

# Halsey McGovern Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

Finding aid encoded by Library of  
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# Collection Summary

Title: Halsey McGovern Papers

Span Dates: 1945-1983

ID No.: MSS83577

Creator: McGovern, Halsey, 1886-1983

Extent: 75 items; 5 containers; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Freight rate specialist and political commentator. Chiefly scrapbooks containing correspondence, church bulletins, greeting cards, magazine articles, mailing lists, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, poetry, prayer cards, press releases, invitations, telegrams, and photographs pertaining to McGovern's political views and the civil rights movement. Also included are newsletters and a booklet.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Personal Names

Darden, Ida M. (Ida Mercedes), b. 1892--Correspondence.

Irvine, Reed J.--Correspondence.

LeFevre, Robert, 1911---Correspondence.

Loeb, William, 1905-1981--Correspondence.

Maguire, Russell, 1897-1966--Correspondence.

Manion, Clarence, 1896-1979--Correspondence.

McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957.

McGovern, Halsey, 1886-1983.

Pursell, R. Roy--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Archibald B. (Archibald Bulloch), 1894-1979--Correspondence.

Schlaflly, Phyllis--Correspondence.

Smoot, Dan--Correspondence.

Stratemeyer, Annalee--Correspondence.

Stratemeyer, George E., 1890-1970--Correspondence.

Tomlinson, Homer A. (Homer Aubrey), 1892-1968--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Congress of Freedom, Inc.

Defenders of the American Constitution.

Fighting Homefolks of Fighting Men (Organization)

Friends of Senator McCarthy, Inc.

John Birch Society.

United Nations.

### Subjects

Anti-communist movements--United States.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Korean War, 1950-1953.

Patriotic societies--United States.

### Locations

United States--Politics and government--1945-

United States--Race relations.

Occupations  
Freight rate specialists.  
Political commentators.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Halsey McGovern, freight rate specialist and political commentator, were given to the Library of Congress by Carol A. G. Alonso in 1995.

### Processing History:

The papers of Halsey McGovern were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Halsey McGovern is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Halsey McGovern are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Halsey McGovern Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Halsey McGovern (1886-1983) span the years 1945-1983 and include newsletters, a booklet, and scrapbooks. The scrapbooks contain church bulletins, correspondence, greeting cards, magazine articles, mailing lists, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, photographs, poetry, prayer cards, press releases, social invitations, and telegrams.

McGovern was born in Nashville, Tenn., and he grew up in Atlanta, Ga. He was a freight rate specialist, initially for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in Atlanta and later as a private consultant in Washington, D.C. Beginning in 1952, he published the monthly newsletters *Letter* and *Epistle* expressing his viewpoints on a variety of political issues, particularly his opposition to communism. The scrapbooks include newspaper and magazine articles and letters to editors and politicians voicing McGovern's support for Senator Joseph McCarthy and others who charged that the government was infiltrated and manipulated by communists and their allies. His writings in opposition to the United Nations, the Korean War, racial integration, and civil rights cultivated supporters whose letters and printed material are also contained in the scrapbooks. Among these were leaders of the Catholic church and other religious and political organizations, including the Congress of Freedom, Friends of Senator McCarthy, John Birch Society, Fighting Homefolks of Fighting Men, and Defenders of the American Constitution. Correspondents include Ida M. Darden, Reed J. Irvine, Robert LeFevre, William Loeb, Russell Maguire, Clarence Manion, R. Roy Pursell, Archibald B. Roosevelt, Phyllis Schlafly, Dan Smoot, George E. and Annalee Stratemeyer, and Homer A. Tomlinson.

# Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Publications
BOX 1	<i>Epistle</i> , No. 2, undated
BOX 1	<i>Keep Our America Free: Keep the Connally Reservation</i> , circa 1961
BOX 1	<i>Letter</i> , Nos. 1-50, 1952-1954, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Scrapbooks, 1945-1983, undated
BOX 1	Nos. 4-6
BOX 2	Nos. 7-12
BOX 3	Nos. 13-18
BOX 4	Nos. 19-24
BOX 5	Nos. 28, 30, 33, and 38