

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D.: Diaries
1935-38, 1942, 1948-53, 1966, 1968, 1969

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These diaries were maintained by Dwight D. Eisenhower on an intermittent basis between December 1935 and January 1969. Although they document several phases of Eisenhower's military and civilian careers, they are richest in their documentation of certain periods. For example, his experiences with the MacArthur mission to the Philippines, 1935-38 are well documented. Also, the diaries are rich sources for the 1948-52 period when he was intimately involved in such matters as military unification, defense mobilization for the Cold War, and NATO, and he was confronting political pressures to run for the Presidency. Finally, there are materials pertaining to his experiences during the first eight months of the Presidency, January-August 1953. These latter materials constitute a particularly useful supplement to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Diary series in Eisenhower's Papers as President of the United States, 1953-61 (Ann Whitman File).

Because of the diaries' value for exhibit purposes as well as for reasons of document preservation, the original diaries have been stored in a security area and photocopies have been provided for research use.

NOTE: In 1929 Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife toured Europe for two weeks with another couple, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Gruber. From August 28 to September 5 Eisenhower maintained a narrative account of the trip in Gruber's diary. Gruber was to maintain the diary for the remainder of the trip but did not complete it until 1940, when he reconstructed the events of the period September 6 to 13 from his memory, notes, and photographs. In November 1955 Gruber sent a nineteen-page typescript copy of the diary to the President, asking permission to publish it, but Eisenhower refused. Although Gruber presumably maintained physical custody of the original handwritten diary, the typescript copy can be found in the Records of Dwight D. Eisenhower as President of the United States, White House Central Files, President's Personal File 1442. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library also has the original Gruber Diary as part of the William R. Gruber Papers.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- 1 [DDE Diary Dec. 27, 1935 – July 20, 1937] [MacArthur mission to the Philippines]
- [DDE Diary June – Nov. 1938] [DDE's trip from the Philippines to the USA to procure armaments for the Philippine military]
- [DDE Diary August 1938] [DDE's trip to Yellowstone Park in 1938 with Mamie and his in-laws]
- [DDE Diary Jan. 1 – July 6, 1942] [DDE's work with the War Plans Division and the beginning of his work as commander of the European Theater of Operations]
- [DDE Diary Dec. 13, 1948 – March 5, 1951] [military strategic planning and the budget, unification of services, DDE efforts to iron out difficulties with JCS setup, Truman, Forrestal, DDE's philosophy on politics and government, DDE on federal aid to higher education, Columbia University, Air Force vs. Navy on respective roles in strategic bombing, DDE on the national interest of the bombing, DDE on the national interest of the United States, DDE on the strategic role of aircraft carriers, DDE's health, the defense budget, DDE on the nature of the Soviet threat, Dewey visit to DDE in July 1949 on political strategy DDE should employ to get the presidential bid in 1952, September 1949 conversation with George Allen on the offer of New York State's Democratic organization to support DDE for Senate, Clare Booth Luce meeting with DDE on his political future, inter-service rivalry, lengthy DDE remarks on the pressures to enter politics, November 1950 meeting with Dewey, SHAPE command, US politics]
- [DDE Diary Jan. 1, 1950 – Feb. 28, 1952] (1)-(3) [Columbia; politics - - his ambitions; DDE on the American system of government; individuals attempting to persuade DDE to run for the Presidency; DDE on international situation - - critique of Truman Policies; Korea; NATO, including DDE on command structure, nature of the US commitment to Europe; American Assembly; Dewey support of DDE for President; UMT; DDE on the US budget - - potential problem of insolvency; DDE on indecision of the Truman Administration on defining US role in Europe; DDE on Truman; DDE's candidacy; Indochina; NATO; DDE on America's commitment to the defense of Europe; Iran; Italian components of NATO; Truman-MacArthur controversy; DDE on the quality of leadership in the West; Paul Hoffman and other individuals approaching him on his candidacy; DDE on European integration; politics; DDE on defense mobilization base of the USA; Germany; Great Britain; US politics; additional visits from GOP politicians urging him to run; lengthy DDE discourse on conditions under which he might run; NATO; DDE on economics of national security]
- DDE Personal Diary Dec. 52 - - 8/19/53 [Aug. 18, 1952 – Aug. 19, 1953] (1)-(4) [diary entries, memos, stag dinner lists, press releases, clippings; GOP in the South; The Supreme Court, the Fourteenth Amendment and segregation; death of Taft; DDE

on appointments to FCC, selfishness of individuals, veto of motion picture tax relief bill; DDE on gold standard, Jimmy Byrnes and segregation, DDE on segregation, DDE on government reorganization, the Bricker amendment, Korea, tariffs and trade; DDE on communism and Lenin, on “the middle way,” trade, gold flow, US access to raw materials; The DDE-Taft relationship, DDE-Taft conflict over defense expenditures and tax cut, McCarthy, Nixon; DDE’s impressions of governmental associates as of 5/14/53 - - JF Dulles, Charles Wilson, George Humphrey, Milton Eisenhower, Brownell, Halleck, Arthur Fleming, Phillip Young, Henry Cabot Lodge; defense budget, DDE argument with Taft over defense expenditures, DDE on Taft; Bricker Amendment, McCarthy, White House-congressional relations, GOP reactionary wing; Churchill, appointment of Winthrop Aldrich as ambassador to Great Britain; legislative priorities of the GOP congressional leadership based upon DDE’s State of the Union address, trade, DDE on pressure groups and independent regulatory commissions, DDE on American political “liberals”; DDE relations with congressional Republicans, appointments policy, DDE on performance of White House staff and executive office appointments, Taft; UN delegation of USA; political appointments, including governor of Hawaii, DDE on Churchill, US relationship with Great Britain;, Western European unity, the end of US-British hegemony in the world, DDE on nationalism and communism, colonialism; the economy, State of the Union message; notes made at the Commodore Hotel in December 1952 re Iran, other foreign policy matters, transition, cabinet selections, objectives of the Administration, White House staff; DDE on way he ran for President, his political principles, McCarthy]

1953 [DDE] Desk Diary [January 1953] [politics, patronage, inaugural address, observations on his first day at the President’s desk, joining the Presbyterian Church, State of the Union message]

1966 [DDE Diary Aug. 11, 1966 – Dec. 8, 1966] [appointments, Eisenhower College, 1966 election, Lyndon Johnson and civil rights, but primarily notes on his health]

[DDE] Diary 1968 [health, social life and recreational interests, public service activities, writing projects, GOP politics, Lyndon Johnson, Vietnam, Pueblo incident, civil rights]

[DDE] Diary 1969 [January only - - account of DDE’s health, Walter Reed operations and staff, visitors]