The Papers of

Harold D. Smith

1939-1946

Accession Numbers: 65-19, 65-19A

The papers were given to the Library by Smith's widow, Mrs. Lillian M. Riley, on March 28, 1965, and were received at the Library in June and July of that year. Literary property rights have not been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 3 linear feet (approximately 6,000 pages).

Restrictions: Quotations from the diaries or other material shall be limited to paragraphs of reasonable length and not more than ten such paragraphs, nor may any part of the diaries or materials be published solely for the sake of their own content. Copies of selected pages may be made solely for note-taking purposes. The researcher must agree in writing that he will not sell, give away, or lend the copies.

Related Material: Related material may be found in PSF - Subject File - Bureau of the Budget, PPF 8024 Harold D. Smith, OF 79 Bureau of the Budget, OF 5708 Bureau of the Budget - Enrolled Public Bills, and papers of Wayne Coy.

The Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri, has photocopies of items in this collection pertaining to the administration of President Truman.
Harold Dewey Smith was born on June 6, 1898 in Haven, Kansas. After receiving degrees in engineering and public administration from the Universities of Kansas and Michigan, he worked for several municipal and state research organizations. In 1937 he was appointed Budget Director for the state of Michigan by Governor Frank Murphy and served in that capacity until April, 1939 when President Roosevelt named him Director of the Bureau of the Budget. After Roosevelt's death, Smith remained at his post until June, 1946 when he resigned to become vice-president of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (World Bank). He was serving as acting president of that institution at the time of his death in Culpepper, Virginia on January 23, 1947.

Smith's papers include diaries, lists of appointments, memoranda, correspondence, and newspaper clippings from the period when he served as Budget Director. Under Reorganization Plan No. 1, effective July 1, 1939 the Bureau of the Budget was transferred to the Executive Office of the President and was responsible for preparing and administering the budget, developing plans for more efficient administrative management of Federal activities, recommending Presidential action on legislation approved by Congress, and assisting in the preparation of Executive Orders and Proclamations. During World War II, the Bureau also was involved in organizing and liquidating emergency agencies and in making recommendations on personnel and economical utilization of supplies. The papers, which detail these activities of the Budget Bureau, are arranged in four series.
I. Daily Memoranda, 1939-1940

Accounts of appointments, meetings, and telephone conversations which Smith held with various government officials and other individuals, arranged chronologically. Descriptions of conferences with the President are included; identical descriptions of these meetings were also assembled in a series of volumes entitled, "Conferences with the President" (see Series III). After discontinuance of these memoranda at the end of 1940, accounts of conferences with the President continued to be made and notations in the "Daily Record" (see Series II) became more detailed.

II. Daily Record, 1940-1946

Listings of appointments and meetings scheduled for Smith, often with a brief description of the topic of discussion. Record also includes notations of telephone conversations held by the Budget Director and some description of their content. (See Series I, "Daily Memoranda" for similar material for 1939.) One volume of newspaper clippings concerning Bureau of the Budget activities, 1941-1943. Arranged chronologically.

III. Conferences with the President, 1939-1946

Diaries recounting conferences held by Smith, often in the company of other Federal officials, with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. Most entries dictated by Smith with occasional items by John Blandford, Wayne Coy, and Paul Appleby, Assistant Directors of the Budget. Arranged chronologically. An Index to Conferences of Harold D. Smith with President Truman follows the container list.

IV. White House Memoranda, 1939-1945

File copies of Smith's memoranda to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, Mrs. Roosevelt, and various members of the White House staff, arranged chronologically. Table of contents in each folder indicates subjects of memoranda. Also one folder of miscellaneous material, including biography of Smith and copies of correspondence to and from President Roosevelt.
CONTAINER CONTENTS

1 Daily Memoranda
   April - June, 1939
   July - November, 1939
   December 1939 - December 1940

2 Daily Record
   1940
   1941
   1942
   1943
   Clippings, 1941-1943
   1944

3 1945
   1946

Conferences with the President
   1939 - 1940
   1941 - 1942
   1943 - March 23, 1945
   April 18, 1945 - December 1945
   1946

4 White House Memoranda
   1939 - 1940
   1941
   1942
   1943
   1944
   January - April 2, 1945
   April 13 - December 1945
   1946
   Miscellaneous
CONFERENCES OF HAROLD D. SMITH
WITH
PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
April 10, 1945 - April 10, 1946

INDEX

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Harry Clark, Jr.

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Independence, Missouri
May, 1968
Index to conferences with the President (starting 4/18/45)

April 18, 1945

President's expression of confidence in the Director
Responsibilities of the Director under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.
Method of submitting budget changes to Congress

April 26, 1945

Budget for 1946, proposed changes in
Reorganization of certain departments and agencies
Reorganization of the Dept. of Labor and appointment of a new Secretary
War Production Board, reduction in
Office of Censorship, reduction in
Office of Civilian Defense, liquidation of
Unemployment Compensation and Old Age Assistance, increase in
Red Cross, proposal to appropriate money for
Intelligence work within the Govt, memorandum from Director re John Franklin Carter proposal for a research project
Lend-lease, proposed budget
Education, message on
Education, Office of
Director's reaction to conference with the President

May 4, 1945

Budget cuts, editorial comment re
Red Cross appropriation
President's Fund and intelligence work in South America
Research project of John Franklin Carter
Airport bill
President's relation with Senator Pat McCarran
Reorganization, particularly in the White House
Ed McKim as Administrative Assistant
William H. McReynolds resignation
Labor Department, reorganization of
Reorganization legislation
Scientific research
Reorganization of the White House staff
May 11, 1945

Proposed reduction in 1945 Budget
Education, proposed message on
Scientific research
Proposed building program for the District of Columbia
Veterans' hospitals and Veterans Administration

May 16, 1945

Reorganization legislation, message on
Social security message
Veterans' hospital

May 21, 1945

Reorganization legislation, message on
Social security message
Control of Department heads
Government agencies, proposed reduction in funds for
Lend-lease budget
Flood control in California Central Valley
Rural Electrification Administration
Government corporations, control of
Manhattan Project

June 5, 1945

War Department budget
Message to Congress, 5-1-45
Reorganization legislation, consolidation of War and Navy
Departments
War Food Administration, memorandum re disposal of
Department of Agriculture
Agriculture, appointment of Jack Hutson as Under Secretary of
Rural Electrification Administration, appointment of Administrator
Compulsory military training
John Franklin Carter
Reorganization of Department of Labor
District of Columbia building program
Federal Works Agency, possible liquidation of

June 8, 1945

Office of Scientific Research & Development
June 8, 1945 (continued)

Shortage of doctors
Control of government corporations

June 14, 1945

Federal Works Agency
Building program for the District of Columbia
State Department Building
Buildings for War and Navy Departments and Veterans Administration
Rebuilding the Capitol building
Rural Electrification Administration
Railroad retirement
Presidential succession
Reorganization bill, Director's conversation with Carter Manasco

July 6, 1945

Maritime workers, military benefits for
Veterans Administration, Medical Corps in
President's Fund for use of F.B.I. in South America and for
World Security Council
Conversation with Paul McNutt re cuts in the Employment Service
and administrative expenses of War Manpower Commission
Reorganization of the Department of Labor

August 10, 1945

Veterans' Hospitals
Federal Board of Hospitalization
Bureau of Budget's organization and relations with Congress
John Snyder
Bureau of the Budget, powers of the Director of the

August 18, 1945

Director's conversation with T. V. Soong (Premier of China)
Letter from Clarence Cannon (Chairman, House Appropriations Comm.)
re hearings on the revised Budget
Civil Aeronautics Board, legislation to reestablish as an independent agency
Bureau of Budget report on Truman as a Senator
Surplus of nurses in Cadet Nurses Corps
Reorganization of Government departments
Reorganization of the Department of Labor
Assistant Director of Bureau of Budget
Paul Appleby appointment
Director's opinion of President Truman

Telephone conversation with President 8/28/45 (11:35 a.m.)

Cadet Nurses Corps, termination of training programs in
Conference 8/31/45

Reconversion, message to Congress on
Reorganization legislation
Public works, proposed statement on

Conference 9/5/45

Federal Budget, revising of
F.B.I. and intelligence work
Selective Service counseling for veterans
President’s Emergency Fund
Maritime Commission program

Conference 9/13/45

Navy budget
Representative Clarence Cannon
Office of Strategic Services
Smaller War Plants Corporation, Maury M-Verick as Chairman of
T.V. Soong (Premier of China) conversation on re relations with
China
War Department, retirement of Secretary Stimson from
Government reorganization

Conference 9/14/45

Navy, discussions concerning size of the post-war
Navy budget
Navy, reorganization of the
Unification of Army and Navy

Conference 9/18/45

Transfer of War Labor Board, Retraining and Reemployment Ad-
ministration and War Manpower Commission to the Department of
Labor
Transfer of Office of Economic Stabilization to the Office of
War Mobilization and Reconversion
Comparison of Budget and Labor Department drafts of Executive
order effecting proposed transfers
Cabinet members, discussion of

Conference 9/19/45

War Department budget
Manhattan Project
Public works
Conference 9/20/45

Executive orders for abolishing the Office of Strategic Services and transferring the Office of Economic Stabilization to the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion

State Department, reorganization of

Conference 10/5/45

Army budget, proposed cut in
Atomic bomb, President's comment re
Navy demobilization
Maritime Commission program
Scientific research, Director to testify on legislation re
Aeronautical charting, programs of
Stockpiling, legislation re
Congress, relations with
Atomic bomb, President's comments re
Commodity Credit Corporation budget
Civilian pilot training
Veterans' Administration hospital program
Federal Works Agency, discussion of abolishing

Conference 10/16/45

Reclamation and flood control
Public works, expenditures for
Veterans' hospitals and the Federal Board of Hospitalization
Transition within the Government from war to peace

Conference 10/30/45

Civil Service Commission budget
Veterans' employment
Federal Board of Hospitalization, chairmanship of the Veterans' hospitals
Relations between the President and Congress
Postwar Navy strength
Unification of the Army and Navy
Education, proposed message on
John Franklin Carter, liquidation of program of
Full employment bill
Office space in the State Department Building
Building program for Washington (Executive Office Bldg., White House, State Dept.)
White House, President's plans for addition to West Wing of the
Conference 11/9/45

Budgets for the Post Office and Treasury Departments
Hulah Project in Oklahoma
Public lands, transfer between Agriculture and Interior Departments
Civil Service Commission budget
State Department, administration of
Guaranteed annual wages, proposed study of
War administration, history of

Conference 11/23/45

Budget, Department of Agriculture
Budget, Maritime Commission, protests re
President's comments re Maritime Commission and Truman Committee
Education, message re Federal aid to

Conference 11/28/45

Budget, Department of Justice
Budget, Bureau of the Budget
Bureau of the Budget difficulties with Congress
Intelligence, Director's comments re
President's subordinates, criticism of
Intelligence, proposed meeting on
Censorship, memorandum on history of
War administration, memorandum on history of
China, Budget mission to
Wilson Wyatt, possible appointment of

Conference 12/5/45

Budget for various Government departments
Departments of State and Labor, administration of the
Budget for the White House
Housing - discussion of Wilson Wyatt and Jack Blandford
China, relations with

Conference 12/11/45

Budgets, Commerce and Interior Departments
Budget, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Farm Security Administration, administrative expenses of the
White House offices, addition to
State Department, proposed new building for
Wilson Wyatt and Jack Blandford, positions for
Conference 12/13/45

Unification of Army and Navy
Unification of Army and Navy, message on

Conference 12/19/45

Budget message
British loan, proposed
Treasury Department, estimate of income of
Veterans interest and refunds
Budget, Army and Navy
Recession Bill, veto of
Health program of the President
Reorganization plans, President's need to evaluate

Conference 1/4/46

War appropriations and authorizations, reductions in
Budget message
Budget, Director and President review of, proposed
Public works programs, Government participation in
Small business, aid to
Education, aid to
Universal Military Training
Export-Import Bank, needs of

Conference 1/9/46 (10:00 a.m.)

Intelligence, proposed Executive order on
Intelligence activities, organization of

Conference 1/9/46 (3:00 p.m.)

Budget message and State of the Union message

Conference 1/15/46

Budget message, conflict between Bureau of Budget and Treasury
Department over
Taxes, Treasury Department wants nothing in message re
Tax cut, discussions of feasibility of a (Pres., Snyder, Vinson
Rosenman and Smith)

Conference 1/21/46

Atomic energy, testimony before Senate Comm. on development and
control of (S 1717)
Atomic energy, proposed commission on
Conference 1/21/46 (continued)

Budget seminar, handling of
Reorganization plans, development of
Reorganization in the Department of Labor
Reorganization plans, Bureau of Budget's responsibility for
Health of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget

Conference 1/31/46

Press conferences, President's comments re
Emergency Fund of the President
Budget of the Bureau of the Budget, action of House on
Appropriations Committee, President's comments re
National Service Life Insurance, bill to amend
Cabinet members, President's comments re problem with

Conference 2/8/46

White House office space, Senate Comm. rejects proposed addition to
Budget of the Bureau of the Budget
Reorganizations, Director's memorandum re
Budget change due to increased amount of money for housing
Appointment of Director as Under Secretary of Interior
Full Employment Bill - appointment of Director as chairman of
the Council of Economic Advisors
Administrative staff of the President, Director's views on
problems of
Cabinet members, duties of
Secretary of the Treasury's desire to be chairman of Council of
Economic Advisors
Dispute between the Treasury Department and the Bureau of the
Budget

Conference 2/18/46

Navy budget, adjustment in
Navy, reduction in strength of
Housing program, memorandum of the Director re
George Allen, nomination to the R.F.C. Board
War Shipping Administration, budget of
Automobile license plate, President's Missouri
Office space problem, State Department and Bureau of the Budget
White House, extension to
Conference 2/28/46
Maritime training, budget for
Navy budget
Unification of Armed Forces
Budgets, testimony of Cabinet members re their
White House staff, Director's opinion re President's use of

Conference 3/4/46
Navy budget
Navy, strength of

Conference 3/7/46
Navy budget, request for an increase in
Navy, discussion of strength of
Reorganization plans

Conference 3/20/46
Navy budget
Presidential office and relationship with Congress
Navy Department, President's reaction to budget demands of

Conference 4/2/46
Navy budget, conversation with Representative Vinson re
Navy, strength of
Budget estimate, possible revision of

Conference 4/9/46
Reorganization plans, especially Civil Service
War power transfers, plans cleared for
Budget for 1946, revision of

Conference 4/10/46
Welfare plan message
Budget for 1946, draft statement of revision of