



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

GOVERNOR Stassen, Harold

An Inventory of His Correspondence and Miscellany

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Governor (1939-1943 : Stassen).
- Series Title:** Correspondence and miscellany,
- Dates:** 1933-1943 (bulk 1938-1943).
- Abstract:** Personal correspondence, handwritten notes, speeches, press releases and clippings, and state employment correspondence and telephone logs that cover both Stassen's routine work as governor and the political (and often) informal process of hiring and firing of state employees that accompanies a change of administration, especially when there is also a change in political party.
- Quantity:** 0.8 cu. ft. (1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box location.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The "Personal" correspondence file (1938-1943) includes personal business correspondence, letters from friends, and the Governor's official 1940 and 1943 Christmas cards. The file entitled "Important" letters (1942-1943) contain photocopies of letters to Governor Stassen from noteworthy people on a variety of topics including responses to invitations and the service of Minnesota soldiers in the Pacific in World War II. Correspondents include President Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, King Olav of Norway, General George C. Marshall, General Douglas MacArthur, and L. Welch Pogue.

The power and reach of the political patronage system in state employment is demonstrated by several folders of correspondence (1938-1939), addressed not only to Stassen but to other officials as well, including letters and telegrams from individuals seeking positions, individuals and organizations writing on behalf of job seekers and current employees, and individuals and organizations offering damaging information on current employees. Office telephone logs for the period May through August 1939 supply further insight into the employment process.

Also included in this series are a folder of undated handwritten notes by the Governor, most likely written during meeting and speech preparation; printed copies of Stassen's inaugural speeches (1939, 1941, 1943) and budget message (1939); and press releases, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles (ca. 1942 - May 1943).

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:

MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964.
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1888-1959.
Olav V, King of Norway, 1903-1991.
Pogue, Lloyd Welch, 1899-.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Stassen, Harold Edward, 1907-.

Organizations:

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions:

Originals of the materials contained in the "Important" letters file are now housed in the Minnesota Historical Society's Reserve Collection No. 66.

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]. Minnesota Governor (1939-1943 : Stassen). Correspondence and miscellany. 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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Processed by: Shawn Rounds, May 1999.

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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

110.E.14.2F

“Important” Letters, 1942 - 1943.

Photocopies of letters to Governor Stassen from noteworthy people on a variety of topics including responses to invitations and information regarding the service of Minnesota soldiers in the Pacific during World War II. Correspondents: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, King Olav of Norway, General George C. Marshall (Chief of Staff, War Department), Robert P. Patterson (Under Secretary of War), the Netherlands Ambassador, General Douglas MacArthur (Commander, Southwest Pacific Area), President and Madame Edward Benes (President of the Czechoslovak government in exile), Claude R. Wickard (Secretary of Agriculture), L.W. K'ung (Private Secretary to Her Excellency Madame Chiang Kai-shek), L. Welch Pogue (Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board).

The originals of the letters are housed in the Minnesota Historical Society's Reserve Collection.

“Personal” Correspondence, 1938 - 1943.

This folder includes personal business correspondence and letters from friends, and the Stassen family's official 1940 and 1943 Christmas cards.

“Governor: Original Notes,” undated.

Handwritten notes, most likely written during meetings and speech preparation.

Speeches, 1939 - 1943.

Stassen's inaugural speeches (1939, 1941, 1943) and budget message (1939).

Press materials, ca. 1942 - May 1943. 5 folders.

Includes press releases, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles.

Materials regarding state employment:

Correspondence, December 1938 - November 1939. 4 folders.

Letters and telegrams from people seeking state employment, people writing on behalf of job seekers and current state employees, and people offering damaging information on current state employees.

“M. Burns,” Daily Telephone Logs and Memoranda, May 1939.

“Governor’s Office,” Daily Telephone Logs and Memoranda, June 1939.

“Venise,” Daily Telephone Logs and Memoranda, June 1939.
Venise Stassen was married to Elmer B. Stassen, the Governor’s brother, and did office work for the Governor.

“Venise,” Daily Telephone Logs and Memoranda, July 1939.

“Venise,” Daily Telephone Logs, Memoranda, and Meeting Minutes, August 1939.