

Ford Foundation records, Economic Development and Administration, Office Files

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English

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Summary Information

Repository: Rockefeller Archive Center

Creator: Ford Foundation

Title: Ford Foundation records, Economic Development and Administration,

Office Files

ID: FA1551

Date [inclusive]: 1950-1967

Physical Description: 4.3 Cubic Feet 11 boxes (10 letter document containers and 1 legal

document container)

Language of the

Material:

English.

Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation was chartered by Henry and Edsel Ford in 1936 "to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare", and initially served the Ford family's charitable interests in the Detroit area. Following the deaths of Edsel Ford (1943) and Henry Ford (1947), the Foundation was propelled to the forefront of philanthropy as the largest American foundation in terms of both endowment and yearly expenditures, and with an international scope to its major program areas.

In 1950, the Ford Foundation's Trustees planned out five areas of activity. One area, Program Area III, revolved around "activities designed to advance the economic well-being of people everywhere and to improve economic institutions for the better realization of democratic goals." To comply with the Trustee's recommendations, the Foundation created an advisory group composed of leading economists. They published their report in 1954 with recommendations to focus on four major problem areas in the field of economics: 1.) understanding the effects of private interests of businesses, government agencies, labor unions, and other organizations on public welfare; 2.) maintaining economic growth and stability; 3.) improving private and public policy; 4.) improving international economic relations. The economists proposed the Foundation focus on funding research activities, development of personnel in the field, and educating the public on economic issues.

In the 1950s and '60s, the Ford Foundation followed the advisory group's recommendations by funding conferences, nonprofits, and universities in the studies of natural resources, manpower, economic development, international economic relations, and the improvement of business administration and performance. The Foundation also funded faculty and student fellowships in economic studies, research

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centers at universities, and provided grants to improve business education at the undergraduate and graduate level.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains the formative documents of the Ford Foundation's program in Economic Development and Administration, including the meeting materials and correspondence of the initial advisory group. The collection also holds memos, reports, grant proposals, fellowship files, and budget information pertaining to initiatives to improve education and research in the fields of business and economics. The collection spans from 1950-1967.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series:

- 1. General Files, 1950-1967
- 2. Fellowship Files, 1956-1964

The original order of the material was maintained.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

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Controlled Access Headings

- Business education
- Economic development
- Fellowship programs
- Ford Foundation

Collection Inventory

General Files, 1950-1967

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents related to the development of the Ford Foundation's Economic Development and Administration program. This includes correspondence and meeting materials from the advisory group commissioned to shape the program, Foundation staff files (Kermit Gordon, Oscar Harkavy, Neil Chamberlain, Martin Shubik, Marshall Robinson), reports and surveys related to graduate studies in business and economics, and reports related to research centers at universities and the role of computers in economics education.

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Consultants: Ideas, 1955-1956	box 1	folder 2	

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Fellowship Files, 1956-1964

Scope and Contents

In a 1954 report, an advisory group of leading economists and business administrators recommended the Ford Foundation fund fellowships in economics and administration to develop strong personnel in the field. The first fellowships were awarded in 1956.

This series includes memos, grant action forms, fellowship terms, press materials, application forms, form letters, survey materials, correspondence, spreadsheets, and lists of fellowship recipients. The types of fellowships awarded include: predoctoral fellowships, faculty research fellowships, faculty study fellowships, and doctoral dissertation fellowships in economics and business.

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Scope and Contents

Results, 1962-1963

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, Faculty Study Fellowships, Doctoral Fellowships in the Social Sciences for Dissertations on Business, Predoctoral Fellowships, Predoctoral Renewals, Faculty Research Fellowships for

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