

**Records of the Committee
on Science and Astronautics
RG.233.90.SA
90th Congress**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Science and Astronautics
Date [inclusive]	1967-1969
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Science and Astronautics was authorized by H. Res. 580 on July 21, 1958, after the Select Committee on Science and Astronautics was established on March 5, 1958, to study and investigate "all aspects and problems relating to the exploration of outer space and the control, development, and use of astronomical resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities." During its brief existence, the select committee accomplished two objectives: it wrote the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 which established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and it paved the way for the creation of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. The Committee on Science and Astronautics began its operations in January 1959. During the first decade its jurisdiction covered (a) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment and facilities. (b) Bureau of Standards, standardization of weights and measures and the metric system. (c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. (d) National Aeronautics and Space Council. (e) National Science Foundation [NSF]. (f) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof. (g) Science scholarships. (h) Scientific research and development. Its primary initial mission was oversight of NASA and the non-military space program. Over the years shifts in focus resulted in the committee changing its name from the Committee on Science and Astronautics to the Committee on Science and Technology (94th Congress) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (99th Congress). Most recently, the name changed to the Committee on Science (104th Congress); Science and Technology (110th Congress); and Science, Space and Technology (112th Congress).

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

Bill Files 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Science and Astronautics make up the core of the committee holdings. The format of bill files varies from committee to committee; indeed, the contents of bill files for a given committee will vary from Congress to Congress. Bill files are arranged as follows: House of Representatives bills (H.R.), House joint resolutions (H.J. Res.), House concurrent resolutions (H. Con. Res.), House resolutions (H.Res.), and Senate bills (S.). On the front of most file folders is pasted a printed endorsement identifying the Congress and session, bill number, purpose of the bill, name of the member who introduced it, and date of referral to the committee. Inside the folder, usually in reverse chronological order, is the printed bill; correspondence with departments and agencies seeking opinions and recommendations; correspondence with committee witnesses; letters and telegrams from the general public; magazines, newspaper clippings and other enclosures sent from the public to the committee; copies of the "Congressional Record" concerning Senate action on a given subject; printed House and Senate reports; sheets showing differences between House and Senate versions of corresponding bills; and printed copies of public laws. On occasion, one also finds text of suggested floor statements or amendments for a bill, copies of the House resolution requesting a rule from the Rules Committee, and appropriate inter-committee correspondence.

Committee Papers 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Science and Astronautics consist of executive communications; published committee and subcommittee hearings; published House documents and agency reports; and final published editions of committee calendars. Executive communications generally were addressed to the Speaker of the House and then referred to the committee. These

Petitions and Memorials

communications consist of transmittal letters and enclosures such as lists of grants from the Agriculture Department; lists of contracts negotiated by NASA; and suggestions for proposed bills from cabinet departments.

Among printed hearings found in the committee papers are those for the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1967 (H.R. 6637, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); the international biological program (H.Con.Res. 273, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); the 1968 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 4450 and H.R. 6470, superseded by H.R. 10340, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); and the 1969 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 15086, superseded by H.R. 15856, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2).

Petitions and Memorials 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

A few petitions and memorials exist for the Committee on Science and Astronautics for each Congress for the years in question but they are not a significant part of the committee's records. All documents in this category were addressed to the Speaker of the House and subsequently referred to the committee. Fewer than a dozen memorials from state legislatures are present in the collection. Petitions came from the New England Association of Fire Chiefs endorsing the creation of a National Advisory Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (90 S&A.4), as well as from two individuals on various personal concerns (90 S&A.4).