

Ford Foundation records, The Fund for Adult Education (FAE) records

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English

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Summary Information

Repository: Rockefeller Archive Center

Creator: Ford Foundation

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Preferred Citation note

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Biographical/Historical note

The Fund for Adult Education was established by the Ford Foundation on April 5, 1951, as part of the Foundation's redefined and expanded activities following the final settlement of the estates of Henry and Edsel Ford in 1950. The new President of the Foundation, former Marshall Plan administrator Paul G. Hoffman, and his Associate Director Robert M. Hutchins, established several semi-autonomous funds, including the Fund for the Advancement of Education and the Fund for Adult Education. The Funds were intended to obtain large-scale results quickly and to help the Ford Foundation avoid violating federal laws which forbade tax-exempt foundations from accumulating "unreasonable" surpluses. The Fund for the Advancement of Education would be concerned with problems and opportunities in education in a more formalized structure whereas the Fund for Adult Education would devote itself to "that part of the educational process which begins when formal schooling is finished."*

The Fund for Adult Education was organized as a non-profit membership corporation in the State of New York with a Board of Member-Directors comprised of fifteen citizens from business, education, agriculture, and labor. Board members included Charles H. Percy, Milton S. Eisenhower, Marion B. Folsom, Sarah Gibson Blanding, and Clarence Francis. They met three to four times a year to set policy, discuss programs, and approve grants. FAE's staff was not a large one, averaging about fifteen

administrators plus occasional outside consultants. Originally located in Pasadena, California, FAE moved to New York in 1956. FAE would fund programs to meet its goal of enabling adults to continue their education in the humanities and political affairs which, in turn, would make them better informed citizens. * Ten Year Report, pp. 10-12.

FAE's Annual Reports and final Ten Year Report provide background information on the main goals and accomplishments of FAE and its grantees as well as a list of Board and staff members. By the time of its termination in 1961, FAE had been granted \$47.4 million by the Ford Foundation for its activities. In the first five years of its existence, FAE played a major role in the early development of public television stations and programming with grants totaling more than \$11 million. It funded the National Citizens Committee for Educational Television, Joint Committee on Educational Television, and National Association of Educational Broadcasters, who together helped educational television stations acquire licenses, obtain community support, and construct facilities. In 1952, FAE received a Ford Foundation grant which established the (National) Educational Television and Radio Center (ETRC) at Ann Arbor to supply programming to stations across the nation. FAE continued to support ETRC until 1956 when broad institutional support for educational television development was shifted to direct Ford Foundation control following the report of a Joint FAE/Foundation Study headed by Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt. After the study, FAE concentrated its adult education programs through existing institutions of higher learning.

A second major effort of FAE was to develop a series of study-discussion programs as a method of bringing adults together with trained program leaders to discuss such topics as American History, the arts, and world affairs and to create a body of materials that could be published and used nationwide. FAE supported local and national organizations who designed and conducted programs using educational television and the discussion method at cities around the country. An internal study of the discussion program, Accent on Learning: An Analytic History of the Fund for Adult Education's Experimental Discussion Project. 1951-1959.

FAE's final project was "Education for Public Responsibility," begun in 1958. At that time, a debate was raging in American education following the Russian launch of Sputnik I in October 1957. While many stressed the need to expand scientific and technical education, others argued that the Soviet challenge could best be met by a liberal arts education where laymen and scientists would have a broad understanding of each other. To this end, FAE made grants of \$1.5 million to universities and professional organizations for programs, conferences, and fellowships to prepare young and middle level professionals to face contemporary problems and issues. (see Archives Catalog), was conducted by Dr. Glen Burch. FAE also created or expanded the continuing education divisions of many American and Canadian universities.

FAE had been established in a climate of enthusiasm for the Foundation's potential to advance human welfare in many areas. However, throughout the life of FAE, there was disagreement among the Ford trustees over the merits of decentralized funds, with separate Boards of Directors and staffs, broad mandates, and multi-million dollar budgets. By 1953, after the resignation of Paul Hoffman, the Foundation was in a period of transition in which Board members and staff who advocated more direct supervision of fund programs by the Foundation began to prevail. Influencing this trend was the publicity being given to Congressional hearings by the Cox and Reece Committees investigating taxexempt foundations. These hearings, conducted in 1952 and 1954, highlighted existing criticism about the Foundation's autonomous funds.

Following several evaluations of FAE, by consultant Ralph Tyler in 1952 and Ford Vice President Dyke Brown in 1954 and 1959, and the Vanderbilt Report of 1955, Foundation officials concluded in late 1959, that the \$17.5 million grant for 1956 through 1961, would be FAE's terminal one. Several staff members of FAE would then join the education division of the Foundation, which had been created from the staff of the Fund for the Advancement of Education in 1957. A reconstituted caretaker Board of Directors, comprised of Ford Foundation staff, continued in existence to complete final distribution of grant moneys. This Board issued its final report in 1971. The corporation was dissolved legally on May 22, 1972.

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Scope and Contents

The records of the Fund for Adult Education (FAE) document the administrative activities and the financial and legal concerns of the Fund's mission.

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Arrangement note

Series 1: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS. Subseries 1: Meetings to the Board of Directors: Minutes, Dockets and Agendas. Subseries 2: Mailings to the Board. Subseries 3: FAE Office Files. Subseries 4: Photographs. Subseries 5: Office Files of G.H. Griffith.

Series 2: FINANCIAL, LEGAL, AND TAX RECORDS.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue Sleepy Hollow 10591 archive@rockarch.org URL: http://www.rockarch.org

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for scholarly research with select material restricted as noted.

Series 1 is open for scholarly research. Series 2 is restricted from scholarly access.

Series 3 is open for scholarly research, as microfilm only.

Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by, RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

A portion of the records of the Ford Foundation Fund for Adult Education, is located in Syracuse University's Special Collections Research Center.

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Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1950-1972

Arrangement

Series 1, Administrative Records consists of five subseries: 1) Meetings of the Board of Directors, 2) Mailings to the Board of Directors, 3) Office Files, 4) Photographs, and 5) files of G.H. Griffiths, who served as FAE's Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Board of Directors, Minutes, Dockets, Agendas

Scope and Contents

Subseries 1, Meetings of the Board of Directors.

Information files in Boxes 1-5 contain an almost complete set of Board dockets and unsigned minutes from its first meeting on April 5, 1951 to the last meeting of the independent Board on November 7, 1961. The minutes of each meeting include minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board which met on the same dates. (Six sets of Minutes are missing from the information files). The dockets for each meeting, which consist of agenda for the meetings, background material for grants to be approved, and supporting documentation, are complete. In the early meetings of 1951 and January 1952, and that of June 24, 1954, there were no printed dockets. Supplemental documents to the docket and minutes include additional reports, financial projections, and correspondence for discussion at Board meetings.

Early minutes discuss initial organizational matters and reflect the enthusiasm of the Board for its task, especially the development of educational television stations and programming. As early as 1953, discussions of FAE's relationship with the Ford Foundation appear in FAE Board minutes, especially as each large Foundation grant to FAE came up for approval by Foundation trustees. Major grants to FAE were approved by the Ford trustees in April 1951, February 1952, July 1952, February 1953, September 1953, May 1954, and December 1955. FAE Board meetings of October 1953 and April, June, and October 1954, are particularly relevant for discussions of FAE goals, accomplishments, and long-term plans. The meeting of October 1955, reflects FAE's response to the transfer of responsibility for educational television development to the Ford Foundation following the Joint Study (Vanderbilt Report). A copy of the Vanderbilt Report is included in the supplemental documents for the February 9, 1956 Board meeting.

The Cox Committee hearings of 1952 and Reece Committee hearings of 1954 on tax-exempt foundations are both mentioned in the records. Following the Cox hearings, the October 1952 minutes express caution over the selection of grantees. Lengthy discussions of the Reece hearings are recorded in the May and October 1955 minutes. The charges of the Committee, as summarized by FAE's counsel, were that foundations concerned with education were engaged in propaganda "hostile to American traditions" and that a "huge cartel" composed of educational organizations and foundations dominated the field. The FAE Board found the Reece report to be lacking in objectivity and totally without merit.

Throughout 1955 and 1956, the minutes discuss what was to become of the last \$17.5 million grant to FAE, approved by the Ford Foundation trustees in December 1955. These discussions may be read in connection with FAE subject files in the Office Files of H. Rowan Gaither, President of the Ford Foundation from 1953 to 1956 (Box 2, folders 24-28 and Box 3, folders 29-34), Henry T. Heald, President from 1956 to 1965 (Box 4, folders 56-57), and William McPeak, Associate Director and Vice-President from 1953 to 1964 (Box 6, folders 173-176). The records of the February 1957 meeting are significant for a discussion of the consolidation of the Fund for the Advancement of Education's staff into the Ford Foundation. The 1958 meetings reflect the ongoing debates over American educational policies following the launch of Sputnik I, which in part resulted in FAE's Education for Public Responsibility program.

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Minutes, 1951	box 1	folder 1	
Agenda and Minutes, 1952 January 17-18	box 1	folder 2	
Docket and Minutes, 1952 May 6	box 1	folder 3	
Docket and Minutes, 1952 July 11	box 1	folder 4	
Docket and Minutes, 1952 October 13-14	box 1	folder 5	
Appendix to Docket, 1952 October 13-14	box 1	folder 6	
Docket and Minutes, 1953 January 23-24	box 1	folder 7	

Docket and Minutes, 1953 May 28-29	box 1	folder 8
Docket and Minutes, 1953 October 21	box 1	folder 9
Docket and Minutes, 1954 January 19-20	box 2	folder 10
Progress Reports on 1953 Grants & Projects, 1954 January 19-20	box 2	folder 11
Docket and Minutes, 1954 April 23	box 2	folder 12
Minutes, 1954 June 20	box 2	folder 13
Docket and Minutes, 1954 October 28	box 2	folder 14
Docket and Minutes, 1955 January 20-21	box 2	folder 15
Docket and Minutes, 1955 May 27	box 2	folder 16
Docket and Minutes, 1955 October 26-27	box 2	folder 17
Executive Committee Docket and Minutes, 1956 February 9	box 3	folder 18
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Board did not meet.		
Executive Committee Supplementary Documents (1955 December docket of Ford Trustees), 1956 February 9	box 3	folder 19
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Docket, Minutes, and Supplementary Documents, 1956 October 29	box 3	folder 22
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Docket, Minutes, and Supplementary Documents, 1958 January 20	box 4	folder 26
Docket and Minutes, 1958 May 13	box 4	folder 27
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Supplementary Documents, 1958 October 19-22	box 4	folder 29
Docket, Minutes, and Supplementary Documents, 1959 January 19	box 4	folder 30
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Mailings to the Board

Scope and Contents

Subseries 2, Mailings to the Board (Boxes 6-10), contains material which was sent to Board members between meetings. These mailings, usually sent with an explanatory covering letter, include articles, clippings, speeches, reports, news releases, and pamphlets. They cover such topics as adult education issues, educational TV, FAE programs, and grantee programs. The section is arranged in its original chronological order to give a complete view of what the staff felt the Board should be reading on educational issues and the flow of information on FAE operations. The mailings include a staff-prepared table of contents for each of the first four years of the mailings (1951-1954).

Of particular interest are speeches by Robert Hutchins (August 8, 1951, May 2, 1952, and February 18, 1955) and C. Scott Fletcher (March 10, 1953, Dec. 19, 1957, May 2, 1958, and March 29, 1961), and summaries of a joint seminar, conducted for the FAE and TFAE Boards by Mortimer Adler (January 2, April 10, 1952) and material on the Vanderbilt Study (1954 throughout and October 19, 1955) and Reece Committee (May 20 and June 1, 1955).

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1952 April 16-1953 October 30	box 7	folder 50-59
1953 November 17-1955 December 19	box 8	folder 60-68
1956 January 11-1959 July 28	box 9	folder 69-78
1959 August 5-1961 June 16	box 10	folder 79-82

FAE Office Files

Scope and Contents

Subseries 3, Office Files (Boxes 11-17) consist of correspondence, memoranda, reports, surveys, speech transcripts, printed materials, and drafts produced by consultants, grantees, and FAE staff.

Subjects include the disposition of the FAE facility in White Plains, several letters of C.S. Fletcher, correspondence and statements regarding the Ford Foundation grant to FAE, and FAE publications, News Digest, News Letter, and News Releases.

Although both the mission and concerns of FAE are illustrated, the Office Files are limited and inconsistent in the types of material, chronology, and subject matter addressed. Furthermore, no files have been preserved for

C. Scott Fletcher, the President of FAE. The result is a somewhat miscellaneous grouping of materials arranged alphabetically by both specific and general subject headings. Unless misleading, the original file title has been used. There is some overlap between portions of this material and the financial and grant records.

Material on grantees, seminars, and FAE programs, such as the Great Books Foundation, is included. Notable are grantee and program surveys and evaluations by consultants and the management firms, McKinsey and Co. and Cresap, McCormick and Paget .

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American College Public Relations Assoc. award, 1953	box 11	folder 89
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Dennis, Lawrence E. ("Depth Interviews"), 1959-1961	box 11	folder 100
Fiske, Marjorie, 1955-1956	box 11	folder 101
Goldwin, Robert A., 1959-1961	box 11	folder 102
Grattan, C. Hartley, 1958-1960	box 11	folder 103
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Copyright and Royalty Agreements, 1953-1969	box 12	folder 115
Dreiman vs FAE, 1960 (?)	box 12	folder 116
"Educational Television in the United States", 1957	box 12	folder 117
"Education for Public Responsibility", 19591961	box 12	folder 118
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Cresap, McCormick and Paget: An Appraisal of FAE, 1954	box 12	folder 120
Cresap, McCormick and Paget: A Study of FAE Grantees, 1953	box 12	folder 121
Cresap, McCormick and Paget: The Board of Directors of the Film Council of America, 1953	box 12	folder 122
Cresap, McCormick and Paget: Film Council of America, 1953	box 13	folder 123
Cresap, McCormick and Paget: Inter Univ. Labor Educ. Committee (IULEC), 1954	box 13	folder 124
Cresap, McCormick and Paget: Test Cities Project, 1954	box 13	folder 125
Dale, Edgar, 1952	box 13	folder 126
McKinsey and Company: Adult Education Association of America, 1953	box 13	folder 127
McKinsey and Company: American Foundation for Political Education, 1954	box 13	folder 128
McKinsey and Company: Foreign Policy Association Program, 1953	box 13	folder 129
McKinsey and Company: The Great Books Foundation, 1953	box 13	folder 130
McKinsey and Company: Summary Report, 1954	box 13	folder 131
McKinsey and Company: Test Cities and Region Project, 1954	box 13	folder 132
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Fletcher, C. Scott: Permissions to quote, 1958-1959		
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Nelson, Charles A. (Speech), 1959	box 15	folder 163	
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Education in a Modern Industrial Democracy: Materials, 1952	box 16	folder 176	
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Scope and Contents

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Scope and Contents note

May include Officers of TFAE.

Office Files of G.H. Griffiths

Scope and Contents

Subseries 5, G.H. Griffiths' files (Boxes 18-19) includes reports, correspondence, notes, and a speech transcript. To a limited extent they reflect the shift in educational concerns to the Ford Foundation after the dissolution of FAE. Although materials include Griffiths' tenure at FAE, they primarily cover his responsibilities as Associate Director of the Ford Foundation's Education Program, 1961-1967. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject, notably including materials produced by the Ford Foundation grantee, St. Louis University, and the University Council on Education for Public Responsibility (1965-1968), which was initiated by the FAE but taken over by the Ford Foundation.

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Correspondence, 1959-19651972	box 18	folder 196	
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Educational Television, 1964-1966	box 18	folder 198	
Financial Statements, 1960-1962	box 18	folder 199	
Five Year Grant Proposal, 1955 (?)	box 18	folder 200	
National Association for Public School Adult Education (NAPSAE), 1964-1965	box 18	folder 201	
"Research in the Fund Program" Speech Transcript, 1959	box 18	folder 202	
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University Council on Education for Public Responsibility: Papers, 1966-1968	box 19	folder 209	

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Financial, Legal and Tax Files, 1951-1963

Scope and Contents

Series 2, Financial, Legal, and Tax Records (1.0 cu. ft.), contain office files, grants- accounting files, program and project costs, and general journals. Materials in the general journals and financial files (Boxes 20-21) include tax, payroll, deeds, grant-payment records, and grant-accounting files, as well as financial statements with signed audits by Price Waterhouse and Co., and correspondence regarding legal and tax concerns. Monthly financial statements, which are summarized yearly in the Price Waterhouse audits, routine bank transfers, and carbon copies of both New York State form 1099 and Federal W2-forms were discarded. All signed correspondence was retained.

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Restricted from scholarly access.		
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Federal Tax: Employee Quarterly Income Tax Return, 1956-1960	box 20	folder 213
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Conditions Governing Access note

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Federal Tax: Form 990 materials, 1956-1959	box 20	folder 215	
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Financial Statements (Price Waterhouse & Co. Auditors), 1951-1956	box 20	folder 216	
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Conditions Governing Access note:

Conditions Governing Access note

Restricted from scholarly access.

Personnel: Employment records, 1951-1956 box 20 folder 223 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. Personnel: 'Fletcher, Scott: Approved Expense Accounts, box 21 folder 224 1956-1961 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. Personnel: Salaries and Severance Arrangements, 1956-1961 box 21 folder 225 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. box 21 folder 226 Personnel: Salaries and Severance Arrangements, 1956-1961 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. Price Waterhouse and Company: Correspondence, 19521955-1963 folder 227 box 21 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. TIAA-CREF: Annuity Billings, 1951-1953 box 21 folder 228 Conditions Governing Access note: **Conditions Governing Access note** Restricted from scholarly access. TIAA-CREF: Annuity Billings, 1959-1962 box 21 folder 229 Conditions Governing Access note:

TIAA-CREF: Annuity Refund, 1959

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TIAA-CREF: Correspondence, 1959-1960 box 21 folder 231

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White Plains Facility: Deed, Agreement and Correspondence, box 21

1956-195719601963

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Grant and Project Files, 1952-1961

Physical Description: 47 microform reels

Scope and Contents

Series 3, Grant and Project Files, consists primarily of records of institutional grants and projects run internally by FAE, such as the Experimental Discussion Program. The series also contains individual awards files as well as grants-accounting files, which contain records of grant payments and completed request-and-authorization-of-program-action forms.

Several files, particularly program costs files and several television station financial files, are not contained in the collection.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Series 3 is open for research. The material has been reformatted to microfilm. Scholarly access is provided to the microfilm only.

The original paper records are not in the RAC collection.

Title/Description	Instances
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Aid to Projects of Local Libraries: Attachments only	reel 4724
Akron, University of	reel 4724
American Alumni Council	reel 4724
American Assembly	reel 4725

reel 4725 American Council on Education Related Materials: **Related Materials** see also: Penn State Meeting on Educational Television reel 4725 American Ethical Union, Inc. reel 4725 American Foundation for Continuing Education American Heritage Council reel 4725 American Heritage Council reel 4726 American Humanics Foundation: Attachments only reel 4726 reel 4726 American Institute for Public Opinion: Attachments only American Labor Education Service reel 4726 American Labor Education Service reel 4727 American Law Institute reel 4727 American Library Association reel 4727 American Library Association reel 4728 American Management Association reel 4728 American University reel 4728 **AMVETS** reel 4728 Antioch College reel 4728 Antioch College reel 4729 reel 4729 Bethany College Birmingham Southern College reel 4729 **Boston University** reel 4729 British Columbia, University of reel 4729 British Columbia, University of reel 4730 reel 4730 **Brookings Institute** California, University of reel 4730 reel 4730 Canadian Association for Adult Education Canadian Association for Adult Education reel 4731 Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults reel 4731 reel 4732 Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults

reel 4732

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Related Materials

see: World Affairs Council of Los Angeles

FAE: Internal Projects

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program

(Project #118)

reel 4738

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of

Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program (Project #118)

reel 4739

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program (Project #118)

reel 4740

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program (Project #118)

reel 4741

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program (Project #118)

reel 4746

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program (Project #118)

reel 4747

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE: Internal Projects: Experimental Discussion Program

(Project #118)

reel 4749

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

Community; and Your Money or Your Life.

FAE:	Internal	Projects:	Experimental	D	Discussion	Program
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(Project #118)

reel 4751

Scope and Contents note

Projects Include: Humanities for Adult Education (Stephens College); Life Under Communism; Ways of Mankind; World Affairs are Your Affairs; You and Your

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