



## **James F. Byrnes Papers A Register — 1879-2007; bulk 1933-1972**

**CREATOR:** Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** Mss 90

**TITLE:** James F. Byrnes Papers, 1879-2007; bulk 1933-1972

### **QUANTITY:**

163.3 cubic feet consisting of 3,270 folders, 39 volumes, 1,700 photographs, 28 oversize photographs, 1 film reel, 1 videocassette tape, 37 sound discs, 18 reel-to-reel audio tapes, 10 audio cassette tapes, 9 rolls of microfilm, 266 oversize items, and 76 objects.

### **ABSTRACT:**

The James F. Byrnes Papers document his career as a U.S. Senator, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion during World War II, U.S. Secretary of State, and Governor of South Carolina. The papers show his close relationship with President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Byrnes helps him pass New Deal legislation during the Depression and then coordinates the homefront economy during the war, as well as accompanying Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference. They also document Byrnes' role in the immediate post-war peace process and the beginning of the Cold War, especially concerning U.S. policy towards a defeated Germany. Finally, the collection has material concerning his growing disenchantment with the Democratic Party over civil rights, his support for Dwight Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential campaign, and the writing of his two autobiographies, *Speaking Frankly* and *All In One Lifetime*.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The James F. Byrnes Papers consists of advertisements, architectural drawings, articles, artifacts, audio-visual materials, campaign materials, certificates, clippings, correspondence, editorials, executive orders, galley proofs, journals, laws and legal documents, legislative bills, lists, maps, minutes, petitions, political cartoons, postcards, photographs, publications, reports, scrapbooks, speeches, telegrams, transcripts, and other material.

Materials in this series cover the period 1831-2007, with the bulk of the material covering the period midway through his first term as U.S. Senator in 1933 to his death in 1972.

This collection is organized into sixteen series, as follows: Pre-Senatorial, Senatorial, Supreme Court, War Mobilization, State Department, Interim, Gubernatorial, Post-Gubernatorial, Speeches, Book Materials, Posthumous, Photographs, Scrapbooks, Audio-Visual, Oversize, and Memorabilia. The series are arranged alphabetically by folder title,

and correspondence files within the series are usually arranged alphabetically by surname. Photographs and oversize items have been removed to photograph and oversize storage.

The James F. Byrnes Papers document his career as a U.S. Senator, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion (OWMR; previously known as the Office of Economic Stabilization and then the Office of War Mobilization) during World War II, U.S. Secretary of State, and Governor of South Carolina. There is also material relating to his personal life; to his business affairs, including serving on the board of directors of the Newmont Mining Corporation; to his service on the Clemson College Board of Trustees; to the founding of the James F. Byrnes Foundation, which gives scholarships to South Carolina orphans; and to the writing of his two autobiographies, *Speaking Frankly* and *All In One Lifetime*.

The papers provide evidence of his close relationship with President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Byrnes helps him pass New Deal legislation during the Depression and then coordinates the homefront economy during the World War II. They also document Byrnes' role in the immediate post-war peace process and the beginning of the Cold War, especially concerning U.S. policy on the reconstruction of Germany and its reintegration into world affairs. Finally, the collection has material concerning his growing disenchantment with the Democratic Party over civil rights, his support for Dwight Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential campaign, and his continuing disagreement over Supreme Court decisions against segregation, especially school segregation.

Items of particular interest include the shorthand notes Byrnes took at the 1945 Yalta Conference; "W. B.'s Book," which are excerpts from the journal Walter Brown kept while accompanying Byrnes to the Potsdam Conference in 1945; and Edwin W. Pauley's journal describing the trip of the U.S. Reparations Mission to what would become North Korea in 1946 and photographs from the Mission's visit to Manchuria that same year. There is also a great deal of material relating to the creation and the progress of the Santee-Cooper Power and Navigation Project from 1933-1941, including of photographs of historic homes in the inundation area, and minutes of the Potsdam Conference, Paris Peace Conference, and meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers from 1945-1946.

Other topics of interest include agriculture during the Depression; Byrnes' relationship with the War Production Board while head of OWMR; the Democratic National Conventions of 1940 and 1944 when Byrnes was a potential vice presidential candidate; the United Nations; and U.S. economic policy. There is also material relating to Byrnes' election to Senate in 1930 and his inauguration as Governor in 1951; his employee Willie Byrd; the presidential elections of 1936, 1940, 1944, 1956, 1960, 1964, and 1968; and to Alger Hiss, Henry Wallace, and Harry Dexter White.

Major correspondents or other authors include businessmen Bernard Baruch, Charles Daniel, B. M. Edwards, James H. Hammond, and Roger Peace; lawyers Christie Benet Frank Hogan (also Byrnes' cousin), and C. C. Wyche; cartoonist Jim Berryman; South Carolina legislators Sol Blatt and Edgar Brown; Office of War Mobilization colleagues

Walter Brown, Benjamin Cohen, Donald Russell and Fred Searls; literary agent George Bye; British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill; Generals Lucius D. Clay and George C. Marshall; R. M. Cooper, Director of the South Carolina Public Service Authority; Leo Crowley, Director of the Foreign Economic Administration; Robert C. Edwards and Robert F. Poole, President of Clemson University; Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gerald R. Ford, John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Woodrow Wilson; James Farley, Chairman of the Democratic Party National Committee; Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter; journalists Wilton E. Hall, Ruth Jones, Porter McKeever, and Herbert Bayard Swope; Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes; Joseph P. Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain; U.S. Senators Burnet Maybank and Arthur Vandenberg; Foreign Minister V.M. Molotov of the Soviet Union; Lawrence M. Pinckney, Works Progress Administration State Administrator for South Carolina; Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin; and South Carolina politician Strom Thurmond. There is also correspondence with members of the Byrnes, Busch, Fuller, and Miner families, especially his wife Maude Busch Byrnes and his sister Leonore Byrnes Fuller as well as his long-time secretary Cassie Connor.

This series is indexed under the following terms in the University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

## **SUBJECTS**

Agriculture—United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> century

*All in One Lifetime*

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965

Burns family

Bush family

Byrd, Willie

Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972

Byrnes, Maude (Maude Busch), 1883-1976

Civil rights—United States—History

Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina. Board of Trustees

Council of Foreign Ministers

Democratic National Convention (1940 : Chicago, Ill.)

Democratic National Convention (1944 : Chicago, Ill.)

Depressions—1929—United States

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969

Fuller family

Germany—Foreign relations—United States

Hiss, Alger

Industrial mobilization—United States—History—20th century

James F. Byrnes Foundation

Miner family

New Deal, 1933-1939

Newmont Mining Corporation

Paris Peace Conference (1946)

Potsdam Conference (1945)  
Presidents—United States—Election—1936  
Presidents—United States—Election—1940  
Presidents—United States—Election—1944  
Presidents—United States—Election—1952  
Presidents—United States—Election—1956  
Presidents—United States—Election—1960  
Presidents—United States—Election—1964  
Presidents—United States—Election—1968  
Reconstruction (1939-1951)—Germany  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945  
Santee-Cooper Power and Navigation Project  
Scholarships—South Carolina—History  
Segregation—Law and legislation—United States—History  
Segregation—South Carolina  
Segregation—Southern states—History—20<sup>th</sup> century  
Segregation in education—Law and legislation—United States—History  
Segregation in education—South Carolina  
South Carolina—Governors  
South Carolina—Governors—Election—1950  
South Carolina—Governors—Inauguration  
South Carolina—Politics and government—1865-1950  
South Carolina— Politics and government—1951 -  
Soviet Union—Foreign relations—United States  
*Speaking Frankly*  
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972  
United Nations—History—20<sup>th</sup> century  
United States—Defenses—Economic aspects—History—20th century  
United States—Economic policy  
United States—Foreign relations—1945-1953  
United States—Foreign relations—1945-  
United States—Foreign relations—Germany  
United States—Foreign relations—Soviet Union  
United States—Politics and government—1933-1945  
United States—Politics and government—1945-1953  
United States. Congress. Senate—Elections, 1930  
United States. Dept. of State—History  
United States. Office of Economic Stabilization—History  
United States. Office of War Mobilization—History  
United States. Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion—History  
United States. Reparations Mission to Japan  
United States. Supreme Court—History  
United States. War Production Board—History  
Wallace, Henry Agard, 1888-1965  
White, Harry Dexter, 1892-1948  
World War, 1939-1945—Diplomatic history

World War, 1939-1945—Economic aspects—United States  
World War, 1939-1945—Peace  
World War, 1939-1945—Reparations  
Yalta Conference (1945)

### **CORRESPONDENTS/OTHER AUTHORS**

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965  
Benet, Christie, 1879-1951  
Berryman, James Thomas, 1902-1971  
Blatt, Solomon, 1896-1986  
Brown, Edgar A. (Edgar Allan), 1888-1975  
Brown, Walter J.  
Burns family  
Bush family  
Bye, George T.  
Byrnes, Maude Busch, 1882-1976  
Churchill, Winston, Sir, 1874-1965  
Clay, Lucius D. (Lucius DuBignon), 1897-1978  
Cohen, Benjamin V.  
Connor, Cassie (Cassandra), 1899-1969  
Cooper, Robert Muldrow, 1887-1966  
Crowley, Leo  
Daniel, Charles E. (Charles Ezra), 1895-1964  
Edwards, B. M. (Byron Malet), 1888-1967  
Edwards, Robert C. (Robert Cook), 1914-  
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969  
Farley, James A. (James Aloysius), 1888-1976  
Ford, Gerald R., 1913-  
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965  
Fuller, Leonore B. (Leonore Byrnes), 1879-1947  
Fuller family  
Hall, Wilton E. (Wilton Earle), 1901-1980  
Hammond, James H. (James Henry), 1885-1970  
Hogan, Frank J., 1877-1944  
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952  
Jones, Ruth E. (Ruth Earle), 1896-1975  
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963  
Kennedy, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1888-1969  
Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959  
Maybank, Burnet R. (Burnet Rhett), 1899-1954  
McKeever, Porter  
Miner family  
Molotov, Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich, 1890-1986  
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994  
Peace, Roger C. (Roger Craft), 1899-1968  
Pinckney, Lawrence M.

Poole, Robert F. (Robert Franklin), 1893-1958  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945  
Russell, Donald Stuart, 1906-1998  
Searls, Fred, 1888-1968  
Stalin, Joseph, 1879-1953  
Swope, Herbert Bayard, 1882-1958  
Thurmond, Strom, 1902-2003  
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972  
Vandenberg, Arthur H. (Arthur Hendrick), 1884-1951  
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924  
Wyche, Charles Cecil, 1885-

### **DOCUMENT TYPES**

Architectural drawings (visual works)  
Advertisements  
Articles  
Audiocassettes  
Audiotapes  
Bills (legislative records)  
Executive orders  
Editorials  
Galley proofs  
Journals (accounts)  
Laws (documents)  
Maps  
Minutes  
Motion pictures (visual works)  
Petitions  
Phonograph records  
Photographs  
Political cartoons  
Scrapbooks  
Speeches  
Transcripts  
Videocassettes

### **ADDITIONAL COLLECTION INFORMATION:**

Cite as: [description of item such as "Letter from John Smith, Clemson, SC to Michael Jones, Columbia, SC"], series name, box number, folder number, Mss 90, James F. Byrnes Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Francis Byrnes, one of few men to serve in all three branches of the federal government, was one of South Carolina's most important political figures in the twentieth century. He was born on May 2, 1882, in Charleston, South Carolina, to Elizabeth McSweeney and James Byrnes. His father died suddenly of tuberculosis several months before his birth, and his mother became a dressmaker for the Charleston elite. In 1896, at the age of fourteen, Byrnes quit school for a full-time job in order to help his mother and sister (Leonore, 1879-1947) make ends meet. His mother sent him to a local business college where he studied shorthand, and he secured a position as an office boy with Mordecai, Gadsden, Rutledge, and Hagood, a well-established Charleston law firm. There he began his study of the law, under the tutelage of Judge Benjamin H. Rutledge. In 1900, Byrnes was selected by competitive examination to become the court reporter of the Second Judicial District in Aiken. He studied law and was admitted to practice in 1903, but continued to serve the Second District.

On May 2, 1906, his twenty-fourth birthday, Byrnes married Maude Busch (born October 22, 1883) of Aiken. In 1908, he was elected Court Solicitor of the Second District. It was during this campaign that Byrnes became known to the public as "Jimmy," a man of the people. Byrnes' success as solicitor was just the beginning of what would be a long, prosperous political career. In 1910, Byrnes ran against and defeated Second District Congressman J. O. Patterson on the Democratic ticket, and made the move to Washington, D.C. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives until 1925, during which time he developed many of the friendships and political relationships that would last a lifetime.

In 1924, Byrnes ran an unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate against Coleman Blease. He returned to South Carolina where he practiced law in Spartanburg with Samuel J. Nicholls and C. C. Wyche. In 1930, however, Byrnes decided to run for the Senate seat against Blease again. This time he was victorious. While serving in the Senate, Byrnes played a vital role in helping to pass President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, which helped the country overcome the Great Depression. Byrnes served in the Senate for eleven years, until he left for a position on the United States Supreme Court. He took the judicial oath on July 8, 1941. It was also in 1941 that Byrnes became a Life Trustee of Clemson College.

Byrnes' service on the Supreme Court was short. With World War II underway, Byrnes was anxious to get involved with executive politics. At Roosevelt's request, he willingly gave up his lifetime court appointment on October 3, 1942, to head up the Office of Economic Stabilization (OES). Within six months, Roosevelt promoted Byrnes to Director of the newly established Office of War Mobilization (OWM), which was later renamed the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion (OWMR). As Director, Byrnes had power over all manpower related to war production of both civilian and military supplies. Byrnes was one of the President's closet advisors during the war years, and it was during his tenure with the OWM/OWMR that he became known as the "Assistant President." This close association began to crumble, however, when

Roosevelt, almost at the last minute, rejected Byrnes as his vice-presidential running mate in July 1944. Despite the rift, Byrnes continued to serve and accompanied Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference in January 1945. Byrnes eventually decided to leave the White House and resigned from the OWMR on April 2, 1945, ten days before Roosevelt's death.

In the months following his resignation, Byrnes spent time in Washington with new President Harry S. Truman, filling him in on the details and discussing the manufacturing of the atomic bomb. Out of this relationship came Byrnes' appointment as Truman's U.S. Secretary of State on July 3, 1945. As Secretary of State, Byrnes was involved with the post-war peace negotiations and the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meetings, including the Potsdam conference and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan. In 1946, he was selected as *Time* Magazine's Man of the Year. Differences between Byrnes and Truman grew, and Byrnes resigned his post on January 21, 1947.

Set on retiring from political office, Byrnes returned to private practice, splitting his time between Spartanburg and the Washington law firm of Hogan and Harrison. Before the end of 1947, Byrnes published a book entitled *Speaking Frankly*, recounting his experiences as Secretary of State. Proceeds from the book went to the James F. Byrnes Foundation, established in 1948 to provide a collegiate scholarship fund for South Carolina students who have lost one or both parents.

In the beginning of 1950, Byrnes decided to enter the political arena once more, this time as Governor of South Carolina. He was unopposed in the general election and delivered his inaugural address on January 19, 1951. During his single term as governor, Byrnes focused much of his attention on improving public education in the state. In 1953, he served as a delegate to the United Nations with Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower, whom Byrnes had supported in the 1952 presidential election. That support for Eisenhower marked Byrnes' official break with the Democratic Party.

In January 1955, Byrnes retired from public life for the last time, although he remained politically active in an unofficial capacity for several years. He publicly supported the presidential campaigns of Richard M. Nixon in 1960, Barry Goldwater in 1964, and Nixon again in 1968. In 1958, Byrnes published his autobiography and memoirs, *All in One Lifetime*. He and Maude lived the remainder of their years in Columbia. James F. Byrnes died at his home on April 9, 1972, just one month shy of his ninetieth birthday. Maude Byrnes died on July 23, 1976. They are buried at Trinity Cathedral Cemetery in Columbia, across the street from the State House.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

Walter Brown's original journals, along with correspondence and other material relating to James F. Byrnes, can be found in Mss 243, the Walter J. Brown Papers.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Acquired from:**

James F. Byrnes, 1962-1987. Additional material acquired from Tom Watson Brown, Rich Meyer, South Carolina Political Collections of the University of South Carolina Libraries, Elizabeth D. Navarro, Samuel F. Crews III, John Stucker, Fred C. Butler, and Arthur and Mary Childs in accessions 83-2, 88-45, 89-196, 92-34, 96-22, 96-96, 96-129, 00-55, 03-77, 05-75, and 07-102.

### **Processing Information**

This collection came to Special Collections in multiple accessions in 1962-1981. Among the individuals involved in the original processing and description of the Papers were Berniece Holt, Mary Stevenson, and Priscilla Sutcliffe. Re-processing, rearrangement, and microfilming of the collection was supervised from 2000-2002 by Melissa Finley. James Cross supervised additional reprocessing, scanning, transcript creation and quality control on the scans and transcripts from 2003-2008. James Cross prepared the register in 2007-2008. Processing assistance was provided by student assistants Elizabeth Bearfield, Michael Bufano, Swati Deo, Nikki Garnto, Jessica Hart, Jennifer Hrabovsky, Jessica Keaton, Venkatesh Seetharam, Amanda Shepard, Brett Sowell, Sowjanya Syamala, Quiesha Wade, and Elizabeth Whitaker.