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ABILENE, KANSAS

QUARLES, DONALD A.: Papers, 1950-59

Accession 71-53, 72-9, 75-25

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Date Completed: July 1975

The papers of Donald Aubrey Quarles, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development, Secretary of the Air Force, and Deputy Secretary of Defense, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in February, 1971.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 10
Approximate number of pages: 20,000
Approximate number of items: 8,000

An instrument of gift for these papers was executed in October 1974 by Rosina C. (Nona) Quarles. Literary property rights are retained by the donor until her death. At that time such rights pass to the United States. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of other persons who have had correspondence with Donald Quarles.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Donald Quarles 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

- 1894, July 30 Born, Van Buren, Arkansas
- 1916 B.A., Yale University
- 1920-1924 Graduate Study at Columbia University
- 1939 Married Rosina Cotton
- 1919 Engineer, Bell Telephone Labs
- 1948 Vice President, Bell Telephone Labs
- 1952 Vice President, Western Electric
- 1952 President, Sandia Corporation
- 1952-1953 President, American Institute of Electrical Engineers
- 1953-1955 Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development)
- 1954 Chairman, Air Navigation Development Board
- 1954 Member, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
- 1955-1957 Secretary of the Air Force
- 1957-1959 Deputy Secretary of Defense
- 1959, May 8 Died, Washington, D.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Donald A. Quarles span the years 1950-59 when he held various positions with the Department of Defense and defense contractors. Several documents are dated prior to 1950 and one is dated 1960.

The most significant material is located in the first two document series. Daily diaries kept while Quarles was Secretary of the Air Force and Deputy Secretary of Defense reveal the individuals with whom he dealt and the problems which crossed his desk. However, the substance of meetings and conversations are noted infrequently. The trip file contains notes of Quarles' trips to military research and development installations in 1950 and 1951. Among these notes are technical data on military weapons and proposals for new research and development facilities and commands. Quarles made these trips and received these documents in his capacity as Vice President of Bell Labs, Vice President of Western Electric, and President of Sandia Corporation.

The correspondence file contains letters which are mostly personal and congratulatory in nature. Few items deal with substantive issues. The speech file contains Quarles' principal addresses, transcripts of press conference, and statements to congressional committees as Secretary of the Air Force and Deputy Secretary of Defense. These items reveal his position on strategic military thinking in the Eisenhower administration and Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force administrative matters (e.g. military pay, military construction, appropriations). There are several speeches from the period prior to Quarles' service in government.

The fifth document series covers Quarles' activities in professional organizations. The largest quantity of material in this series was generated during his tenure as president and later as a member of the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The correspondence and memoranda in this series focus on the routine business of the AIEE.

The final two series contain a miscellany of correspondence, articles, awards. The correspondence is usually personal in nature. The articles and papers written by Quarles focus on Department of Defense matters. The awards detail the numerous honors he received in both his business and government careers.

The arrangement of the collection was provided by the archivist. Numerous audio-visual and museum items have been removed from the collection and transferred to the Eisenhower Library-Audio-Visual Collection and the Eisenhower Museum for preservation.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Box Nos. Series

- 1-3 DIARIES: List of appointments and telephone conversations of Donald Quarles, 1953, 1955-59. Notation of topics discussed. Infrequent description of the substance of meetings. Arranged chronologically.
- 3-4 TRIP FILE: Notes taken on tours of military research and development installations, 1950-58. Technical data on weapons development. Arranged in rough chronological order.
- 5-11 CORRESPONDENCE FILE: Personal correspondence and congratulatory letters. Dated 1952-1959. Arranged in four sub-series.
- 12-16 SPEECH FILE: Text of speeches, press conferences, and congressional testimony of Donald Quarles, 1948-59. Arranged chronologically within each of three sub-series.
- 17-22 PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES: Minutes of Board of Directors of American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Correspondence concerning AIEE affairs. Miscellaneous items concerning AIEE and other professional societies. Dated 1946-57. Arranged in three sub-series.
- 23-24 MISCELLANEOUS: Memoranda, correspondence, articles, concerning Department of Defense matters, politics, and personal affairs of Donald Quarles. Dated 1941-59. Arranged alphabetically.
- 25-27 AWARDS: Diplomas, military papers, and awards received by Donald Quarles. Dated 1910-60.

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| | Daily Diaries 8-15-55 to 8-15-56 (2) |
| | Daily Diaries 8-15-55 to 8-15-56 (3) |
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 Air War College and USAF Special Staff School January 25, 1949

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26	Major General C. C. Williams Gold Medal, presented by the American Ordnance Association, December 4, 1957

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- Diploma from the Engineers' Joint Council in recognition for his work in the
 foundation of the Union Panamericana de Asociaciones, de Ingenieros, August 29,
 1952
- U.S.A. Commission as First Lieutenant in the Field Artillery, August 15, 1917
- Italian Cavaliere di Gran Croce, September 11, 1956
- Diploma of Honorary Membership, presented by the American Institute of Electrical
 Engineers, February 2, 1956
- Brazilian Ordem do Merito Aeronautico, April 8, 1957
- Secretaries Conference at Quantico, Va., June 13-16, 1957
- Diploma from the Van Buren High School, Van Buren, Arkansas, June 3, 1910
- Professional Engineering License from the State of New Jersey, April 18, 1946
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Yale University, 1916
- Diploma of membership in Yale Chapter of Sigma Xi, February 23, 1916
- 27 Order National du Cedre, March 15, 1957
- Memorial for the Late Mr. Donald A. Quarles, Defense Representative on the
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