

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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NEWS RELEASE

January 18, 2006

The Eisenhower Library opens 7,000 pages related to Civil Rights.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library announces the release of 7,000 pages related to civil rights during the Eisenhower Presidency. These historical documents, which will further add to the understanding of civil rights policy during the 1950's, were located among the Papers of Maxwell M. Rabb. Maxwell M. Rabb was President's Associate Counsel, 1953, and Secretary to the Cabinet, 1953-1958.

The bulk of the newly released documents pertain to African-American and Jewish matters with a small case file relating to Native Americans. Documents pertaining to Black civil rights, African-American organizations and individuals, evidence of discrimination, anti-Semitism, and specific civil rights problems located in the Rabb Papers are being released.

Some of the topics covered are integration of military facilities, including Naval shipyards and Veterans Administration hospitals, the visit by the USS Midway to South Africa in 1955, the 1952 campaign, the Black vote, accomplishments of the Eisenhower Administration in the area of civil rights, and the work of the President's Committee on Government Contracts. There are files relating to minority issues in the 1952 campaign, Black and Jewish appointments to positions in the Eisenhower Administration, segregation in housing as well as on common carriers and at airports, integration efforts in the District of Columbia, and school desegregation. The Rabb Papers contain files relating to the work of the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and B'nai B'rith.

The released documents contain "right-wing" or "fringe" publications, clippings, and articles, which were anti-Semitic, anti-Black, anti-integration, anti-United Nations, and anti-Communist. There are also a few reports and articles which evaluate these items.

This newly released collection also contains Rabb's correspondence with a wide variety of individuals on the subject of civil rights. These correspondents include Lester Granger, Executive Director of the National Urban League, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Val Washington, director of the Minorities Division of the RNC, Jacob Seidenberg, E. Frederic Morrow, administrator of the Special Projects Group at the White House, Julius Klein, Bernard Katzen, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Roy Wilkins,

Executive Secretary of the NAACP, Senator Homer Ferguson, Norman Thomas, Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, and Senator Jacob Javits.

The Eisenhower Presidential Center is one of 12 presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. The Eisenhower Center located in Abilene, Kansas is open from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m., daily and closed only Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information, please call 785.263.6700 or toll free 1-877 Ring Ike.