

Lewis B. Schwellenbach Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80039214>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012016>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
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Collection Summary

Title: Lewis B. Schwellenbach Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1916-1958

Bulk Dates: 1934-1948

ID No.: MSS39214

Creator: Schwellenbach, Lewis B. (Lewis Baxter), 1894-1948

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 9 containers plus 5 oversize

Extent: 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80039214>

Summary: United States secretary of labor, United States senator from Washington, jurist, and lawyer. Correspondence, speeches and writings, clippings, and scrapbooks relating primarily to Schwellenbach's career in the Senate and with the Department of Labor.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bell, Frank T.--Correspondence.

Garner, John Nance, 1868-1967--Correspondence.

Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.

Long, Huey Pierce, 1893-1935.

Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Schwellenbach, Anne Duffy--Correspondence.

Schwellenbach, Lewis B. (Lewis Baxter), 1894-1948.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972.

Organizations

United States. Congress. Senate--Rules and practice.

United States. Congress. Senate.

United States. Department of Labor.

United States. Labor Management Relations Act, 1947.

Subjects

Anti-communist movements.

Civil rights.

Communism.

Democracy--Spain.

Fascism.

Filibusters (Political science)--United States.

Fisheries--Washington (State)

Forests and forestry--Washington (State)

Labor disputes.

Neutrality--United States.

Noncitizens--United States.

People with disabilities--Government policy--United States.

Veterans--Government policy--United States.

Places

Japan--Foreign relations--United States.
Spain--History--Civil War, 1936-1939.
United States--Economic conditions--1945-
United States--Economic policy--1945-1960.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--Europe.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.
Washington (State)--Politics and government.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Judges.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Washington (State)

Acquisition Information

The papers of Lewis B. Schwellenbach, United States secretary of labor, United States senator from Washington, jurist, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Anne Duffy Schwellenbach, in 1957 and 1962.

Processing History

The papers of Lewis B. Schwellenbach were arranged and described in 1979 by Gary J. Kohn. The finding aid was revised in 2011. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Some photographs and sketches have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photograph Division where they are identified as part of the Lewis B. Schwellenbach Papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lewis B. Schwellenbach 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, Lewis B. Schwellenbach Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1894, Sept. 20	Born, Superior, Wis.
1917	LL.B., University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.
1916-1917	Assistant instructor, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.
1919	Admitted to Washington state bar
1919-1921	Associated with firm of Roberts & Skeel, Seattle, Wash.
1924	Chairman, Democratic state convention, Washington state
1925-1931	Partner, firm of Schwellenbach, Merrick, and Macfarlane
1931-1935	Practiced law alone
1932	Candidate for governor in Democratic primaries, Washington state
1935	Married Anne Duffy
1935-1940	U.S. senator from Washington (resigned Dec. 1940)
1940-1945	U.S. district judge, Eastern District of Washington
1944-1945	Dean, Gonzaga University Law School, Spokane, Wash.
1945-1948	Secretary of labor
1948, June 10	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lewis Baxter Schwellenbach (1894-1948) span the years 1916-1958, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1934-1948. The collection is composed primarily of speeches, writings, and newspaper and magazine clippings, supplemented by correspondence and miscellaneous material. The papers are arranged in five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Correspondence of Ann Duffy Schwellenbach](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) is small and fragmentary as much of Schwellenbach's personal correspondence was destroyed. However, the [Speeches and Writings File](#), the [Scrapbooks](#) series, and the clippings file in [Miscellany](#) bridge many of the gaps in the collection.

The [General Correspondence](#) series highlights Schwellenbach's career as a federal official. As a United States senator from Washington state, he served constituents by his involvement with legislation affecting the fishing and lumber industries. Letters from the 1930s also outline his views on the survival of democracy in Spain and the prevention of the rise of fascism as espoused by Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini. The correspondence includes numerous letters from President Franklin D. Roosevelt during Schwellenbach's years in the Senate and reflects Roosevelt's consideration of Schwellenbach for a Supreme Court justiceship and his appointment of Schwellenbach as a federal district court judge. The [General Correspondence](#) also documents Schwellenbach's relationship with Harry S. Truman, both in the period when he served as a district judge in Washington state and during his tenure as Truman's secretary of labor.

The [Correspondence of Anne Duffy Schwellenbach](#) consists almost entirely of condolences on the death of her husband. One folder does include a few personal letters, as well as information concerning the disposition of some of her husband's personal papers. The [Speeches and Writings File](#) treats Schwellenbach's federal career and diverse political and social concerns. His 1935 role as a member of the "Young Turks" in the Senate, where his friendship with Harry S. Truman first blossomed, is demonstrated by his opposition to Huey Long for his disruptions of Senate operations by use of the filibuster. Also in the Senate, Schwellenbach expounded his views on the Spanish Civil War and, as late as 1939, he pleaded for American neutrality in any future European war. He predicted problems with Japan, particularly because of American policies with respect to the sale of scrap iron.

In his speeches and writings during his years as a federal judge, Schwellenbach expressed warnings over the damaging effects of anti-immigrant legislation on civil liberties and democracy. As secretary of labor, he focused on the transition from a war-based to a peacetime economy. The rights of people with disabilities and veterans were also a topic of

importance, and the [Scrapbooks](#) series and clippings in the [Miscellany](#) touch on his opposition to the U. S. Labor Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Act) of 1947.

The scrapbooks and clippings in the collection relate mainly to Schwellenbach's senate career and as secretary of labor, but treat other parts of his career as well. Material in these files concerning his tenure as a judge is sparse. Of particular interest in the labor files are his confrontation with labor strikes, his campaign to outlaw the Communist Party, and effectiveness and influence in relation to White House adviser John R. Steelman.

Also in the clippings file of the [Miscellany](#) series is biographical information, including a copy of Schwellenbach's Senate voting record and eulogies and other material relating to this death.

In addition to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, prominent correspondents include Frank T. Bell, John Nance Garner, and Cordell Hull.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1934-1948](#)
- [Correspondence of Anne Duffy Schwellenbach, 1947-1958](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1916-1948](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1936-1948](#)
- [Miscellany, 1923-1950](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1934-1948</u></p> <p>Correspondence and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 2	<p><u>Correspondence of Anne Duffy Schwellenbach, 1947-1958</u></p> <p>Correspondence, related material, and letters of condolence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 3-5	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1916-1948</u></p> <p>Typescripts and printed copies, some with handwritten emendations and additions, and drafts of speeches, statements, and other writings. Arranged chronologically. Includes a separate file for speeches and statements by others.</p>
BOX 6-12	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1936-1948</u></p> <p>Primarily newspaper and magazine clippings, with some photographs, relating to Schwellenbach's careers as senator and secretary of labor. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 13-14	<p><u>Miscellany, 1923-1950</u></p> <p>Biographical material, newspaper and magazine clippings, resolutions, memorabilia, scrapbooks and material relating to Schwellenbach's death. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General Correspondence, 1934-1948 Correspondence and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	“A-Ba” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Bell, Frank T.
BOX 1	“Be-F miscellaneous” (3 folders)
BOX 1	Garner, John Nance
BOX 1	Green, William
BOX 1	“G-Ho” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Hull, Cordell
BOX 1	Ickes, Harold L.
BOX 1	“J-R” miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 1	Roosevelt, Franklin D.
BOX 1	“S-T” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Truman, Harry S.
BOX 1	“V-Y” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Unidentified
BOX 2	Correspondence of Anne Duffy Schwellenbach, 1947-1958 Correspondence, related material, and letters of condolence. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
BOX 2	Correspondence, A-W
BOX 2	Letters of condolence, A-W (5 folders)
BOX 3-5	Speeches and Writings File, 1916-1948 Typescripts and printed copies, some with handwritten emendations and additions, and drafts of speeches, statements, and other writings. Arranged chronologically. Includes a separate file for speeches and statements by others.
BOX 3	1916, 1928, 1930
BOX 3	1932-1940 (8 folders)
BOX 4	1941-1947, Jan.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 5	1947, May-Dec.
BOX 5	1948
BOX 5	Undated
BOX 5	Unidentified

Speeches and Writings File, 1916-1948

Container	Contents
BOX 5	By others
BOX 6-12	Scrapbooks, 1936-1948 Primarily newspaper and magazine clippings, with some photographs, relating to Schwellenbach's careers as senator and secretary of labor. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6	1934-1935
BOX 7	1936-1939 (3 vols.)
BOX OV 8	1945 (oversize)
BOX OV 9	1945 (oversize)
BOX OV 10	1945-1946 (oversize)
BOX OV 11	1946-1947 (oversize)
BOX OV 12	1947-1948 (oversize)
BOX 13-14	Miscellany, 1923-1950 Biographical material, newspaper and magazine clippings, resolutions, memorabilia, scrapbooks and material relating to Schwellenbach's death. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 13	Biographical file
BOX 13	Clippings
BOX 13	1923, 1928, 1932-1938 (5 folders)
BOX 13	1939
BOX 13	Jan.-Feb.
BOX 14	Mar.-Dec.
BOX 14	1940-1950, undated (6 folders)
BOX 14	Material relating to Schwellenbach's death
BOX 14	Memorabilia