These papers were donated to the Library in 1979 under the terms of the will of Mr. Biddle's widow, Katherine Chapin Biddle. Her copyright interest was assigned to the United States Government. Further donations in 1981 and 1988 were made by Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Biddle. They have not donated copyright interests.

Quantity: 12 feet

Restrictions: None.

Related Materials: In the following collections of papers in the Roosevelt Library: Adolf A. Berle, John Carmody, Morris L. Cooke, Oscar Cox, Charles Fahy, Lowell Mellett, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Samuel I. Rosenman, Henry A. Wallace, OF, PPF and PSF. See also Mr. Biddle's two volume memoir, A Casual Past and In Brief Authority. The Biddle papers on the Nuremberg Trials are in the Syracuse University Library.
FRANCIS BIDDLE

Biographical Sketch

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family in 1886, Francis Biddle was a Groton and Harvard graduate. After Harvard Law School he served for one year as secretary to Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

A practicing attorney in Philadelphia for twenty-five years, Mr. Biddle was named in 1934 the first chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, filling that post for one year. In 1939 President Roosevelt made him judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1940 he was appointed Solicitor General and in September 1941 Attorney General. After leaving that post in May 1945, Mr. Biddle was appointed U.S. member of the International Military Tribunal that tried the Nazi war criminals at Nuremburg.

From 1947 until his death in 1968, Mr. Biddle was active as a speaker and as a writer. Among the organizations he worked with were the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission and the Americans for Democratic Action, the latter of which he headed as national chairman from 1950 to 1953.
Most of the material in this collection is from Mr. Biddle's tenure as Attorney General, with a few items from his year as Solicitor General. Justice Department reports and memos, speeches, general correspondence, notes on Cabinet meetings, and notes on conferences with President Roosevelt form the bulk of the papers given to the Roosevelt Library. Other items in the collection have been grouped by subject; and incoming correspondence has been filed alphabetically by name of correspondent under the heading "Correspondence." A few carbons of outgoing correspondence were in these papers.

It appears that Mr. Biddle made use of this material (although he did not arrange it under subject headings) in the writing of his autobiography. However, the Papers of Francis Biddle are not the complete Justice Department records created during his tenure as Attorney General.
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