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SUMMERFIELD, ARTHUR E.: Papers, 1946-1974

ACC: A73-32, A74-27, A76-22, A77-24

Accessions to the papers of Arthur Ellsworth Summerfield, Chairman of the Republican National Committee and Postmaster General of the United States, are received yearly from Mr. Summerfield's widow. Because of the anticipated size of the collection in its entirety and the anticipated length of time involved before all of the materials will be received by the Eisenhower Library, each year's accession is being processed and described individually as a series of the Summerfield papers. In this way, new materials will be available for research each year. Mrs. Miriam W. Summerfield has executed instruments of gift for all of her late husband's papers which have been presented to the Eisenhower Library.

Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Arthur E. Summerfield in these papers and in other collections of papers in the Eisenhower Library are reserved to Mrs. Miriam W. Summerfield during her lifetime and thereafter to the people of the United States.

By agreement with the donor, the following classes of documents will be withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of Arthur E. Summerfield.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of persons who have had correspondence with him.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Arthur E. Summerfield in confidence unless, in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, the reason for the confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

### **Biographical Note**

March 17, 1899	Born in Pinconning, Michigan
1918	Married Miriam W. Grain
1919-1924	Real estate broker
1924-1937	President, Summerfield Oil Company, Flint, Michigan
1929-	President, Summerfield Chevrolet Company, Flint, Michigan
1943-1945	Finance Director for Republican State Central Committee of Michigan
1944-	Republican national committeeman for Michigan
1952-1953	Chairman, Republican National Committee
1953-1961	Postmaster General of the United States
April 26, 1972	Died

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series I: Letters from the President, 1951-1969 (A73-32; 74-27; 76-22)

This series was received by the Eisenhower Library in three separate accessions, with the letters contained in black albums titled "Letters from the President." The albums were numbered I through VII. All the materials were removed from the albums and placed in folders and archives boxes, maintaining the original order of the materials and the album numbers assigned by Summerfield.

The materials include correspondence, telegrams, copies of Eisenhower addresses, press releases, and greeting cards. The bulk of the correspondence deals with social matters including invitations, thanks, gift acknowledgments, and holiday greetings. There are some items which deal with the operation of the Postal Department including the Postmaster General's Report to the President and less formal letters to the President in which Summerfield discusses his Cabinet work. Other topics receiving brief discussions include Eisenhower's candidacy in 1952, the campaign of 1956, Eisenhower's budgetary matters, and the effectiveness of civil service.

Series II: Letters From Famous Americans, 1953-1974 (A77-24)

Three black albums, numbered VIII through X, entitled "Letters From Famous Americans", compose this series of the Summerfield Papers. The original arrangement and album numbers were maintained and the materials were placed in folders and archives boxes.

Albums VIII and IX contain materials relating to Richard Nixon including correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, printed materials, and greeting cards. Included are materials to or from individuals other than Nixon, but the materials deal with Nixon in subject matter. The majority of these items are of a social nature including thank you messages, invitations, and similar pleasantries. There are a few items relating to Nixon's political career including letters containing Robert Humphrey's recollections of Nixon's Vice Presidential candidacy in 1952.

Album X contains correspondence to and from Herbert Hoover. These materials are largely of a social nature, being invitations, birthday greetings and the like. They contain little information regarding Summerfield's role in the Eisenhower Administration.

Series III: VIP Letters and Letters From Arthur E. Summerfield, 1946-1972 (A77-24)

Correspondence to and from political figures, religious leaders, government officials, celebrities, cabinet members, military officers, Republican Party leaders, and foreign

dignitaries are included in this series. Summerfield arranged these materials in folders filed alphabetically by correspondent and this arrangement has been maintained.

These materials, including letters, telegrams, printed invitations, press releases, and speeches, deal primarily with social activities. A great many of the letters thank the Postmaster General for sending gifts of first-day issues of various commemorative stamps released by the U.S. Post Office Department. The amount of material dealing with Summerfield's position with the government is small, but includes letters describing such proposals as the introduction of the facsimile mail operation in the United States.

The materials of greatest interest in this series are those in the Arthur H. Vandenberg folders dating from 1946 through 1950. These provide information concerning politics in the state of Michigan, Vandenberg's campaign for re-election in 1946, and the Senator's ideas concerning labor, Communism, and McCarthy.

#### Series IV: Republican File 1950 [1948-1951] (A77-24)

The folder titles and alphabetical arrangement of this series are as they were when received by the Eisenhower Library. The materials include correspondence, telegrams, printed materials, news clippings, press releases, and speeches concerning topics such as RNC matters, invitations, campaign activities, finances, Michigan Republican Party affairs, advice and comments from loyal Republicans concerning candidates and campaigns, and requests for information, supplies, and autographs.

The RNC materials in this series concern activities in the 1950 elections in Michigan in the 1948 and 1952 Presidential campaigns. Arthur Summerfield served as the acting chairman of the Executive Committee of the Strategy Committee of the RNC. From this position he became involved in a dispute with Guy George Gabrielson, the controversial RNC Chairman, concerning the functioning and jurisdiction of the Strategy Committee. Summerfield resigned his position shortly before the Strategy Committee was itself dissolved by Gabrielson in August 1950. This series reflects the disagreement between these two powerful men and the resulting controversy it created within the Republican Party.

#### Series V: Republican File 1951-1952 [1950-1954] (A77-24)

This series maintains the folder titles and basic arrangement given it by Mr. Summerfield. Materials include correspondence, telegrams, printed materials, news clippings, press releases, and speeches. The majority of the correspondence consists of letters to and from Republican Party officials and loyal followers concerning the campaigns, candidates, party finances, and local Michigan party activities.

Though this series covers the 1952 campaign period, it contains virtually no information concerning the actual nomination or campaign itself. The letters to Summerfield offer congratulations to him for becoming Chairman of the RNC and for

becoming postmaster general select, but offer little insight into the activities occurring between those two appointments. This series also contains advice offered to Summerfield from the public regarding matters ranging from Taft vs Eisenhower in 1952 to ideas and recommendations for the improvement of the U.S. Postal Service.

## Container List

<u>Container Nos.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Items Remove from Collection – All Accessions  Series I: Letters From The President, 1951-1969  Album I (1)-(2) [1952-1954]  Album II (1)-(2) [1957-1965]  Album III (1)-(2) [1951-1956; includes one letter from Mamie Doud Eisenhower]  Album IV (1)-(2) [1958]  Album V (1)-(2) [1959]
2	Album VI (1)-(2) [1957-1961]  Album VII (1)-(2) [1961-1967]  Album VII (3) [1955-1969; includes letters from Mamie Doud Eisenhower, John S. D. Eisenhower, and Julie Nixon Eisenhower]  Series II: Letters From Famous Americans, 1953-1974  Album VIII – Richard Nixon (1)-(2) [1953-1961]  Album IX – Richard Nixon (1)-(2) [1961-1974]  Album X – Herbert Hoover (1)-(2) [1953-1964]
3	Series III: VIP Letters & Letters from Arthur E. Summerfield, 1946-1972  Anderson, Robert B.  Benson, Ezra Taft  Blount, Winton M.  Brownell, Herbert, Jr.  Burke, Arleigh A.  Burns, Arthur F.

Burton, Harold H.

Byrd, Harry F

Clark, Tom C.

Clay, Lucius

Day, J. Edward

Dulles, John Foster and Janet

Eisenhower Aides [Ann Whitman, Homer H. Gruenther, Robert Gray, James C. Hagerty, Robert E. Hampton, Bryce N. Harlow, Henry R. McPhee]

Eisenhower, Kathryn S. (Mrs. Edgar Eisenhower)

Elizabeth II

Farley, James A.

Finch, Robert A.

Gardner, Arthur

Gates, Thomas S., Jr.

Godfrey, Arthur

Graham, Billy

Goldwater, Barry

Gruenther, Alfred M.

Hall, Leonard W.

Herter, Christian A.

Hobby, Oveta Culp

Hoover, J. Edgar

Humphrey, George M.

Humphreys, Robert

John XXIV

Johnson, Mrs. Lyndon Baines

Kennedy, John F.

Lodge, Henry Cabot

Lodge, John Davis

Luce, Henry R.

MacArthur, Douglas

MacArthur, Douglas, II

McElroy, Neil

McKay, Douglas

Miller, William E.

Mitchell, James P.

Mueller, Frederick H.

Murphy, George

Peale, Norman Vincent

Persons, Wilton B.

Poling, Daniel A.

Radford, Arthur W.

Rayburn, Sam

Reagan, Ronald

Reuther, Walter P.

Rickenbacker, Edward V.



Roberts, Oral

Rockefeller, Nelson A.

Rockefeller, Winthrop

Rogers, William P.

4 Schulz, Robert L.

Seaton, Fred A.

Sloan, Alfred P., Jr.

Spellman, Francis Cardinal

Stans, Maurice H.

Stassen, Harold E.

Strauss, Lewis L.

Summerfield, Arthur Ellsworth (1)-(2)

Summerfield, Arthur Ellsworth – Letters to Government Officials  
re Postal Service News Magazine

Taft, Robert A., Sr. and Jr.

Vandenberg, Arthur H., Sr. and Jr. (1)-(2) [1946 campaign;  
Council of Foreign Ministers; role of communism and labor in the  
campaign; Michigan politics; Vandenberg and the 1948  
Presidential campaign; McCarthy]

Warren, Earl

Weeks, Sinclair

White, Thomas D.

Whitney, John Hay

Wilson, Charles E.

Republican National Committee – Finance Committee (1)-(2)

Republican National Committee – Policy Committee Statement of Principles – Mayflower, Washington DC, February 5-6, 1950 (1)-(2)

Republican National Committee Meeting – January 26, 1951;  
Finance Meeting – January 25, 1951

Republican National Congressional Committee

Republican National Senatorial Committee

Republican State (Michigan) Central Committee (1)-(2)

Republican State (Michigan) Central Committee – Report  
[December 1950]

Republican National Strategy Committee – Minutes (1)-(2) [1949,  
1950]

6 Republican National Strategy Committee – Strategy Planning 1950  
Election

Republican National Strategy Committee – Summerfield  
Resignation as Acting Chairman and Letters Pertaining to Same  
(1)-(2)

Analysis of Presidential Elections in Missouri

“A” – Republican

Bacher, E.L. [Executive Secretary of Republican National Finance  
Committee]

Beaman, Berry [Finance Director of Republican State (Michigan)  
Central Committee]

Bentley, Alvin M.

Blackney, William W. [U.S. Congressman from the 6<sup>th</sup> District,  
Michigan]

“B” – Republican

Cleary, Owen J. (Pat) (1)-(2) (3) [Chairman of Republican State  
(Michigan Central Committee)]

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Coleman, Thomas E. [Chairman of Finance Committee of  
Republican Party of Wisconsin]

Congressional Candidates – 1950

“C” – Republican

“D” – Republican

“E” – Republican

Ferguson, Homer [U.S. Senator from Michigan]

“F” – Republican

Gabrielson, Guy [Chairman, Republican National Committee]

Genessee County and Genessee County Republican Council

“G” – Republican

Halleck, Charles

Hartwick, Edward N. [President of Wayne County Republican  
Precinct Organization]

Hermann, Albert B. [Executive Director of Republican National  
Committee]

Hooker, Rae C. (Mrs.) [member of Republican National  
Committee for Michigan]

Humphreys, Robert [Publicity Director of National Republican  
Congressional Committee]

Hutchinson, B.E. (1)-(2) [Chairman of Finance Committee of  
Chrysler Corporation]

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“H” – Republican (1)-(2)

“I” – Republican

“J” – Republican

Kemper, James S. [Treasurer of Republican National Committee]

Korean Situation

“K” – Republican

Long, Hamilton A.

Luhrs, Herman F.

“L” – Republican

Michigan – Miscellaneous Information – Congressional Districts,  
Legislatures, etc.

Michigan Republican Regional Finance Chairmen Meeting –  
Durant Hotel, July 31, 1950

Millard (Frank G.) For Attorney General (Michigan) (1950)

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“Mc” – Republican

“M” – Republican (1)-(2) (3)

“N” – Republican

“O” – Republican

Poll- 1950 Governor and Congressmen (Michigan)

Presidential Campaign 1948 (1)-(4) [“The 1948 Election: A  
Statistical Analysis by Republican National Committee; campaign  
expenditures]

“P” Republican

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Series V: Republican File 1951 (1950-1954)

Republican State (Michigan) Central Committee (1)-(2)

Republican State (Michigan) Convention – 1950 and 1951 (1)-(2)

Republican National Committee (1)-(2)

Republican National Committee Meeting – Tulsa, Oklahoma, May  
11-12, 1951

“R” – Republican Miscellaneous

Will Not Attend Convention

“A” – Republican (1)-(2)

Bacher, E.L.

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Beaman, Berry N.

Bentley, Alvin M.

Blackney, William W.

Boomer, L.D. (Bud)

“B” – Republican (1)-(3)

Clardy, Kit [U.S. Congressman from 6<sup>th</sup> District, Michigan]

Cleary, Owen J. (Pat)

Coleman, Thomas E.

“C” – Republican (1)-(3)

Democratic Party

“D” – Republican (1)-(2)

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Election Results

“E” – Republican

“F” – Republican (1)-(2)

Gabrielson, Guy

Genessee County

Greene, Leroy V. [Assistant to the Chairman of the Republican  
National Committee]

Gubernatorial Race 1952 [Michigan]

“G” – Republican

Hartwick, Edward N.

Hermann, Albert B.

Hooker, Rae C. (Mrs.)

Humphreys, Robert

“H” – Republican (1)-(2)

Invitations

“I” – Republican

“J” – Republican

“K” – Republican

Levin, Arnold J. [Publicity Director of the Republican State  
(Michigan) Central Committee]

Abraham Lincoln Land Company

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Long, Hamilton A. (1)-(2) [President of American Heritage  
Education Corporation]

Luhrs, Herman F. [President of Republican War Veterans of  
Michigan]

“L” – Republican (1)-(2)

Martin (John) vs. Summerfield [controversy concerning  
Summerfield Statements re Martin’s Senatorial campaign]

Meetings

Michigan Minute Men [group of professional men supporting  
qualified candidates]

Millard, Frank [Michigan Attorney General]

Moody, Blair (1)-(2) [U.S. Senator from Michigan]

- 14                    “Mc” – Republican
- “M” – Republican (1)-(2)
- “N” – Republican
- “O” – Republican
- Polls
- “P” – Republican (1)-(2)
- Summerfield, Arthur Ellsworth – National Committee Assurances  
                      [congratulations on 1952 campaign success]
- Summerfield, Arthur Ellsworth – Postmaster General –  
                      Miscellaneous
- “S” – Republican (1)-(3)
- 15                    Taft, Robert A. - Dinner, October 15, 1951 (1)-(3)
- “T” – Republican
- Wayne County (Michigan) Finance Committee (1)-(2)
- Williams, G. Mennen [Governor of Michigan]
- “W” – Republican (1)-(3)
- Young Republican
- “XYZ” – Republican (1)-(2)