

**Brien McMahon Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2013**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78032334>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013067>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013  
Revised 2020 July

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Brien McMahon Papers

**Span Dates:** 1943-1952

**ID No.:** MSS32334

**Creator:** McMahon, Brien, 1903-1952

**Extent:** 3,000 items

**Extent:** 10 containers

**Extent:** 4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78032334>

**Summary:** United States senator from Connecticut. Correspondence, clippings, addresses, public statements, articles, and bills and resolutions prepared by McMahon during his term of office as senator.

## 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

McMahon, Brien, 1903-1952.

### Organizations

United States. Congress. Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

### Subjects

Cold War.

Nuclear energy--Government policy--United States.

Nuclear weapons--United States.

### Places

Europe, Eastern--Foreign relations--United States.

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--1945-1989.

United States--Foreign relations--Europe, Eastern.

United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

United States--Military policy.

United States--Politics and government--1933-1953.

### Occupations

Senators, U.S. Congress--Connecticut.

## Provenance

The papers of Brien McMahon, United States senator from Connecticut, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Baroness Rosemary Silvercruys, in 1954.

## Processing History

The McMahon Papers were processed in 1954. The finding aid was revised in 2005. An acquisitions note on the McMahon Papers appeared in the Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions 11, no. 3 (May 1954).

## Transfers

A phonograph album has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, where it is identified as part of the McMahon Papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Brien McMahon 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 Brien McMahon 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, Brien McMahon Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1903, Oct. 6	Born, Norwalk, Conn.
1924	A.B., Fordham University, New York, N.Y.
1927	LL.B., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; admitted to Connecticut bar
1933	Judge, city court, Norwalk, Conn.
1933-1935	Special assistant to United States attorney general
1935-1936	Acting assistant attorney general
1936	Became assistant attorney general in charge of Criminal Division
1938	In charge of prosecution of Harlan County Coal Operators Associations
1939	Chairman, Attorney General's Committee on Survey of Release Procedures
1940	Married Rosemary Turner
1944	Elected United States senator from Connecticut
1945-1947	Chairman, Special Committee on Atomic Energy, United States Senate
1946	McMahon Act for the Control of Atomic Energy (S.1717) signed by President Harry S. Truman
1950	Reelected United States senator
1951	Advocated six-fold expansion of atomic bomb program
1952	Promoted as a Democratic Party presidential possibility
1952, July 28	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Brien McMahon (1903-1952) span the years 1943-1952 and consist of correspondence, memoranda, speeches, addresses, articles, bills and resolutions, press releases, clippings, and printed material relating to McMahon's service in the United States Senate, including as chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in 1946 and again in 1949-1952. McMahon was an early proponent of civilian control of atomic energy who also promoted an expanded American nuclear arsenal during the Cold War. Subjects include nuclear policy, the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and foreign affairs in the post-World War II period, especially in relation to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The collection is organized into five series: General Correspondence and Other Papers , Congressional File , Addresses and Press Releases , Articles , and Speech Material .

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1943-1952
- Congressional File, 1945-1952
- Addresses and Press Releases, 1943-1952
- Articles, 1948-1951
- Speech Material, 1946-1952

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-2	<p><b><u>General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1943-1952</u></b></p> <p>Mainly letters sent and received. Included are numerous enclosures such as memoranda, copies of speeches, pamphlets, brochures, clippings, miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Chronological arrangement.</p>
BOX 3	<p><b><u>Congressional File, 1945-1952</u></b></p> <p>Printed and typescript copies of bills and resolutions introduced by McMahon in the 79th-82nd Congresses, and a scrapbook of clippings, "Remarks in Congressional Record by Senator McMahon," 81st Congress, 1st Session.</p> <p>Chronological arrangement.</p>
BOX 4-9	<p><b><u>Addresses and Press Releases, 1943-1952</u></b></p> <p>Handwritten, typescript, near prints, and printed copies of addresses, speeches, and press releases.</p> <p>Chronological arrangement.</p>
BOX 9	<p><b><u>Articles, 1948-1951</u></b></p> <p>Typescript and printed copies of articles by McMahon.</p> <p>Chronological arrangement.</p>
BOX 10	<p><b><u>Speech Material, 1946-1952</u></b></p> <p>Government publications, pamphlets, and near print copies of memoranda and speeches, brochures, and clippings used by McMahon in preparing addresses and articles.</p> <p>Chronological arrangement.</p>

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-2</b>	<b>General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1943-1952</b> Mainly letters sent and received. Included are numerous enclosures such as memoranda, copies of speeches, pamphlets, brochures, clippings, miscellaneous items. Chronological arrangement.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1943-1950
<b>BOX 2</b>	1951-1952
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Congressional File, 1945-1952</b> Printed and typescript copies of bills and resolutions introduced by McMahon in the 79th-82nd Congresses, and a scrapbook of clippings, "Remarks in Congressional Record by Senator McMahon," 81st Congress, 1st Session. Chronological arrangement.
<b>BOX 3</b>	1945-1952
<b>BOX 4-9</b>	<b>Addresses and Press Releases, 1943-1952</b> Handwritten, typescript, near prints, and printed copies of addresses, speeches, and press releases. Chronological arrangement.
<b>BOX 4</b>	1943-1946
<b>BOX 5</b>	1947
<b>BOX 6</b>	1948
<b>BOX 7</b>	1949
<b>BOX 7</b>	1950, Aug. 1950
<b>BOX 8</b>	1950, Sept.-1951, July
<b>BOX 9</b>	1951, Aug.-1952, July
<b>BOX 9</b>	<b>Articles, 1948-1951</b> Typescript and printed copies of articles by McMahon. Chronological arrangement.
<b>BOX 9</b>	1948-1951
<b>BOX 10</b>	<b>Speech Material, 1946-1952</b> Government publications, pamphlets, and near print copies of memoranda and speeches, brochures, and clippings used by McMahon in preparing addresses and articles. Chronological arrangement.