

Homosexuals in the Federal Government and Personnel Security

In response to growing concern over the loyalty and security of the Federal workforce, on April 27, 1953, President Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10450 - Security requirements for Government Employment. Sec. 8 (a)(1)(iii) of this order authorized investigations to "develop information as to whether the employment or retention in employment in the Federal service of the person being investigated is clearly consistent with the interests of the national security." Among the list of suspect behaviors considered criminal, immoral or unethical was "sexual perversion."

Researchers interested in the history of Federal employment policy toward gay and lesbian workers need to bear in mind several key factors. Public discourse on sexual identity was extremely limited in the 1950s. Not only was sexual preference not viewed in terms of civil liberties or civil rights, it was almost never openly discussed. In the holdings at the Eisenhower Presidential Library there are very few documents explicitly mentioning homosexuality. The first part of this subject guide lists those few sources that readily identify this topic.

Two famous treason and defection cases also involved the topic of homosexuality. National Security Agency (NSA) cryptologists, William Hamilton Martin and Bernon F. Mitchell, defected to the Soviet Union in September 1960. This was publicized at the time and there is some material in our holdings on this case. There is also a small number of documents regarding the espionage case of Harold Adrian Russell "Kim" Philby, a British intelligence agent who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963. Also, the close association of Joseph McCarthy investigators Roy Cohn and G. David Schine came under scrutiny.

Collections containing documents relating to personnel security, while not specifically mentioning sexual preference, may also be relevant to research on this topic and are listed in somewhat less detail in the second portion of the subject guide. Researchers may also want to consult the subject guides on Internal Security and McCarthyism. In addition, some individuals dismissed from government service for homosexuality tried to appeal their dismissal. There may be individual case files for some of these individuals in the collections listed in the second portion of the guide.

Please note that access to some documents may be restricted due to donor restrictions and personal privacy concerns. In addition, some documents relating to national security may still be classified.

Dulles, Eleanor Lansing: Papers

Box 69 Conference with Hanes and O'Connor, Notes, March 20, 1963 [among other topics a brief mention of homosexuals in the State Department]

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Papers as President (Ann Whitman File)

NSC Series

Box 13 463rd Meeting of the NSC, October 13, 1960 [Martin and Mitchell case; how to handle homosexuals in government if the Supreme Court upholds their continued employment. Includes DDE comments.]

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Post-Presidential Papers, 1961-1969

DDE Appointment Book Series

Box 2 Calls and Appointments 1964 (7) [record of phone conversations re: Walter Jenkins, a Lyndon Johnson aide arrested in YMCA men's bathroom in 1964]

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Records as President, White House Central Files

Official File

Box 308 OF 99-E Appearances of Cabinet Officers and Heads of Agencies before Congressional Committees [J. Vincent Burke of the Defense Dept. on the Martin and Mitchell case]

Ginzberg, Eli: Papers

Box 2 Snyder, Howard M. (10) [12/21/51 letter supporting homosexuals in military]

Henry, Laurin L.: Papers re Presidential Transitions

Box 7 Executive Departments and Agencies—State (2) [6/29/53 editorial]

Box 9 Loyalty, Security, Suitability-General (1)-(13) [Civil Service Commission reports on employees dismissed, includes sexual perversion as a category]

Box 10 Loyalty, Security, Suitability—Statistics on Dismissals

Hobby, Oveta Culp: Papers

Box 17 Security [contains outline of the procedure for hearing sex deviation cases]

Lee, Robert E.: Papers

Box 8 Miscellaneous Speech Materials, 1950-1983 (3) [1950 Senate subcommittee publication, "Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government"]

Masterson, Charles F.: Records

Box 9 Federal Employee Security Program [Civil Service Commission reports on employees dismissed, includes sexual perversion as a category]

Republican National Committee: News Clippings and Publications

Box 241 Federal Payroll: Dismissals - Perverts - March 1950 - May 1952
Federal Payroll: Dismissals - Perverts - June 1952 – 1953

Box 325 Cohn, Roy M.: (Chief Counsel to Senate Invest. Sub-committee) - January 1953 [clippings in folder date from 1952-1964]

Seaton, Fred A.: Papers

FAS Eyes Only Series

[primarily relating to Roy Cohn and G. David Schine]

Box 4 McCarthy (1)-(9)
Concurrent Memoranda Included in 2 February Chronology by Mr. Adams Furnished to Lt. Col. Jean L. Wood
Chronology of Efforts by McCarthy Subcommittee to Secure Special Treatment for G. David Schine [by John G. Adams]
Transcripts of Robert Stevens' Telephone Conversations re McCarthy
Transcripts --Jack Lucas (1)(2)
Telephone Transcripts--4 September 1953-15 March 1954 [duplicates]

Box 5 Transcripts--Ted Rhode [Stevens' telephone conversations]
Contacts in Person or by Phone with Mr. Roy Cohn [1/6/53 to 2/18/54]
Chron Copies of Memos sent to Secretary of the Army's Office
Justice Department--Documentation not considered pertinent by Sec. Seaton
Congressional Correspondence re G. David Schine Case
Rebuttal to McCarthy Memos
G. David Schine Case (1)-(3) [certified copies of memos]
Adams Chronology (1)(2) [several copies]

Box 6 Adams Chronology (3)-(6) [several copies]
Work Notes and Memos re Contacts with McCarthy Committee (1)-(2)
List of Letters and Documents Furnished Lt. Col. Jean L. Wood, OSA
[Contents of special delivery envelope from S. Adams to Fred Seaton, 4/5/59] (1)(2)

White House Office, National Security Staff: Papers

Disaster Series

Box 43 Security (7) [evaluation of suspect behaviors, including homosexuality]

White House Office, Office of the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs: Records

FBI Series

Box 10 Summary Brief - Donald Duart Maclean, Guy Francis De Moncy Burgess, Harold Adrian Russell Philby (Nov 1955)

NSC Series, Policy Papers Subseries

Box 13 NSC 5437/1 - Uniform Clearance Program (1)-(3) [security investigations of government employees]

Special Assistant Series, President's Subseries

Box 5 Gordon Gray Meetings with the President [memoranda from 11/2/60 and 12/1/60 on Martin and Mitchell case]

White House Office, Office of the Staff Secretary: Records

Subject Series, Alphabetical Subseries

Box 17 Martin and Mitchell

Oral History Transcripts

Aldrich, Winthrop OH-250 [Cohn and Schine]

Flanders, Ralph OH-27 [Cohn and Schine]

Schine, G. David OH-205

Yost, Charles OH-416 [State Department; Cohn and Schine]

The collections below mention E.O. 10450, employee security, industrial security and/or personnel security. They may also contain files relevant to the dismissal of homosexual employees within the government. Please consult the finding aids for the collections cited below.

Areeda, Phillip E.: Papers

Dulles, John Foster: Papers

JFD Chronological Series

Personnel Series

Special Assistants' Chronological Series

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Papers as President (Ann Whitman File)

Administration Series

Cabinet Series

DDE Diary Series

Legislative Meetings Series

NSC Series

Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Records as President, White House Central Files

Alphabetical File (for locating documents relating to specific individuals

Confidential Files

Official Files

Flemming, Arthur S.: Papers

Henry, Laurin L.: Papers re Presidential Transitions

Hobby, Oveta Culp: Papers

Mitchell, James P.: Papers
Morgan, Gerald D.: Records
Rabb, Maxwell M.: Papers
Rogers, William P.: Papers
Rothschild, Louis S.: Records
Seaton, Fred A.: Papers
 Ewald Research Series
 FAS Eyes Only Series
White House Office, Cabinet Secretariat: Records
White House Office, National Security Staff: Papers
 Disaster Series
 Executive Secretary's Subject Files
 OCB Secretariat
 Special Staff File
White House Office, Office of the Special Assistant for Personnel Management: Records
White House Office, Office of the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs: Records
 NSC Series, Administration Subseries
 NSC Series, Briefing Notes Subseries
 Special Assistant Series, Presidential Subseries
White House Office, Office of the Special Assistant for Personnel Management: Records
White House Office, Office of the Staff Secretary: Records
 Cabinet Minutes Series
 NSC Series

Oral History Transcripts

Brownell, Herbert OH-157 #3 [internal security and McCarthy]

The following book provides an overview of the employment of gays and lesbians in the Federal government.

Johnson, David K. *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

VJA
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