

ROBERT FLOYD KENNON PAPERS

Ms. 2719

Inventory

Reformatted by
Christopher S. Freeman

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2006

Revised by Luana Henderson 2017
Updated 2020

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY 3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE 4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE 5
INDEX TERMS 6
CONTAINER LIST 7

Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

Photocopying. Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by LSU Libraries), when available.

Publication. Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size	11.5 linear ft., 8 volumes.
Geographic Locations	Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1904-1972
Bulk Dates	1948-1956
Languages	English
Summary	Professional and political papers include office files, personal correspondence, speeches, photographs, scrapbooks, political campaign materials, and newspaper clippings.
Access Restrictions	None
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law
Related Collections	Lucile Ruby Woodard Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0826. Carlos Spaht Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0292. Lt. General Claire Lee Chennault and Family Papers, Mss. 3042. A. E. Woolley Photographs and Papers, Mss. 4650.
Citation	Robert Floyd Kennon Papers, Mss. 2719, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Locations	6:9-15, OS:K

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Robert Floyd Kennon was born August 21, 1902 near Minden, Louisiana to Floyd Kennon and Laura Bopp Kennon. He graduated from Minden High School in 1919 and received a Bachelor degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1923 and went on earn a law degree from LSU in 1925.

He began his political career as mayor of Minden (1925-1928). From 1930 until 1940, he served as the district attorney of Bossier Parish and Webster Parish until he was elected to a twelve-year term as a judge in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal. However, when the U.S. entered World War II, he joined the service and did not return to fill his position in the circuit court until 1945, where he remained until 1947. During his tenure, he also served as an associate justice of the Louisiana State Supreme Court from 1945 until 1947.

Kennon ran for governor three times, but succeeded only once. In 1948, Kennon ran unsuccessfully for governor, losing to Huey P. Long's brother, Earl K. Long. He was elected governor 1952, defeating Earl K. Long. While in office, Kennon reestablished the state civil service, which Long had abolished, and he promoted state constitutional amendments to reduce the powers of the executive office. He also supported home rule for New Orleans. Kennon's reforms extended into his fight against organized crime in Louisiana by attacking gambling and prostitution. He also reformed the prison system and installed voting machines in every precinct. Toward the end of his term, Kennon tried to prevent the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's school desegregation decision. He supported segregationists' efforts to maintain the "separate but equal" doctrine in Louisiana schools. After his term ended in 1956, Kennon returned to his law practice in Baton Rouge. He again ran for governor in 1963 but was defeated in the Democratic primary by John McKeithen, who went on to win. Although he remained a member of the Democratic Party, Kennon began supporting Republican nominees in presidential campaigns, beginning with Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952.

Kennon married Eugenia Sentell of Plain Dealing, Louisiana in 1931. Together they had three sons: Robert, Jr. (born 1938), Charles Sentell "Charlie" Kennon (born 1940), and Kenneth Wood "Kenwood" Kennon (born 1943).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection pertains to Robert F. Kennon's political career, particularly his term as governor of Louisiana (1952-1956). Material includes correspondence, speeches, photographs, scrapbooks, political campaign materials, and newspaper clippings and journal articles. Topics include political reforms, the Democratic Party, state and national elections, political conventions, and state governors' conferences. Papers also pertain to health programs, highways and bridges, and political campaigns, and Kennon's World War II military service.

INDEX TERMS

Fort Polk (La.)

Louisiana Mississippi River Bridge Authority.

Louisiana--Politics and government--1951-

Political campaigns--Louisiana.

Roads--Finance--Law and legislation--United States.

Segregation in education--Louisiana.

Box 1, 11, OS folder 4

Box 3

Entire collection

Box 1, 8, 10, 18, OS folder 3

Box 3, 4

Box 4

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>					
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
6:10	1	1	American Petroleum Institute, November 8, 1954.		
		2-7	American Sugar Cane League, September 1951-July 2, 1955.		
		8-12	Camp Polk, Louisiana, December 8, 1953-June 13, 1955.		
		13-14	Campaign materials, October 12, 1945-July 24, 1952.		
		15	Chairmanship, March 15, 1954-August 15, 1955.		
		16-21	Council of State Governors, June 2, 1952-November 22, 1955.		
		22-25	Democratic National Convention, March-June 26, 1952.		
		26-31	Consular Corps, December 2, 1952-April 27, 1955.		
		32-33	Democratic Party, October 19, 1953-March 26, 1960.		
		34	Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana, 1953-1956.		
		35	Facts Forum, February 24, 1953-March 25, 1954.		
		36-39	Federal Appointments, June 16, 1952-August 29, 1963.		
		40-41	Federal Power Commission, January 31, 1955-September 10, 1964.		
		42-45	Federal Projects, February 13, 1953-July 28, 1955.		
		46-50	Department of Welfare, June 19, 1952-March 22, 1956.		
6:11	2	1-2	Charles E. Wilson, September 9, 1954-March 12, 1957.		
		3-4	Confederate Memorial Medical Center, March 31, 1952-April 3, 1956.		
		5	Charity Hospital, July 10, 1952-April 14, 1955.		
		6	Tuberculosis Control Program: March 31, 1953-May 15, 1955.		
		7-8	Governors' Conference, May 27, 1952-October 20, 1954.		
		9-10	Southern Governors Conference, January 1953, September 4, 1953-January 27, 1954.		
		11	President's Conference of Governors, 1953-1954.		
		12-13	Governors' Conference, August 27, 1952-April 28, 1954.		
		14-18	National Governors' Conference, 1953-September 2, 1954.		
		19-20	Southern Governors Conference, February 17, 1954-February 15, 1955.		
		21-27	Governors' Conference, August 11, 1954-February 18, 1956.		
		28	Chairmanship, August 12, 1954-February 1, 1955.		
		29-31	National Governors' Conference, December 13, 1954-September 6, 1955.		
		32-35	President's Conference, January 10, 1955-May 27, 1955.		
		36-38	Southern Governors Conference, 1955.		
		39	Governors' Conference, September 6, 1962.		
			3	1	Expressway Authority, April 30, 1955-May 4, 1956.
				2-3	Federal Aid Road Act, April 15, 1953-July 16, 1955.
4	Highway Materials, August 3, 1954-November 6, 1956.				
5-6	Highway Materials, July 20-1954-May 26, 1955.				

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
6:11	3	7-9	National Conference, November 1953-March 27, 1956.		
		10-11	National Road Program, January 27, 1955-April 20, 1956.		
		12	H. L. Hunt, November 5, 1952-March 1, 1953.		
		13-16	Institutions, May 31, 1952-December 12, 1955.		
		17	I.O.C.C., November 1955-August 15, 1956.		
		18	Kenyon/Red Creek Club, August 1, 1955-April 18, 1956.		
		19	Labor, Louisiana Department, September 23, 1952-May 2, 1955.		
		20	Board of Liquidation, April 2, 1953-February 7, 1955.		
		21	Louisiana Library Association, October 1953-February 11, 1955.		
		22	Louisiana State Employees, undated.		
		23	Louisiana State University Agricultural and Home Economics, October 18, 1952-February 23, 1953.		
		24	Louisiana State University, November 27, 1952-February 24, 1956.		
		25	Louisiana Forestry Association, 1948-1950.		
		26	Mansion, May 7, 1961-August 11, 1961,		
		27	Mineral Board, March 28, 1952-February 23, 1955.		
		28	Mayor Morrison, February 22, 1952-September 27, 1955,		
		29-35	Mississippi River Bridge Authority, 1952-1956.		
		6:12	4	1-3	Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, 1955-1956.
				4-5	Municipal Forum, February 10, 1955-May 16, 1955.
				6-7	New Orleans Levee Commissioners, 1952-1962.
				8	National Politics, July 25, 1952-May 19, 1954.
				9	New Orleans Dock Board, June 2, 1952-December 7, 1955.
				10	National Affairs, November 14, 1952-May 28, 1961.
				11-13	New Orleans Expressway, September 15, 1954-May 20, 1955.
14	New Orleans Seaway, December 10, 1952.				
15-16	Phi Gamma Delta, 1952-1953.				
17	Port Commission, June 9, 1952-December 1953.				
18-21	Presbyterian Men's Convention, December 15, 1952-September 29, 1954.				
22	Prison Reforms, January 5, 1953-March 1960.				
23	Department of Revenue, June 17, 1952-March 27, 1956.				
24	Secretary of State (Martin), August 16, 1952-January 23, 1956.				
25-28	Segregation, March 30, 1954-October 15, 1956.				
29	Speeches, 1954.				
30	Supreme Court (State of Louisiana), 1954-1955.				
31	Tax Commission, October 20, 1952-September 15, 1954.				
32	Tax Commission, Treasurer (Tugwell), 1952-1954.				
33-37	Thank You Cards, 1952.				
38	Voting, January 15, 1952, December 5, 1959.				

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
6:12		5	1-5	Personal Correspondence "A," December 10, 1952-October 18, 1967.	
			6-14	Personal Correspondence "B," February 2, 1952-November 8, 1965.	
			15-21	Personal Correspondence "C," January 31, 1951-May 15, 1959.	
			22-25	Personal Correspondence "D," February 21, 1952-February 27, 1969.	
			26-28	Personal Correspondence "E," June 30, 1952-September 16, 1968.	
			29-33	Personal Correspondence "F," May 15, 1952-July 24, 1967.	
6:13	6		1-5	Personal Correspondence "G," 1952-1968, undated.	
			6-11	Personal Correspondence "H," 1952-1968, undated.	
			12-13	Personal Correspondence "I," 1955-January 1956.	
			14-17	Personal Correspondence "K," 1952-1969, undated.	
			18-20	Personal Correspondence "L," 1953-1968.	
			21-28	Personal Correspondence "M," 1952-1969.	
			29	Personal Correspondence "N," 1953-1966, undated.	
	30	Personal Correspondence "O," 1952-1966.			
	7			1-4	Personal Correspondence "PQ," 1952-1968.
				5-7	Personal Correspondence "R," 1952-1963.
				8-14	Personal Correspondence "S," 1952-1969.
				15-17	Personal Correspondence "T," 1952-1968, undated.
				18-19	Personal Correspondence "UV," 1953-1960, undated.
20-24				Personal Correspondence "W," 1952-1968.	
	25	Personal Correspondence "XYZ," 1952-1954.			
6:14	8		1	World War II Service in XII Corps, 1928-1948.	
			2-16	Papers, 1950-1970.	
			17	Senatorial and Gubernatorial Campaign Papers, undated.	
			18	Revenue, budgets, programs, dinners, undated.	
			19-20	Papers, undated.	
			21	Biographical Materials, undated.	
			22	Personal Political Writings, 1963, undated.	
			23	Political Campaign Materials, District Attorney, undated.	
			24	Political Campaign Materials, Judge of Court of Appeals, undated.	
			25	Political Campaign Materials, Louisiana Supreme Court, 1945, undated.	
26	Political Campaign Materials, U.S. Senator, 1948, undated.				
27-29	Political Campaign Materials, Campaign for Governor.				

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
6:10	17	--	Political Cartoons, June 5, 1950-July 10, 1953.	
	18	--	Campaign buttons, undated.	
		--	Campaign ribbons, 1952-1955.	
--		Campaign thimble, 1948.		
6:14	8	30	Political Cartoon, 1952.	
		33	Papers, Governors Conference, New York, 1954.	
		34	Papers, Conference, Alabama, 1955.	
		35-36	Papers, Governors Conference, Chicago, 1955, 19[?].	
		37	Papers, Notes, 1947, undated.	
		38	Papers, Pages removed from notebook, 1947-1963, undated.	
		39	Papers, Appointment Book, 1952.	
		34	Governors' Conference, Alabama, 1955.	
		35-36	Governors' Conference, Chicago, 1955, 19[?].	
		37	Notes, 1947, undated.	
		38	Pages removed from notebook, 1947-1963, undated.	
		39	Appointment Book, 1952.	
		9	1-4	Kennon Speeches, 1938-1954,
			5-8	Kennon Speeches, 1955-1961, undated.
	9		Governors Letterhead (blank), undated.	
	10-13		Printed items, journals and journal articles, 1936,1947-1972.	
	14-24		Newspaper Clippings, 1930-1966, undated.	
	25-30		Printed items, June 1911-1931, April 1940-1968.	
	31		Printed items, undated.	
	32		Printed items, Church, undated.	
	33		Printed items, undated.	
34-35	Printed items, programs, September 18, 1949-May 11, 1971.			
36	<i>Louisiana Forestry, an Industry with Roots</i> , prepared by the Louisiana Forestry Commission 1955.			
37-40	Printed items, journals and journal articles, 1936-1970.			
41	Kennon Certificates, 1952-1960.			
6:15	10		1	Photographs of Robert Kennon and Family, [1904].
			2	Kennon at LSU, 1920, 1921, 1923, undated.
			3	World War II Photographs Kennon in uniform, 1941-1945, undated.
			4-7	Political Campaign Photographs, 1947-1952, undated..
		8	Portraits of Kennon, 1945-1951, undated	
	11	1-2	S. S. Quirigua Cruise, 1952.	
		3	Photographs, 1953.	
		4	Photographs, 1953-1956.	

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
6:15		11	5	Kennon Family Portraits, 1954.		
			6	Photographs, 1954-1955.		
			7	Photographs, 1956, 1961.		
			8	Photographs of Bill Signings, undated.		
			9	Hunting photographs, undated.		
			10	Office photographs, undated.		
			11-13	Photographs, 1930-1950, undated.		
			14	Camp Polk photographs, undated.		
6:10		16	--	Photographs, 1927-1952, undated.		
6:9			12	--	Loose scrapbook pages, [1927]-April 25, 1955, undated.	
			13	--	Scrapbook vol. 1, February 8, 1952-December 10, 1963.	
			15	--	Scrapbook vol. 2, 1952-1956	
			14	--	Scrapbook vol. 3, June 1, 1953-April 29, 1954.	
			--	--	Scrapbook vol. 4, 1954.	
			--	--	Scrapbook vol. 5, February 16, 1954-May 18, 1955.	
			--	--	Scrapbook vol. 6, Testimonial Dinner scrapbook, October 1954.	
			--	--	Scrapbook vol. 7, Annual Southern Governors Conference, 1954.	
		13	--	Scrapbook vol. 8, November 21, 1954-December 1955.		
OS:K			1		World War II broadside of <i>Le Tomahawk</i> , 1944. <i>Antoine's</i> restaurant menu with autographs, 1954. Program for Annual Governor Conference, 1955. Color print of the <i>San Martín de Tepotzotlán</i> in Mexico, undated.	
			--	2		<i>Stars and Stripes</i> , 1944-1945. U.S. Armed Forces. <i>The Federation</i> , April, May, 1952. Labor. <i>Muhammad Speaks</i> , June 16, 1972. African-American Muslim. <i>Square and Compass</i> , July 1936.
			--	3		Newspaper campaign materials, 1930-1963.
			--	4		Fort Polk drawings, 1946, 1948, undated.

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
OS:K	--	5	Drawings, blueprints of road maps and structures, Louisiana voting map, 1952, undated.
6:14	--	--	Record sleeve 1: Phonograph recording of Governor Kennon's Favorite Story as told by Allan Jackson on CBS Radio, September 8, 1953.
	--	--	Record sleeve 2: Phonograph recording made by KPLC, Lake Charles, Louisiana, of speech by Governor Kennon at the Democratic Convention, recording made by KSLA-TV, Shreveport, Louisiana, during 1964 campaign.
	--	--	Record sleeve 3: Phonograph recording (unidentified).
	9	42	Items removed from record sleeves, 1953, 1957, undated
6:15	--	--	Binder 1: Automobile plates, undated