

Jesse H. Jones Papers
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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Jesse H. Jones Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1916-1960

Bulk Dates: 1926-1945

ID No.: MSS28076

Creator: Jones, Jesse H. (Jesse Holman), 1874-1956

Extent: 78,000 items

Extent: 360 containers plus 39 oversize

Extent: 128 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79028076>

Summary: U.S. secretary of commerce and financier. Correspondence, speeches, reports, congressional releases, subject file, newspaper clippings, and other printed matter documenting Jones's career, including as director of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. and secretary of commerce.

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

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.
Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976--Correspondence.
Garner, John Nance, 1868-1967--Correspondence.
Glass, Carter, 1858-1946--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hopkins, Harry L. (Harry Lloyd), 1890-1946--Correspondence.
Hughes, Howard, 1905-1976--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Jones, Jesse H. (Jesse Holman), 1874-1956.
Rogers, Will, 1879-1935--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Schwab, Charles M., 1862-1939--Correspondence.
Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944--Correspondence.
Snyder, John W. (John Wesley), 1895-1985--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)
Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
United States. Department of Commerce.
United States. Federal Loan Agency.

Subjects

Depressions--1929--United States.
Economic assistance, Domestic--United States.
New Deal, 1933-1939.
World War, 1914-1918.
World War, 1939-1945--Equipment and supplies.
World War, 1939-1945.

Places

Texas--Centennial celebrations, etc.
Texas--Politics and government--1865-1950.
United States--Economic policy--1933-1945.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Financiers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Jesse H. Jones, U.S. secretary of commerce and financier, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Mary Gibbs Jones, in 1958 and 1961. One item was donated by Frances Saunders in 1985.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1962 and expanded in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

A note in the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin* dated 25 May 1959 describes the first installment of the Jones Papers. The Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 18, no. 3: 134, describes a second installment.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Jesse H. Jones in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jesse H. Jones 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, Jesse H. Jones Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1874, Apr. 5	Born, Robertson County, Tenn.
1902	Organized South Texas Lumber Co., Houston, Tex.
1909	Organized Texas Trust Co., Houston, Tex.
1917-1918	Director, military relief, American Red Cross
circa 1918-1956	Publisher, <i>Houston Chronicle</i>
1920	Married Mary Gibbs
1932-1939	Director, Reconstruction Finance Corp.

1933-1939	Member, National Emergency Council
1936-1943	Chairman, Executive Committee, Export-Import Bank, Washington, D.C.
1939	Appointed administrator, Federal Loan Agency
1940-1945	Secretary of commerce
1941-1942	Member, Supply Priorities and Allocation Board
1942-1945	Member, War Production Board Member, Economic Stabilization Board Member, Economic Defense Board
1945	Returned to Houston, Tex. to publish <i>Houston Chronicle</i>
1956, June 1	Died, Houston, Tex.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jesse Holman Jones (1874-1956) span the years 1916-1960, with the greater part concentrated in the period 1926-1945. The papers contain eleven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Presidential File](#), [Reconstruction Finance Corporation File](#), [Federal Loan Agency File](#), [Secretary of Commerce-Reconstruction Finance Corporation File](#), [Department of Commerce File](#), [Subject File](#), [Speech File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Clippings](#), and [Scrapbooks](#). Featured are Jones's role as financial advisor, fund-raiser and leader in the Democratic Party, and as head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and later as secretary of commerce. Other emphases include Texas and national politics and Jones's long years of service to four presidents, Republican and Democratic, from World War I through the Depression and to the end of World War II.

In addition to almost thirty years of correspondence, 1930-1959, the Jones Papers contain extensive volumes of newspaper clippings documenting all phases of his personal and public life. The series documenting Jones's positions with the [Reconstruction Finance Corporation](#), [Federal Loan Agency](#), and [Department of Commerce](#) include reading files of letters sent as well as monthly and quarterly reports and press releases. Among the topics treated in the [Subject File](#) are personal matters, Democratic Party affairs, the centennial of Texas statehood, and supply issues pertaining to national defense during World War II.

The [Presidential Files](#) contains correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Other correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, James A. Farley, John Nance Garner, Carter Glass, Harry L. Hopkins, Howard Hughes, Cordell Hull, Will Rogers, Charles M. Schwab, Alfred Emanuel Smith, John W. Snyder, and Henry A. Wallace.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1924-1956](#)
- [Presidential File, 1916-1956](#)
- [Reconstruction Finance Corp. File, 1933-1951](#)
- [Federal Loan Agency File, 1939-1942](#)
- [Secretary of Commerce-Reconstruction Finance Corp. File, 1942-1945](#)
- [Department of Commerce File, 1940-1945](#)
- [Subject File, 1915-1960](#)
- [Speech File, 1925-1944](#)
- [Miscellany, 1954](#)
- [Clippings File, 1926-1952](#)
- [Scrapbooks \(Oversize\), 1926-1932](#)

Description of Series

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BOX 238	1 July-30 Sept. 1934
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BOX 241	1 Jan.-14 Feb. 1935
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BOX 245	1-31 Oct. 1935
BOX 246	1-30 Nov. 1935
BOX 247	1-31 Dec. 1935
BOX 248	1-31 Jan. 1936
BOX 249	1 Feb.-31 Mar. 1936
BOX 250	1 Apr.-31 May 1936
BOX 251	1 June-31 Aug. 1936
BOX 252	1 Sept.-31 Oct. 1936
BOX 253	1-31 Nov. 1936
BOX 254	1 Jan.-31 Mar. 1937
BOX 255	1 Apr.-31 May 1937
BOX 256	1 June-31 Aug. 1937
BOX 257	1 Sept.-31 Dec. 1937
BOX 258	1 Jan.-30 Apr. 1938
BOX 259	1 May-31 July 1938
BOX 260	1 Aug.-31 Dec. 1938
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BOX 270	1 Apr.-15 June 1941
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BOX 272	25 Sept. 1941-15 Jan. 1942
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