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BRAGDON, JOHN STEWART:
Records, 1959-61

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The President's Council of Economic Advisors in 1954 established a small unit which was to coordinate the planning of public works. Major General John S. Bragdon served as head of this unit beginning in April 1954. The work of this unit confirmed the need for continued systematic attention to this function and on August 12, 1955, President Eisenhower appointed Major General Bragdon as Special Assistant to the President to Coordinate Public Works Planning.

This position was placed in the Special Projects Group of the White House Staff. As Coordinator of Public Works Planning General Bragdon was to keep the President informed on the following:

- (a) The various types and amount of the public facilities required by an expanding economy to meet human needs at the national, state and local levels.
- (b) The current long-range plans and programs for accomplishment of such works by agencies of the Federal Government and by similar agencies of the states and local governments, and the interrelationships of these programs.
- (c) The possibility for the acceleration of public works construction in the event that economic conditions make such acceleration desirable.

The Coordinator was also to assist the Federal Government agencies responsible for public works with their planning programs and was to establish an Advisory Committee on Public Works to include persons designated from various Federal Government agencies and state, city and local government.

General Bragdon served as Coordinator of Public Works Planning until April 26, 1960 when he was appointed by President Eisenhower to membership on Civil Aeronautics Board. The records of the Special Assistant for Public Works Planning consist of correspondence, memoranda, reports, press releases, and some printed material relating to General Bragdon's efforts to obtain legislation for a "shelf" of public works to be used in periods of economic downturn; material relating to the development of the national highway system and General Bragdon's efforts to make it a toll system, material relating to negotiations with Canada over the Columbia River and much material relating to comprehensive public works planning and General Bragdon's attempts to push this concept in speeches to various interested organization around the country.

NOTE: On December 24, 1968, a shipment of records which originated in the office of General John S. Bragdon was received at the Eisenhower Library as Accession A69-28. These records were found in the attic of the Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. Originally the files were arranged in folders under eleven categories,* but the folders have now been alphabetized and interfiled into the previously received Records of the Special Assistant to the President to Coordinate Public Works Planning, which came to the Library with the White House Central Files in 1961.

*A list of folder titles of this accession as reconstituted prior to interfiling is available.

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