

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

TUDOR, RALPH A.: Papers, 1953-54

Accession 64-25

Processed by: JL

Date Completed: November 1971

The papers of Ralph A. Tudor were donated to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Leslie A. Helgesson, Mr. Tudor's business associate, in June 1964.

Linear feet:	-1
Approximate number of pages:	500
Approximate number of items:	300

In a letter of June 8, 1964, donating the material to the Eisenhower Library, Mr. Helgesson placed no restrictions on the material. Mr. Tudor's printed journal has been copyrighted by the Tudor family.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Ralph Arnold Tudor was born in Colorado in 1902 and grew up in western Oregon. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1923 and was an officer in the Corps of Engineers until leaving the army in 1929. He later worked for a number of construction companies in the San Francisco area where he specialized in road and bridge construction.

Tudor was acquainted with Douglas McKay, a former governor of Oregon, who was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Eisenhower. In March 1953 McKay arranged to have Tudor appointed Under Secretary of the Interior. As Under Secretary, Tudor was responsible for much of the administrative work of the department. He helped select persons to run the various bureaus that were part of the Interior Department, including the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration. Tudor coordinated the Department's legislative program and was involved with a number of environmental issues that arose during the early years of the Eisenhower administration, including the Hells Canyon and Echo Park controversies. Tudor served until September 1954 when he resigned to return to his construction business in California. He died in California in 1962.

The papers of Ralph A. Tudor consist of a bound copy of his dictated journal and a chronological file of letters he wrote while serving as Under Secretary of the Interior. Several times a month Tudor would dictate an account of his activities in the Interior Department. After he left office the dictated entries were bound together into a volume. The volume was copyrighted by Ralph Tudor's wife following his death. A copy of the volume is in the Library of Congress. The entries contain a running account of the major issues that affected the Interior Department. It gives good coverage of the problem of political influence by members of Congress and private interest groups. It also includes accounts of major social functions that Tudor attended, particularly White House parties.

The chronological file consists primarily of letters to members of Congress, government officials, and members of the public regarding Department of the Interior policies.

Additional information on the Department of the Interior during the period of Tudor's service is in the papers of Elmer Bennett, who was Legislative Council of the Department under Tudor. Tudor's office files are at the National Archives as part of Record Group 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The personal papers of Secretary Douglas McKay are at the University of Oregon.

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