

**Records of the Special Committee
on Campaign Expenditures
RG.233.88.SCCE
88th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
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Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

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Summary Information

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

Biographical/Historical note

The House established the Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures on May 29, 1928, to consider election disputes and charges of electoral fraud and excess campaign expenditures that might arise from the upcoming Presidential and Congressional campaigns. Similar select committees became regular features of each election year beginning in 1944.

The committees were authorized to investigate campaign contributions and expenditures in both the primary and general election contests, violations of federal election laws, and other matters that might aid the House in drafting any necessary remedial legislation or in deciding contests regarding the right to a seat in the House of Representatives.

The committees furnished candidates with information on federal election laws. They collected campaign finance information, either directly from candidates, political parties, congressional campaign committees, and others by means of questionnaires and circular letters, or from reports and statements submitted by political organizations and candidates to the House Clerk or state officials. The committees also received complaints regarding allegations of unfair campaign practices, fraudulent vote counting, or other election misdeeds, and investigated those with sufficient facts to establish prima facie cases. The committees sent representatives to the congressional districts involved in the dispute to conduct interviews, examine evidence, and collect information. On occasion, the special committees held public hearings on the disputes in Washington or in the districts involved. The special committees also undertook studies of federal, state, and local statutes regulating elections.

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

Special Committee on Campaign Expenditures 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The records for the Special Committee on Campaign Expenditures pertain to election laws, specific electoral contests, and other matters such as the Anti-Nazi League and the use of the franking privilege for mailing campaign literature. Other items include correspondence with candidates, political groups, governmental officials, and the public; election complaints; memoranda; minutes; investigative files regarding complaints; transcripts of testimony; exhibits; affidavits of interviewees; completed questionnaires; notes; statistical worksheets; and drafts of committee reports. Among the materials received by the committee is correspondence obtained from files of organizations, information submitted by candidates, reports to the Clerks of the House and Senate from the Democratic National Committee, campaign literature, tally sheets and recount documents, and certain records of the Police Department of New York City. Administrative records include press releases, subpoenas, stenographer's notebooks, personnel records, and vouchers. There are various published materials, including copies of committee publications, printed compilations of elections laws, newspaper clippings, and other materials collected for informational purposes.