

**Records of the Committee on Ways and Means
RG.233.90.WM
90th Congress**

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

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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 Ways and Means
Date [inclusive]	1967-1969
Extent	Amount unknown
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795, a Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Ways and Means include minute books, petitions and memorials, committee papers, bill files and bound documents. The records also include two special collections of material that provide easy access to vital information about the committee's work.

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 Ways and Means are from the 80th through 90th Congresses, although the files for the 80th through 82d Congresses are fragmentary. Some of the bill files contain transcripts of executive session meetings.

Bound Documents 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The bound documents of the Ways and Means Committee include two special collections of material that provide easy access to vital information about its work. A collection of bound documents (84 feet) consisting of bills, resolutions, and communications from the executive department covers the period between 1881 and 1980.

Committee Papers 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means primarily consist of correspondence arranged by subject and comprise the bulk of the committee papers. The correspondence is arranged by subject in alphabetical order, or in large files on a given subject, may be filed individually--not as part of a larger alpha-file. There are correspondence files on social security, income tax, tax reduction, tax exemption, and tax revision; pensions, annuities, and medical care for the aged; excess profits, capital gains and double taxation of bonds; the tariffs; reciprocal trade agreements; renegotiation of war

Minute Books

contracts; a national lottery; postal rates; revenue sharing; the Revenue Act of 1964; unemployment compensation; veteran's legislation; and natural resources taxation.

The subject files generally consist of correspondence from: private citizens; interested trade or professional organizations or businesses; and government agencies. They occasionally contain documents relating to hearings, materials submitted or procured by the committee for research purposes, memos and other documents produced by staff members, and other documents relating to the subject. Other subjects that appear are social security, income tax, tax reduction, tax exemption, and tax revision; pensions, annuities, and medical care for the aged; excess profits, capital gains and double taxation of bonds; the tariffs; reciprocal trade agreements; renegotiation of war contracts; a national lottery; postal rates; revenue sharing; the Revenue Act of 1964; unemployment compensation; veteran's legislation; and natural resources taxation.

In addition to correspondence, there are usually executive communications, messages from the President, transcripts of hearings, printed copies of bills and resolutions, hearings and reports, and a variety of other types of documents. The committee papers also contain records of numerous subcommittees, but these records are usually spotty and incomplete.

Minute Books 1967-1969

Scope and Contents note

The minute books of the Committee on Ways and Means are the most voluminous and probably the most complete of any committee in Congress. The minutes require multiple volumes and include the actual minutes typed on loose leaf pages. The volumes are bound together with a wide variety of related documents such as transcripts of executive session hearings, confidential committee prints, printed bills and resolutions, and briefs and summaries of legislation prepared for committee meetings. Some of the minute volumes are indexed. The typed minutes proper (not counting the exhibits and other attached documents) appear to be very thorough, including summaries of the comments of all speakers at meetings. Minutes of some executive session meetings appear to be especially well documented.

Petitions and Memorials 1967-1969

Petitions and Memorials

Scope and Contents note

The petition and memorial files of the Committee on Ways and Means document excise taxes, income taxes, taxes on State and municipal bond interest, tariffs, social security, pension plans for the self-employed, medical care for the aged, and trade agreements.