



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

GOVERNOR Stassen, Harold

An Inventory of His Department of Administration and Finance Files

Access to or use of this collection is currently restricted.

For details, see Administrative Information.

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Governor (1939-1943 : Stassen).
- Series Title:** Department of Administration and Finance files,
- Dates:** 1937-1941.
- Abstract:** Internal memoranda and working files from both the Governor's office and the Department of Administration and Finance dramatically illustrating the political (and often informal) process of hiring and firing state employees that accompanies a change of administration, especially when there is also a change in political party.
- Quantity:** 3.7 cu. ft. (4 boxes and 2 partial boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

These materials document how even when the civil service system was being put into place, state officials and their supporters engaged in investigations of employees' political leanings and private lives, pressuring, favor-repaying, and deal-making--all with an eye toward purging non-Republicans and other out-of-favor individuals from the state's payroll.

A large section of these records, arranged first by state agency and then by employee, provides clear evidence of a large-scale investigation of state employees undertaken in cooperation with Republican party members throughout Minnesota. Information usually includes the individual's address, job title, date of hire, salary, and political affiliation and activities. Recommendations for retaining or firing usually accompany each entry, as well as subjective and personal information. Prominent correspondents include Stassen; Ralph F. Jerome, Budget

Commissioner and Director of Personnel within the Administration and Finance Department; P. J. O'Connor, Employment Officer under Jerome; Maude H. Strickler, Chief Clerk and Supervisor of Personnel Files; and Violet Crawford, Governor Stassen's sister and secretary.

Some of the above records are marked with the notation "carded." This refers to what appear to be the master information file: a set of 4 inch by 6 inch note cards (at least one per employee) grouped by agency. Each card generally has the employee's address, agency, and date of hire typed at the top, with the remainder of the space given over to handwritten notes by the investigator, usually personal information (e.g., political ties and activities, religion, marital status, race, military service) gathered through interviews with neighbors, coworkers, and county Republican committees, although the sources are often not specifically named.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Civil service--Minnesota.
- Minnesota--Executive departments.
- Minnesota--Officials and employees--Salaries, etc.
- Minnesota--Officials and employees--Selection and appointment.
- Minnesota--Politics and government--1918-1945.
- Minnesota state agencies.
- Patronage, Political--Minnesota.
- Personnel management--Minnesota.

Persons:

- Crawford, Violet.
- Jerome, Ralph F.
- O'Connor, P. J.
- Stassen, Harold Edward, 1907-.
- Strickler, Maude H.

Organizations:

- Minnesota. Dept. of Administration and Finance.
- Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions:

Some of these files contain personal data; researchers may apply to use those records in accordance with the State Archives access statement. Files identified as containing private data are noted in the Detailed Description of the Collection; the other files in this series are open to use.

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Governor (1939-1943 : Stassen). Department of Administration and Finance files. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 999-104 15,564 (mss)

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
110.E.14.2F	1	<p>Correspondence, 1938-1941. “Check At Once,” Correspondence, 1939. Documents Relating to the Case of Clare H. Kunz, 1939. Two items: Testimony from Kunz (3 March 1939), an employee with the Department of Administration and Finance since 1933, regarding allegations that the department destroyed employment documents on 2 January 1939. Letter (15 June 1939) contesting Kunz’s dismissal from his position on 5 June 1939.</p> <p>“Civil Service,” ca. 1939. “Honorary Appointments”, undated. “Legislature,” Candidate List, 1938. Notes occupation and political party.</p> <p>“Governor’s Office,” Memoranda, ca. 1939. “Governor Stassen – R.F.J.,” 1938 - 1939. Memoranda between Stassen and Ralph Jerome, Budget Commissioner and Director of Personnel, Department of Administration and Finance.</p> <p>“P.J. O’Connor – Personal,” 1939. Correspondence and memoranda regarding potential state employees. O’Connor served as Employment Officer under Jerome. Includes sworn depositions from Everett W. Nelson, Thomas Jolly, and Peter Meyer, about a meeting between themselves (all Hastings residents), the Hon. Elmer Ryan, and Dr. H.A. Fasbender – apparently regarding investigation of 1938 campaign fundraising.</p> <p>Annotated Lists of State Legislators, ca. 1939. Memoranda Concerning Potential and Current State Employees, 1939. “Investigation File,” undated.</p>

Lists of dates for “district” meetings on unspecified topic(s).

Documents Relating to Financial Matters, 1939.

Includes salary lists for department employees, analysis of department funds, list of “key” Republican contacts in Duluth and job recommendations, budget requests, state financial summary (1 April 1939), and memoranda.

Location	Box	
110.E.14.3B	2	Memoranda Regarding Personnel, Various Departments, 1939. Includes annotated employee lists. RESTRICTED Telephone Logs: Administration Department, Business, Administrator, Examiner, Purchasing Department, 1939. Various Departments: Adjutant General: Memoranda and Employee List, undated. Athletic Board: Correspondence Regarding Employment with Various Departments, 1939. Attorney General: Correspondence and Memoranda Regarding Employment, 1939. Auditor: Correspondence Regarding Employment, 9 January 1939. Stafford King (State Auditor) to Ralph Jerome on behalf on “Eggers,” a laid-off employee. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension: Employee Lists and Recommendations, ca. 1939. RESTRICTED Bureau of Criminal Apprehension: Correspondence and Memoranda Regarding Employment, 1939. Conservation: Employee List, Investigation Notes, and Correspondence, 1939. RESTRICTED Board of Grain Appeals: Correspondence and Memoranda Regarding Employment, 1938-1939. Highway: Memoranda, Telephone Logs, and Inter-Agency Correspondence Regarding Employment, 1939. Highway: Correspondence Regarding Employment, 1938-1939. Highway: Employee Lists and Recommendations, ca. 1939. 2 folders. RESTRICTED Highway: Applications for Employment, 1938-1939. RESTRICTED Highway: Regarding Personnel for Statewide Highway Planning Survey, 1937 - 1938. RESTRICTED Includes correspondence, state project agreement, employee classification questionnaires, and employee lists. Highway: Seniority Lists and Recommendations (By Division), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED Labor Relations: Correspondence (December 1938) and Telephone Log (13 June 1939) Regarding Employment.

Correspondence between Jerome and W. H. Frederick (Tax League, Minneapolis).

Minnesota Resources Commission: Correspondence and Memoranda Regarding Employment, 1939.

Railroad and Warehouse Commission: Correspondence and Memoranda Regarding Employment, 1939.

Secretary of State: Correspondence Regarding Employment, 1939.

Supreme Court: Memorandum Regarding Employment, undated.

L.W. Boe (President, St. Olaf College, Northfield) attesting to character of Carl J. Eastvold (attorney, Ortonville).

Correspondence Regarding Employment, 27 December 1938.

From O.K. Dahle (attorney, Spring Grove).

Recommendations for immediate employment (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Miscellaneous recommendations for employment (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Commission of Administration and Finance (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Department of Agriculture (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Department of Agriculture (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Department of Banks (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Commerce and Insurance (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Conservation Department (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

RESTRICTED

Recommendations for employment, Highway Department (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Highway Department (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. Folder No. 1. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Highway Department (P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. Folder No. 2. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Highways – Administration (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Drivers' License (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Finance (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Highway Patrol (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Highway Patrol (P .J. O’Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Highways – Lands and Right of Way (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Legal (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Maintenance – Central Office (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Maintenance (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Highways – Planning Survey (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Highways – Plant and Equipment (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Employee list, Department of Highways – Purchases and Stores (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.

Location Box

110.E.14.4F	3	Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – Central Office (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – Bridges and Bldgs (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – B (Plans) (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – Field (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – Safety (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list, Department of Highways – Road Construction – Tests, Inspection, and Research (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Recommendations for employment, Hotel Division (P. J. O’Connor copy), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED
		Recommendations for employment, Hotel Division (Stassen copy), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED
		Employee list, Insurance – Fire Marshal (P. J. O’Connor copy), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED
		Employee list, Insurance – Fire Marshal (Stassen copy), ca. 1939.
		Employee list and recommendations for employment, Liquor Control Commission (P J. O’Connor copy), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED
		Employee list, Minnesota Tax Commission (P. J. O’Connor copy), ca. 1939. RESTRICTED

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Oil Inspection
(P. J. O'Connor copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list and recommendations for employment, Oil Inspection
(Stassen copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Public Properties (P. J. O'Connor
copy), ca. 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee list, Department of Public Properties (Stassen copy), ca.
1939. **RESTRICTED**

Employee lists and recommendations for employment, Rural Credits
(P. J. O'Connor copy), 1939. **RESTRICTED**

Location **Box**

114.F.1.7B-2

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Employee cards (arranged by state agency, some alphabetical by
employee): **ENTIRE BOX RESTRICTED**

Adjutant General

Commission of Administration and Finance

Compensation Insurance

Agriculture, Dairy, and Food

Agriculture, Dairy, and Food: Oil

Attorney General

Barber Examiners, Board of

Basic Science Examiners, Board of

Chiropody Examiners, Board of

Civil Service, Board of

Dental Examiners, Board of

Electricity, Board of

Grain, Board of

Hairdressing and Beauty, Board of

Investment, Board of

Law Examiners, Board of

Medical Examiners, Board of

Nurses Examining, Board of

Optometry, Board of

Osteopathy, Board of

Pardons, Board of

Parole, Board of

Pharmacy, Board of

Poultry Improvement, Board of

Registration for A.E. and L.S., Board of (Architects, Engineers, and
Land Surveyors)

Department of Commerce

Department of Commerce: Closed Banks Department

Department of Commerce: Insurance

Conservation

Conservation: Drainage and Water

Conservation: Drainage and Water - Permanent

Conservation: Drainage and Water - Temporary
Conservation: Forestry
Conservation: Game and Fish
Conservation: Game and Fish - Game Wardens
Conservation: Lands and Minerals
Conservation: Surveyor General of Logs and Lumber
Conservation: Magazine
Conservation: Nursery
Conservation: State Parks
Education
Education: Bemidji State Teachers College
Education: Duluth State Teachers College
Education: Mankato State Teachers College
Education: Moorhead State Teachers College
Education: St. Cloud State Teachers College
Education: Winona State Teachers College
Electrical Inspection
G.A.R. Home (Grand Army of the Republic)
Health

Location **Box**

114.F.1.8F-1

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ENTIRE BOX RESTRICTED

Department of Highways
Highway Patrol
Hotel Inspection
Insurance: Fire Marshal
Labor Conciliator
Department of Labor and Industry
Department of Labor and Industry: Unemployment Compensation
Livestock Sanitary Board
Liquor Control
Prison
Public Institutions
Public Properties
Railroad and Warehouse Commission

114.F.1.8F-2

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ENTIRE BOX RESTRICTED

Rural Credit
Secretary of State
Secretary of State: Motor Vehicle
Social Security (Board of Control)
Social Welfare
Soldiers Home
Soldiers Home: Board
State Athletic Commission
State Auditor
State Employment Service

State Historical Society
State Hospital
State Law Library
S.R.A. (State Relief Agency)
State Treasurer
Supreme Court
Department of Taxation
Veterinary Examining Board
Miscellaneous