

Papers of  
J. MONROE JOHNSON

1940 - 1955

Accession Number: 78-10

The papers of J. Monroe Johnson were given to the Library by his brother, R. N. Johnson, on April 8, 1978. Mr. Johnson's copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 8 linear feet (approximately 16,000 pages)

Restrictions: Papers and other historical materials the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person have been closed.

Related Material: Related material may be found in PPF 3692 J. Monroe Johnson, OF 5 Interstate Commerce Commission, OF 4700 Office of Defense Transportation, PSF: Interstate Commerce Commission, and PSF: Office of Defense Transportation, and the Hopkins Papers - files on Office of Defense Transportation and Transportation.

John Monroe Johnson was born in Marion, South Carolina on May 5, 1878. He attended the University of South Carolina and Furman University at Greenville, South Carolina, taking courses in engineering. These studies were interrupted by military service during the Spanish-American War.

After the war, Johnson established the engineering firm of Johnson and Roberts in Marion; this firm participated in many public works construction projects. With the coming of World War I, Johnson organized a battalion of engineers which he later directed in France as colonel and chief engineer of the Rainbow (42nd) Division.

In June 1935, Col. Johnson was appointed Assistant Secretary of Commerce, a position he held for four years. In June 1940 he was named to fill a vacancy on the Interstate Commerce Commission and he received successive re-appointments in 1942 and 1949. While with the Commission, Johnson served as head of the Bureau of Service which supervised the use, control and supply of vehicles used in freight transportation. In April 1944 he received a concurrent appointment as Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, a position he held until the dismantling of that agency in 1949. In that post he was responsible for the regulation of the small amount of transportation available for travel and non-war freight. Measures instituted by Johnson during the war included the banning of conventions, the use of car-pooling, and the curbing of travel to resort areas. President Truman awarded Col. Johnson the Medal of Merit on March 8, 1946 in recognition of his wartime services.

Johnson served as Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1949-1950 and again between 1953 and 1956. He retired from the Commission in early 1956, at the end of his 7-year term, having resisted White House pressure to retire the previous year.

Col. Johnson was president of the American Society of Military Engineers in 1940 and 1941. His decorations included the Legion of Honor of France and the Order of Leopold II of Belgium. Johnson died in Marion, South Carolina on July 1, 1964.

The papers, which relate to Johnson's service with the Office of Defense Transportation and the Interstate Commerce Commission and deal mainly with wartime transportation problems, include a chronological reading file,

1944-1952, and printed and processed material, 1940-1955, arranged in one series as follows:

Processed copies of official correspondence, arranged alphabetically by subject. Chronological reading file of outgoing correspondence for the Office of Defense Transportation, May 1944-June 1949, and the Interstate Commerce Commission, May 1949-December 1952, with index of correspondents. Also a "Comparative Compilation of Federal Transportation Statutes as of July 15, 1948" compiled by the Transportation Association of America.

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