

Title: Robert J. Dole House of Representatives Papers, 1960-1969

ID: 01/001

Primary Creator: Dole, Robert J. (1923-)

Extent: 120.5 Linear Feet

Arrangement: The papers are organized chronologically, much as they were when they made up the working files in the Congressman's office. Each box is indexed to the folder level. Scrapbooks, photographs, books, film, sound recordings, maps, printed materials, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia found within the House Papers have been removed from the manuscript collection and indexed separately. The Dole House Papers are organized into five (5) Record Groups, each containing several series, which reflect the activities of the congressman and his staff. Examination of files in all five record groups reveals how closely then-Congressman Dole was involved with all of the functions of his office. Activities in each of these areas provided support for his bi-yearly re-election bids. Indeed, these records were not the only means for performing these functions; they supplement telephone and in-person communications. The majority of files contain Senator Dole's handwritten comments, instructions, or replies to telephone and written communications.

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The collection spans the dates 1960-1969 and includes a small number of official records, personal letters and other items relating to Dole's college years, his military service, and his legal career as Russell County (KS) attorney and lawyer in private practice. The main body of the papers documents Dole's campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1959-1960, subsequent Congressional campaigns, and the eight years (1961-1969) he spent as a congressman from Kansas' Sixth and later First Congressional Districts. The 119 cartons of material include correspondence, memos, reports, newsletters, speeches, casework, statements, testimony, campaign and Republican Party records.

Administrative Information

Repository: Robert J. Dole Archive and Special Collections

Access Restrictions: Some materials within the Dole Archive are restricted because of their sensitive nature or because they contain personal or confidential information. These records are protected by federal laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Examples of restricted records are personnel files, medical records, financial records, and any materials containing personal information such as addresses and social security numbers. Restricted materials are identified at the box and/or folder level within the finding aid. Questions about these materials may be directed to the Senior Archivist of the Dole Archives. The casework files in the collection have been retained, but are restricted indefinitely. Access

may be allowed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Dole Archives and only after a proposal has been reviewed and approved by the University of Kansas Human Subjects Committee.

Use Restrictions: Copyright restrictions apply in different ways to different kinds of materials. Many of the documents and other historical materials in the Archive are in the public domain and may be reproduced and used in any way. Senator Dole has not donated his copyright interest in his papers and other historical materials to the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Permission to publish must be obtained from him or his designee. There are other materials in the library carrying a copyright interest that must be used according to the provisions of Title 17 of the U.S. Code. The Archive issues a warning concerning copyright restrictions to every researcher who requests copies of documents. Although the copyright law is under constant redefinition in the courts, it is ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to properly use copyrighted materials.

Series List

Series 1: Constituent Relations

Sub-Series 1: Administrative Assistant Files (Box 1)

Sub-Series 2: Casework (Box 1 – 31)

Sub-Series 3: Grants and Projects (Box 31 – 33)

Sub-Series 4: Issue Mail (Box 33 – 103)

Description: Issue mail content is extremely valuable in reflecting citizens' continuing concerns with federalization of school aid, farm programs, and medical care. It contains correspondence to and from individual voters, state and local officials, businesses, institutions, and grass roots organizations in response to proposed legislation and current issues affecting constituents. Material in this series consists of Dole's personal responses stapled to the original constituent mail. The majority were dictated and proofread by Dole; very few instances of form replies are evident in the series. Issue mail illustrates how larger issues increasingly affected the lives of Kansans as the nineteen-sixties unfold. Dole reiterates that "...the great majority in Western Kansas still pride themselves in the belief that they can better take care of their needs and responsibilities than some federal bureaucracy", while dealing with an ever-increasing assortment of national and international issues. Topics include: Madlyn Murray O'Hare atheist colony in Rook County, school prayer, Kennedy assassination.

Sub-Series 5: Reference Files (Box 119 - 133)

Description: Factual information on issues and organizations of ongoing interest to constituents: the American Battle Monuments Commission services, Selective Service regulations, the activities of HUAC, annual Kansas events (air shows, Prairiasta, etc.), and other interests with a continuing presence in Dole's district. Topics include: WCTU, John Birch Society.

Sub-Series 6: Requests for Materials (Box 134 – 142)

Series 2: Legislative

Sub-Series 1: Committee Files (Box 142 – 146)

Sub-Series 2: Congressional Record Inserts (Box 146)

Sub-Series 3: General Legislative Subjects (Box 146 - 176)

Description: Legislative subject files illustrate how Congressman Dole's interests expanded over eight years from an initial narrow set of agricultural, transportation, and education matters to a much broader range of issues relating to the national and international political climate and economy. Files reflect his focus widening from wheat allotments, reclamation projects, and rail service reductions to broader themes, including the ongoing conflict that Republicans from farm states experienced with Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, military base closings in the First District (coupled with expansion of the military's role in Southeast Asia), increasing global interdependence, and the pervasive presence of the federal government in all aspects of Kansans' lives. Topics convey a sense of the conservative view on dominant issues of the Kennedy/Johnson administrations.

Sub-Series 4: Kansas Related Projects (Box 176 – 177)

Sub-Series 5: Specific Bill Legislation (Box 177 - 192)

Description: Relate to passage (or blockage) of "New Frontier" and "Great Society" legislation, farm bills, veterans' legislation, transportation, and defense appropriations. Files include statements, testimony, releases, correspondence, committee prints, updated versions of bills, 'dear colleagues', and handwritten vote tallies. Writings point to the support Dole gave to civil rights issues and legislation: " ...without question it seems the federal government must prevail, particularly in this situation. In talking to some of the Congressmen from Mississippi, you quickly sense just how deep and serious this problem is." Topics include: Food for Peace, Civil Rights, HUAC, Cuban Situation, Bread and Butter Corps, Mexican Farm Labor, United Nations, Selective Service, Peace Corps.

Sub-Series 6: Voting/Attendance Files (Box 192 – 193)

Series 3: Office Administration

Sub-Series 1: Office Equipment (Box 193 - 194)

Sub-Series 2: Office Funds and Budget (Box 194)

Sub-Series 3: Office Operations (Box 194)

Sub-Series 4: Office Personnel Files (Box 195)

Series 4: Personal/Political

Sub-Series 1: Campaign Clippings (Box 195)

Sub-Series 2: Campaign Correspondence (Box 196 – 209)

Description: Includes planning materials relating to the first Dole congressional race in 1960, the close 1964 race against William Bork, and the 1968 contest for the Senate seat vacated by Frank Carlson. A smaller number of folders document the elections of 1962 and 1966. Files contain voters' correspondence and replies from Dole and his staff, newsletters, clippings, precinct lists, speeches, advertising, volunteer lists, event planning, and opponent research. The files contained in this series reflect the strategizing and labor which went into following up on each and every personal contact Dole made while campaigning throughout Kansas.

Sub-Series 3: Campaign Events (Box 209)

Sub-Series 4: Campaign Financial Records (Box 210)

Sub-Series 5: Campaign Name Lists (Box 211)

Sub-Series 6: Campaign Opposition (Box 212)

Sub-Series 7: Campaign Press Files (Box 213)

Sub-Series 8: Campaign Reference Materials (Box 213 – 216)

Sub-Series 9: Caucus/Party Records (Box 217 – 223)

Description: Consists chiefly of information concerning party-related events, initiatives, and people. Includes folders on individuals who played a large part in local and national party efforts, the "87th Club" programming and other conservative caucus activities, the Billie Sol Estes, Bobby Baker, Adam Clayton Powell matters, and individuals in the Kennedy/Johnson administrations. In general, files reflect a mix of background information and Republican positions on contemporary issues. Files documenting several efforts put forth by the Republican Party to spread conservatism to the grassroots are found in this series, including Operation Employment, Operation Survival, and the Paul Revere Panel, of which Congressman Dole was a member. The 87th Club and Conservative Freshman Group files provide insight into the alliances he formed as a newly-elected representative. In 1964 Congressman Dole was an active supporter of Senator Barry Goldwater for the presidency. Nelson Rockefeller's bid among fellow Republicans for the same nomination is illustrated in various files in this series, as is the crushing disappointment felt by Republicans over the eventual Democratic landslide. The 1964 race was a difficult one for Dole, and files encompass his numerous Kansas public appearances and those of his colleagues lending support to his candidacy.

Sub-Series 10: Invitations (Box 223 – 231)

Sub-Series 11: Job Recommendations (Box 231 – 233)

Description: Primarily concerned with U.S. Post Office appointees and candidates.

Sub-Series 12: Memos/Telephone (Box 233)

Sub-Series 13: Personal Finances (Box 233)

Sub-Series 14: Senators Correspondence (Box 233 – 255)

Description: Includes a wide range of routine courtesy correspondence, personal appearance planning, political strategy, family matters, and VIP Correspondence. These folders also contain thank-you letters and acknowledgments of congratulations, and include several folders of correspondence describing Congressman Dole's first impressions of life in Congress. Topics include Civil Rights, school prayer.

Sub-Series 15: Schedules (Box 256)

Sub-Series 16: Subject Files (Box 256 – 263)

Sub-Series 17: Trip Files (Box 264 – 274)

Sub-Series 18: VIP Correspondence (Box 275)

Series 5: Press

Sub-Series 1: Newspaper Clippings, 1952 – 1964 (Box 276 - 284)

Sub-Series 2: Newsletter, 1961 – 1967 (Box 287 – 288)

Sub-Series 3: TV/Radio Files (Box 289)

Sub-Series 4: Documents (Box 284 – 286)