyndon B. – Selected Speeches 1965 (1)(2)

Johnson, Lyndon B. – State of Union Messages (1)(2)

Kennedy, John F. (1)-(3)

Oklahoma Politics 1962 (1)(2)

Oklahoma Public Expenditures Council (1)(2)

Oklahoma Republican Leaders Handbook 1961

Oklahoma Republican Literature (1)(2)

Political Platforms

Political Statistics & Strategy (1)-(4) [Democratic holdovers in USDA under Eisenhower]

Precinct Education Program 1962 (1)(2)

Republican Congressional Committee Publications

Republican-Democratic Positions on Oil Issues 1964-68 (1)(2)

RNC Research Division Publications (1)(2)

Republican Politics (1)-(3)

Republican Roundup & Refresher Workshop Kit 1962

Young Republican National Federation

   Chronological Subseries

   1948 Politics

1950 Alexander-Ferguson Campaign (1)(2)

1952 Campaign (1)(2)

1952 Campaign – Precinct Workers Manual (1)-(3)
1952 Convention
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1954 Speech Kit (1)-(3)

68 1956 Campaign
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69 Henry Bellmon for Governor 1962 (1)-(5)
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Wheeler, Clyde – 1964 Senate Race [Elmer Thomas re oil]
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Campaign Ideas (1)(2)
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Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Correspondence (1)-(3)
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Miscellaneous (1)(2)

Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Organizational Memos (1)-(3)

71 Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Polls (1)-(4)
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Press – The Daily Oklahoman
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Press – The Tulsa Tribune
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Press – The Tulsa World
Wilkinson for Senator 1964 Press Releases
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May 5, 1964 Primary Election Results

72 1964 Election Results (1)(2)
Page Belcher – 1966 Campaign Funds

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1984 Election – Clyde Wheeler Breakfast 10/17/84

75 Speech Series
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America – Heritage, Founding Fathers (1)

76 America – Heritage, Founding Fathers (2)-(8)
American People – Involvement (1)(2)
Business (1)-(3)

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Business – Oil Jobbers Speech (1)(2)
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Foreign Policy – China, Russia, Vietnam
Government Policies (1)-(4)
Human Rights – Freedom, Liberty, Equality (1)-(3)

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Political Ideology – Communism, Socialism, Capitalism (1)-(3)
Political Speeches (1)(2)
Politics – Individual participation, media value, tactics (1)-(3)

81 Politics – RCP Speeches 1979

Religion
Religion – Sunday School Aids (1)-(4)
Speech Drafts & Outlines (1)-(6)
June 14 Desk and Derrick Club of Tulsa
Sept. 27 East Tulsa Chamber of Commerce
Oct. 30 Oklahoma Baptist University
Jan. 23 Business & Professional Women’s Club

82 1962 March 6 Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association
March 11 Boston Avenue Methodist
1962 April 26 Southside Rotary Club
1962 Oct. 2 DAR Committee
1962 Nov. 13 Business & Professional Women’s Club
1963 June 27 Exploration-Production Joint Council Meeting
1963 July 10 Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce
1965 May 11 Oklahoma County Young Republicans
1965 Nov. 23 Business & Professional Women’s Club
1966 May 13 Gate High School
1966 Oct. 5 Marketing & Production Council
1967 Feb. 11 Garfield County Republican Convention
1967 Feb. 22 Tulsa Scottish Rite Society
1967 March 23 Oklahoma State University
1967 May 16 LaVerne High School
1967 May 21 Northwestern State College
1967 May 25 Southeastern State College
1967 June 20 IBM Negro Class
1967 July 20 Oklahoma State University
1967 July 28 Southwestern State College
1967 Dec. 16 Opportunities Unlimited Conference
1968 Feb. 7 Philbrook Art Center
1968 Sept. 5 Oklahoma State Tech
1968 Oct. 21 Crowder Science Hall
1971 Sept. 20 Pipe Liners Club of Tulsa
1976 April 8 Oklahoma Oil Marketers Association
1976 Dec. 3 Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

1980 April 2 On The Next Ten Years

Undated Speeches

83 Scrapbook Series

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Scrapbook 1954-56
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Scrapbook 1958
Scrapbook 1959 (1)-(3)

84 Scrapbook 1960 (1)-(8)

85 Scrapbook 1961-62 (1)(2)
Scrapbook 1963
Scrapbook 1964
Scrapbook 1965-66
Scrapbook 1967
Scrapbook 1968
Scrapbook 1969-70

86 Address Book (1)(2)
Christmas Cards
Class Record Fall 1947
Early Papers 1934-50

Miscellaneous clippings (1)(2)

School Papers – Israel’s History

School Papers – Race Prejudice

Wedding Aug. 23, 1953

White House Memorabilia

87 Oversized Material (suit-box)

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