

Records of the Committee on the Judiciary
RG.233.88.JU
88th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

October 07, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
<u>Full Committee</u>	6
<u>Subcommittees</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on the Judiciary
Date [inclusive]	1963-1965
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters touching judicial proceedings. In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the specialized claims committees that were in existence at that time were abolished and the claims that had been referred to them were to be referred to the Judiciary Committee or were dealt with by the executive agencies or the courts. Under the 1946 reorganization the already broad jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee was expanded to include the subjects that had formerly been referred to the Committees on Patents, Immigration and Naturalization, Revision of Laws, Claims, and War Claims. In order to accommodate the broadened area of responsibility, the committee established standing subcommittees with specialized jurisdictions to deal with the new subject areas. The committee's jurisdiction includes judiciary and judicial proceedings; civil and criminal; administrative practice and procedure; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; criminal law enforcement; federal courts and judges, and local courts in the territories and possessions; immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; interstate compacts generally; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; National penitentiaries; patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; Presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Arrangement note

The records of the committee during this period are generally arranged by Congress and thereunder in four categories: committee papers, bill files, petitions and memorials, and minutes. The records in the first two categories, however, are much more voluminous than those created before 1947 and are broken down into subcategories, primarily by full committee or subcommittee of referral. The minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings are generally unbound and are filed along with other committee papers.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Full Committee 1963-1965

Bill Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The enlarged jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary after the 1946 reorganization is reflected in the size and character of its bill files. The average for the post-reorganization period (80th-90th Congresses, 1947-1969), is over 110 feet per Congress. The size of the bill files reflects the overall increase in the number of pieces of legislation referred to the committee. The bill files for the 80th-90th Congresses are arranged by Congress and thereunder in three series: "public bills and resolutions," "claims," and, "immigration and naturalization legislation."

Arrangement note

The public bill files and immigration and naturalization bill files are arranged by bill type: House bills, House resolutions, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and Senate concurrent resolutions, and thereunder by bill or resolution number. The claims bill files are arranged alphabetically by surnames of claimants.

Committee Papers 1963-1965 180.0 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary contain correspondence; communications and reports from the President, executive agencies, and nongovernment organizations incorporated by Congress; transcripts of public and executive session hearings; minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings; documents collected as evidence or as research material; committee

Correspondence

administrative and financial records, memorandums, directives, working papers, and research material; subpoenas; speech files; clipping files; and other miscellaneous committee records. Also included are executive communications, primarily the annual reports and special reports of agencies of the federal government and the annual reports of federally incorporated bodies that fall under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. Many of the executive communications for this period are special reports on the administration of the Federal Tort Claims Act by the Post Office, Defense, and Interior Departments, the Veterans Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other agencies. Committee calendars, which are generally included in the records of the committee after 1946, list all executive communications referred to the committee.

Correspondence 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The correspondence of the Committee on the Judiciary document many topics, such as school busing, school prayer, and Constitutional amendments, generated huge amounts of mail, much of it on pre-printed postcards or form letters. In some cases, these were measured and sampled to provide documentation of citizen interest and opinion. A massive public opinion campaign was waged over the issues of prayer in public schools.

Minutes 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The minutes are from the standing subcommittees of the Committee on the Judiciary for the 85th through 90th Congresses. The minute books of the full committee not currently at the National Archives are in the custody of the committee.

The full committee files contain the minutes of meetings of Subcommittee #3 for the 84th-90th Congresses (1955-1968) and Subcommittee #4 for the 86th-90th Congresses (1959-1968).

Arrangement note

Petitions and Memorials

The minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings are generally unbound and are filed along with other committee papers.

Petitions and Memorials 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The petition and memorial files from the Committee on the Judiciary for this period document public opinion and concern over civil rights, displaced persons, income tax, the electoral vote for the District of Columbia, school prayer, the Bricker Amendment, anti-trust legislation, submerged lands, and the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act. Also included are recommendations for the impeachment of certain public officials. The petition and memorial files and constituent mail on popular issues often do not contain all of the material received by Congress. The records of the 88th Congress (1963-1964) include over 25 feet of petitions and memorials and letters on this emotional subject.

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by type and opinion: petitions supporting the right to have prayer in school (7 ft.) and against school prayer (6 in.); and correspondence for (12 feet) and against prayer in school (7 ft.).

Subpoenas 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

A collection of subpoenas issued by the Committee on the Judiciary between the 84th and 91st Congresses is filed with the 91st Congress committee papers.

Subcommittees 1963-1965

Subcommittee #1 (Immigration and Naturalization) 1963-1965 145.0 Cubic feet

Subcommittee #2 (Claims)

Scope and Contents note

The records of Subcommittee #1 on immigration and naturalization, of the Committee on the Judiciary, contain an alphabetical subcommittee correspondence file and a chronological reading file for most Congresses. The bulk of the records are case files concerning individuals requesting adjustments to their immigration status under certain sections of immigration acts--suspension of deportations, displaced persons, exclusion of certain aliens and admission of others in non-immigrant status, and various types of refugee problems. Sets of minutes of committee meetings include transcripts of hearings, memorandums, copies of legislation, and other pertinent material not included in the minutes found in the full committee records.

Subcommittee #2 (Claims) 1963-1965**Scope and Contents note**

The activities of Subcommittee #2 on claims, of the Committee on the Judiciary, are documented by the collections of minutes of subcommittee meetings in the full committee files and by the series of claims bill files.

Subcommittee #3 (Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, Revision of Laws) 1963-1965**Scope and Contents note**

The full committee files of the Committee on the Judiciary contain the minutes of meetings of Subcommittee #3 for the 84th-90th Congresses (1955-1968).

Subcommittee #4 (Bankruptcy and Reorganization) 1963-1965**Scope and Contents note**

Subcommittee #5 (Antitrust)

The full committee files of the Committee on the Judiciary contain the minutes of meetings of Subcommittee #4 for the the 86th-90th Congresses (1959-1968).

Subcommittee #5 (Antitrust) 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The records for Subcommittee #5, of the Committee on the Judiciary, include a multi-Congress set of records for the 85th-90th Congresses, 1957-1968, containing records pertaining to bank mergers, insurance, joint ventures, foreign commerce and diamonds, newspapers, and computers.

Special Subcommittee on Reapportionment 1963-1965 2.0 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

There are a small amount of records for the Special Subcommittee On Reapportionment of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Special Subcommittee on State Taxation of Interstate Commerce 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The Special Subcommittee on State Taxation of the Committee on the Judiciary includes records for the 87th-90th Congresses.