



Ruebhausen (Oscar M.) papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical note	3
Scope and Contents note	4
Arrangement note	5
File Plan	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Ruebhausen, Oscar M.
Title:	Oscar M. Ruebhausen papers
ID:	FA077
Date [inclusive]:	1941-2000
Physical Description:	9 Cubic Feet 22 document cases
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen was born in Manhattan on August 28, 1912, and grew up in Vermont. He graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth in 1934 and in 1937 from Yale Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review. He then joined the law firm of Debevoise, Stevenson, Plimpton, & Page, a six-year-old firm with twelve lawyers that is now known as Debevoise Plimpton. Mr. Ruebhausen was presiding partner of Debevoise Plimpton from 1972 to 1981.

Exempt from military service for health reasons, he went to Washington, D.C. during World War II to work in the counsel's office of the Lend-Lease Administration. In 1944 he became general counsel for the Office of Scientific Research and Development, directed by Dr. Vannevar Bush.

Mr. Ruebhausen was an intimate but unpaid adviser to Nelson A. Rockefeller for many years and was active in various appointed positions in New York state government. He also managed Governor Rockefeller's properties in Venezuela and Ecuador. Additionally, he was chairman of the boards of the Russell Sage Foundation and the Greenwall Foundation. In the 1950s and 1960s, he was chairman of the board of Bennington College, where he made news by renouncing federal loans because students had to sign loyalty oaths to get them.

Oscar Ruebhausen died on December 7, 2004, in New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

This collection comprises a portion of the files of Oscar M. Ruebhausen (pronounced "REEB-how-zen"), an attorney and member of the Manhattan law firm of Debevoise Plimpton. Mr. Ruebhausen was a long-time friend and advisor to Nelson A. Rockefeller, whom he met in the late 1940s. While a small percentage of these records document his interactions with or about Governor Rockefeller, the bulk of the collection documents his professional activities outside of the law firm.

The collection begins with the personal files maintained by Mr. Ruebhausen while employed by the U. S. Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War II (folders 1-12). Next, there are materials related to the establishment of the National Science Foundation, for which he was an advisor (folders 17-21).

This collection also includes files concerning his work as the first Chair of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Committee on Atomic Energy, which was created shortly after World War II ended. This committee took the initiative in giving legal guidance to the U. S. Congress and the Atomic Energy Commission (folders 22-64). Of particular interest in his correspondence as Chair of the Bar Association Committee are letters and published papers reflecting his efforts to avoid secrecy in the workings of the AEC. The Bar Association Committee also prepared draft legislation for the creation of the New York State Office of Atomic Development in 1959, later called the New York State Office of Atomic and Space Development (folders 65-74). Mr. Ruebhausen was named Vice Chairman of this office by Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

Additionally, these papers contain extensive materials pertaining to his service as a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee during 1970-1972 (folders 82-92) and even more on fallout shelters from the 1950s and 1960s (folders 93-104). He was also very active in Governor Rockefeller's 1958 gubernatorial campaign as an officer of Democrats for Rockefeller (folders 106-116). Long a personal lawyer to Governor Rockefeller, he was instrumental in the 1983 creation of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences at Dartmouth College, their mutual alma mater (folders 155-164).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement note

For the most part, the files in this collection are arranged chronologically, based on the agency or committee with which Ruebhausen was working.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan

Former Classification: IV 3A 28

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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archive@rockarch.org

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Revision Description

Migrated from Re:discovery to the Archivists' Toolkit by Becky Robbins. 20 November 2009

Processing Information

Charles A. Bradley and Amy R. Fitch completed processing of the papers in February 2006.

Processing Level 3: Standard Processing. All material is available in acid free manuscript boxes and folders.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted are noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection was donated to the Rockefeller Archive Center in 2005.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Nuclear energy
- Political campaigns -- United States
- National Science Foundation. (U.S.)
- Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
United States Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) - Correspondence		
Title/Description	Instances	
May 11-August 11, 1944	box 1	folder 1
August 29-October 31, 1944	box 1	folder 2
November 1, 1944-January 15, 1945	box 1	folder 3
January 16-March 31, 1945	box 1	folder 4
April 1-May 31, 1945	box 1	folder 5
June 1-August 31, 1945	box 1	folder 6
September 1-December 6, 1945	box 2	folder 7
December 11, 1945-January 31, 1946	box 2	folder 8
1945	box 2	folder 9

Scope and Contents note

OSRD "Contract Manual" February 1, 1945 War and Navy
Departments: "Explanation of Principles for Determination
of Costs Under Government Contracts"

United States Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) Contracts Forms Manual, 1941	box 2	folder 10
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United States Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD), 1941	box 2	folder 11
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Scope and Contents note

Ruebhausen Desk Reference Book (Part I): OSRD Executive
Orders, administrative orders, forms, subcontracts, purchase
agreement, penicillin contracts (declassified), insurance

United States Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD), 1941	box 2	folder 12
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Scope and Contents note

Ruebhausen Desk Reference Book (Part II): Lend-Lease,
OSRD Executive Orders, overhead, cost-plus, travel,
legislation, contract form, property transfer form, patents,
memo of law

Lend-Lease Administration, 1941-1943	box 3	folder 13
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Scope and Contents note

Report to the President on operations by director Edward R.
Stettinius, Jr.

Powers of the Foreign Economic Administration, 1943	box 3	folder 14
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Scope and Contents note

Summary of pertinent legislation, Executive Orders

International Development, 1950	box 3	folder 15
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Scope and Contents note

Manual of legislation, Executive Orders, foreign economic
administration, Administration for Economic Development,
Technical Corporation Administration (TCA), Point IV
Agreement with Ceylon, Organization of TCA

International Development Advisory Board, 1950	box 3	folder 16
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Scope and Contents note

Point IV manual, investment guaranty handbook

National Science Foundation

Title/Description	Instances	
1945	box 4	folder 17
Scope and Contents note		
Legislative proposals and hearings		
1945-1952	box 4	folder 18
Scope and Contents note		
Reports, legislation		
1948-1951	box 4	folder 19
Scope and Contents note		
Correspondence and memoranda		
1947	box 4	folder 20
Scope and Contents note		
Correspondence and memoranda		
1946	box 4	folder 21
Scope and Contents note		
Correspondence and memoranda		

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) - Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
1949	box 5	folder 22
1950	box 5	folder 23
1951	box 5	folder 24
January-March 1952	box 5	folder 25
April-May 1952	box 5	folder 26
June-September 1952	box 5	folder 27
October 1952	box 5	folder 28
November-December 1952	box 6	folder 29
January-March 1953	box 6	folder 30
April-May 1953	box 6	folder 31
June-August 1953	box 6	folder 32
September-October 1953		

	box 6	folder 33
November-December 1953	box 6	folder 34
January-June 1954	box 6	folder 35
July-December 1954	box 7	folder 36
January-June 1955	box 7	folder 37
July-December 1955	box 7	folder 38
January 2-May 22, 1956	box 7	folder 39
May 23-December 30, 1956	box 7	folder 40
1957	box 7	folder 41
1958	box 8	folder 42
1959	box 8	folder 43
Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) - International Correspondence, 1956	box 8	folder 44
Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) - International Correspondence, 1958	box 8	folder 45
Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) - International Correspondence and Addresses, 1959	box 8	folder 46
Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY) - Special Committee Minutes, 1953-1959	box 8	folder 47
Atomic Energy Tax Exemption, 1952	box 8	folder 48
Scope and Contents note		
Memos and correspondence		
Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 1956	box 8	folder 49
Scope and Contents note		
Round Table Conference invitation to Oscar M. Ruebhausen and reply		
"Harvard Law Review" Article, June 1953	box 8	folder 50
Scope and Contents note		
Correspondence on "The Atomic Energy Act and Private Production of Atomic Power," by Oscar M. Ruebhausen and Robert von Murhens.		
Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1952-1959	box 9	folder 51

Scope and Contents note

Annual reports, 1952-1959 Annual report to Rockefeller Foundation, 1952-1953

Atomic Energy - Atomic Suspense and Information, 1955	box 9	folder 52
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Control, letter to Oscar M. Ruebhausen signed by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of the Committee on Government Operations.

Atomic Energy - Proposed New York State Legislation, 1956	box 9	folder 53
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Scope and Contents note

Proposed Atomic Energy Law, letter from Oscar M. Ruebhausen to Jonathan Bingham, Secretary to Governor Harriman.

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1956	box 9	folder 54
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Scope and Contents note

Special Report -- Atomic Energy in United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1956	box 9	folder 55
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Draft of "Atomic Insurance Problem," May 21, 1956

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1953	box 9	folder 56
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Atomic energy and bar associations

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1952, 1958	box 9	folder 57
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

"Effects of an Atomic Attack upon the Legal Structure"

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1958	box 9	folder 58
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Atomic inspection, Council on Foreign Relations, "Peaceful
Uses of Atomic Energy"

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1950-1953	box 9	folder 59
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Interim reports

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1954	box 9	folder 60
--	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Draft statement of position, May 2, 1954

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1950-1951	box 9	folder 61
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Rockefeller Foundation, grant-in-aid, correspondence

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1953-1957	box 9	folder 62
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Speeches and articles

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1949-1955	box 9	folder 63
---	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen statements on atomic energy

Atomic Energy Commission - Association of the Bar of the City of New York (ABCNY), 1951-1952	box 10	folder 64
---	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

"Corporate Law and the Atom," incomplete civil
defense paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, March 4, 1952;
correspondence; bills

New York State Atomic Research & Development Authority (NYSARDA) - Annual Reports, 1963-1974	box 10	folder 65
---	--------	-----------

New York State Atomic Research & Development Authority (NYSARDA), 1963	box 10	folder 66
---	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Lease, facilities contract, and waste storage agreement with
Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.

New York State Atomic Research & Space Development Authority, 1967-1978	box 10	folder 67
--	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Previously New York State Atomic Research & Development
Authority (NYSARDA). Correspondence, statutes, by-laws.

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope III), 1949-1950	box 10	folder 68
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Scope and Contents note

Fellowships and Hanford overrun, congressional hearings

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope III), 1948	box 11	folder 69
--	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Labor

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope III), 1948	box 11	folder 70
--	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Natural gas pipeline

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope III), 1950-1951	box 11	folder 71
---	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Radioisotopes

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope IV), 1950	box 11	folder 72
---	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

National Science Foundation

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope IV), 1950	box 11	folder 73
---	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

National Science Foundation

Atomic Energy Act of 1946 and Amendments, 1946	box 11	folder 74
--	--------	-----------

Health, Education, and Welfare, 1968	box 11	folder 75
--------------------------------------	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Task Force on Prescription Drugs

Health, Education, and Welfare, 1969	box 11	folder 76
--------------------------------------	--------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Second report on oral contraceptives

National Academy of Sciences, 1959, 1965

box 11

folder 77

Scope and Contents note

1.) Carcinogens in food additives, 1959 2.) Chemicals used in food processing, 1965

Water Pollution and Clean Air, 1969-1971

box 12

folder 78

Scope and Contents note

Reports and legislation

Pesticides and Herbicides, 1969-1971

box 12

folder 79

Scope and Contents note

Reports

Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1971-1972

box 12

folder 80

Scope and Contents note

Legislation, report, adverse reactions reporting systems

Drugs - Efficacy and Safety, 1970-1971

box 12

folder 81

Scope and Contents note

Decision making, quality of advice, reports by Interdisciplinary Communications Associates, Inc.

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972

box 13

folder 82

Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- miscellaneous background papers, regulatory decision making, drafts, opinions, reports, articles

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972

box 13

folder 83

Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- miscellaneous background papers

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1971

box 13

folder 84

Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- miscellaneous

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1971

Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- spreadsheets, regulatory calendar, "New Yorker" article, "The Enigmatic Enzyme"	box 13	folder 85
President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1965-1970	box 13	folder 86
Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- Miscellaneous		
President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972 <u>Physical Description</u> : Folder 1 of 4	box 14	folder 87
Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report		
President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972 <u>Physical Description</u> : Folder 2 of 4	box 14	folder 88
Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report		
President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972 <u>Physical Description</u> : Folder 3 of 4	box 14	folder 89
Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report		
President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972 <u>Physical Description</u> : Folder 4 of 4	box 14	folder 90
Scope and Contents note Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report		
Administrative Conference of the United States, ca. 1972	box 14	folder 91
Scope and Contents note Rulemaking report by the Food and Drug Administration.		
Drug Assessment, 1971	box 14	folder 92
Scope and Contents note Conference on philosophy and technology		
Fallout Shelters - Hudson Institute, 1963	box 14	folder 93

Scope and Contents note

Arms Control & Civil Defense: 1) The question of Crisis
Evaluation 2) Civil Defense & Arms Control Objectives 3)
Civil Defense Programs in the Present World 4) The Domestic
Political Interactions

Fallout Shelters - Hudson Institute, 1963

box 15

folder 94

Scope and Contents note

A reappraisal of nonmilitary defense policies, final report:
Volumes I and II

Fallout Shelters - Hudson Institute, 1964

box 15

folder 95

Scope and Contents note

Nonmilitary defense policies: A Context Reappraisal and
Commentary, Volumes I and II

Fallout Shelters, 1961-1963

box 15

folder 96

Scope and Contents note

Congressional reports and hearings

Fallout Shelters - Pamphlets, Reports, 1958-1967

box 15

folder 97

Fallout Shelters - Pamphlets, Reports, 1958-1967

box 15

folder 98

Scope and Contents note

Pamphlet by Oscar M. Ruebhausen "Fallout Shelters and
Survival" (1962)

Fallout Shelters, 1958-1961

box 15

folder 99

Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous memos and pamphlets

Fallout Shelters, 1961

box 16

folder 100

Scope and Contents note

"Nuclear Survival" -- resource handbook by New York State
Education Department, reorganization of New York Civil
Defense Commission

Fallout Shelters, 1962-1964

box 16

folder 101

Scope and Contents note

"Effective Civil Defense" by Harvard Business School "Arms
Control and Civil Defense" by Hudson Institute

Fallout Shelter Clippings, 1959, 1961

Scope and Contents note	box 16	folder 102
<p>"New York Times" profile of Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1959 Task force report to Nelson Rockefeller on fallout shelters Transcript of program "The Open Mind," with Oscar M. Ruebhausen a participant, from NBC television, November 12, 1961</p>		
Memorabilia - Fallout, 1965-1983	box 16	folder 103
Scope and Contents note		
Photographs, Atomic Industrial Forum		
Memorabilia, 1961-1962	box 16	folder 104
Scope and Contents note		
<p>"Fallout Shelters and Survival" -- paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen reprinted from "The Record of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York," January 1962.</p>		
Memorabilia, 1951	box 16	folder 105
Scope and Contents note		
"Partners in Progress" report to President Harry Truman		
Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 16	folder 106
Scope and Contents note		
<p>Democrats for Rockefeller Committee, miscellaneous campaign literature, memos on formation of committee, copies of letters to Nelson A. Rockefeller from Franklin D. Roosevelt (March 31, 1945) and Harry Truman (March 9, 1951 and November 5, 1951), memos on formation and organization of committee.</p>		
Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958-1959	box 16	folder 107
Scope and Contents note		
Democrats for Rockefeller Committee, miscellaneous correspondence		
Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 108
Scope and Contents note		
Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- basic campaign material		
Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 109

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- legal and financial,
list of contributions

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 110
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- committee members
and volunteers

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 111
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- administration

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 112
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- final reports and
recommendations, "New York Times" and "New York Herald
Tribune" results

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 113
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- letters of
appreciation

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 114
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- ideas, suggestions,
creations not used

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 115
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- lists, possible
committee names

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 116
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- "Meet Nelson
Rockefeller," booklet by New York State Republican
Committee, ads, clippings

Memorabilia, 1959-1962	box 17	folder 117
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Scope and Contents note

Political correspondence including handwritten letter to Oscar M. Ruebhausen from Henry Kissinger, c. 1960.

Memorabilia - 1962 Gubernatorial Campaign	box 17	folder 118
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Scope and Contents note

People for Rockefeller campaign, correspondence, "New York Post" ad, treasurer's report from Democrats for Rockefeller, New York Secretary of State filing and reports, members and contributions.

Memorabilia - 1970 Gubernatorial Campaign	box 17	folder 119
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Scope and Contents note

Democrats for Rockefeller, campaign ads, bumper sticker, press releases.

International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC), 1973	box 18	folder 120
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous correspondence Oscar M. Ruebhausen
resignation as a director

International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC), 1968-1976	box 18	folder 121
---	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Deferred compensation of Oscar M. Ruebhausen

Insurance Holding Company Study, 1967-1968	box 18	folder 122
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Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, press releases

Insurance Holding Company Study, 1969-1974	box 18	folder 123
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence

Council for Advancement of Legal Education, 1968-1972	box 18	folder 124
---	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence

Memorabilia, 1983	box 18	folder 125
-------------------	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

National Science Foundation: Presentation to Oscar M.
Ruebhausen of Franklin D. Roosevelt letters

Memorabilia, 1939	box 18	folder 126
-------------------	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen's certificate of admission to practice
before the Interstate Commerce Commission

Memorabilia, 1953	box 18	folder 127
-------------------	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

"Nucleonics" magazine issue

Memorabilia - United States Government, ca. 1943	box 18	folder 128
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Letter to Adlai Stevenson, Special Assistant, Office of the
Secretary of the Navy from Francis Plimpton recommending
Oscar M. Ruebhausen for position.

Memorabilia - United States Government, 1942-1946	box 18	folder 129
---	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen employment records

Memorabilia - United States Government, 1946-1975	box 18	folder 130
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Scope and Contents note

Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) news
clippings, Oscar M. Ruebhausen citation

Memorabilia - United States Government, 1945	box 18	folder 131
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD):
"Science," "The Endless Frontier"

Memorabilia - United States Government, 1970	box 18	folder 132
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

Commendation letter to Oscar M. Ruebhausen signed by
Richard M. Nixon

Memorabilia - United States Government, 1962	box 18	folder 133
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

White House dinner invitation

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1959

box 18

folder 134

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen appointment as Special Advisor on
Atomic Energy

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960

box 18

folder 135

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen civil defense commendation

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1963

box 18

folder 136

Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen Certificate of Admission to Practice,
New York State Court of Appeals

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1959-1961

box 18

folder 137

Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous documents on Advisory Committee on Atomic
Energy

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1968

box 18

folder 138

Scope and Contents note

Report of Special Committee on Insurance Holding
Companies

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1970, 1974

box 18

folder 139

Scope and Contents note

Nelson A. Rockefeller (signed) thank-you letters to Oscar M.
Ruebhausen

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1959, 1969, 1972

box 18

folder 140

Scope and Contents note

Photos

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960

box 18

folder 141

Scope and Contents note

Certificate of Outstanding Public Service to State of New York

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1962

box 18

folder 142

Scope and Contents note

United Nations Day proclamation

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960

box 18

folder 143

Scope and Contents note

Citation from National Institute for Disaster Mobilization

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1971-1974

box 18

folder 144

Scope and Contents note

News clippings on trust created for benefit of Oscar M. Ruebhausen by Governor Rockefeller

Memorabilia - State of New York, 1979

box 18

folder 145

Scope and Contents note

"Town & Country" January issue, "Nelson Rockefeller, Art Merchant"

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Papers by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1950-1953

box 19

folder 146

Scope and Contents note

"Amend the Atomic Energy Act?" (c. 1953) "Atomic Attack and the Legal Situation," Association of the Bar of the City of New York (1952) "The Atomic Energy Act and the Private Production of Atomic Power," "Harvard Law Review," June 1953

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Papers by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1950, 1955

box 19

folder 147

Scope and Contents note

1) Atomic Energy--Its International Aspects 2) "Changes in the Atomic Energy Act"

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1953

box 19

folder 148

Scope and Contents note

"Industrializing the Atom"

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1954	box 19	folder 149
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Scope and Contents note

"New Atomic Problems"

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1952	box 19	folder 150
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

"Possible Changes in the Atomic Energy Act"

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy, 1961	box 19	folder 151
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Scope and Contents note

Three pamphlets attributed to Governor Rockefeller: 1) Survival in a Nuclear Attack 2) No Test Ban Now 3) Power to Save Freedom

Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1953	box 19	folder 152
--	--------	------------

Scope and Contents note

"Towards a New Atomic Policy"

Memorabilia - Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1994	box 19	folder 153
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Scope and Contents note

Oscar M. Ruebhausen memo re: tour of Kykuit

Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at State University of New York (SUNY), 1984-1986	box 19	folder 154
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Scope and Contents note

Endowment campaign

Dartmouth College**Scope and Contents**

Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for the Social Sciences correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
1983	box 19	folder 155
1984	box 19	folder 156

1985	box 19	folder 157
1986-1987	box 19	folder 158
January-August 1988	box 20	folder 159
September-October 1988	box 20	folder 160
1989	box 20	folder 161
1990	box 20	folder 162
1991-1992	box 20	folder 163
1993-1998	box 20	folder 164

Untitled (closed box)

box 21

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Restricted material.

Untitled (closed box)

box 22

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Restricted material.