

Ford Foundation records, Office of Communications, Advisor on Communications, Office Files of Fred W. Friendly

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository: Rockefeller Archive Center

Creator - aut: Friendly, Fred W.

Creator: Ford Foundation

Title: Ford Foundation records, Office of Communications, Advisor on

Communications, Office Files of Fred W. Friendly

ID: FA616

Date [inclusive]: 1946-1980, bulk 1966-1980

Date [bulk]: 1966-1980

Physical Description: 25.2 Cubic Feet 21 record cartons

Language of the

Material:

English

Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations

Biographical / Historical

Fred W. Friendly was born Ferdinand Friendly Wachenheimer in New York City on October 30, 1915, and was raised in Providence, Rhode Island. He attended Nichols Junior College. Friendly's professional career began in 1938 in Providence, where he wrote, produced and narrated dramatized biographies for a local radio station. From 1941-1945, Friendly served in the U.S. Army Information and Education Section as a lecturer and correspondent at domestic military bases, in southeast Asia and in Europe.

In 1947, while working as a news producer for the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), Friendly met Edward R. Murrow and began a professional association and friendship that endured until Murrow's death in 1965. They produced audio documentary recordings on 20th century world history under the title I Can Hear It Now. Beginning in 1951, when Friendly joined the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), they collaborated on the See It Now television program, and later worked together on CBS Reports. Milestones of their years together was a 1954 See It Now broadcast that cast a critical eye on the anti-

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Communist crusade of Senator Joe McCarthy, and a 1960 CBS Reports investigation of conditions faced by migrant farm workers titled "Harvest of Shame."

Friendly was named President of the CBS News Division in 1964. Under his leadership the network broadcast Town Meeting of the World, which brought world leaders together via live satellite transmission to discuss world affairs, and Vietnam Perspective, a program devoted to discussion of the Vietnam War and its impact on the American people. For his work at CBS Friendly received numerous George Foster Peabody Awards. Friendly resigned from CBS in February 1966 in a dispute over the network's decision to broadcast situation comedy reruns instead of hearings on the Vietnam War then being conducted by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Friendly joined the staff of the Ford Foundation as Advisor on Television in March 1966. In this position he worked closely with Foundation President McGeorge Bundy to define and implement a grant making agenda focused on sustained support for public television stations and networks and for policy institutions that represented the public interest on significant telecommunications issues. Within six months of his appointment, Friendly made a major impact on the communications landscape when he and Bundy submitted a statement to the Federal Communications Commission that proposed the creation of a non-profit owned satellite system that would finance public television with income generated through fees charged to commercial networks for carrying their transmissions. The plan never came to fruition, but it influenced political debate over public television financing. Other significant achievements of Friendly's tenure at the Foundation included:

- Creation of the Public Broadcast Laboratory, which produced live programs for a national network of educational television stations from 1967-1969
- Supporting the establishment of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Public Broadcasting Service, and National Educational Television
- Founding of the Cable Television Information Center to advise communities on franchising, regulation, and public-service applications of cable television
- Supporting a program of educational fellowships for minority journalists
- Creation of the Media and Law seminars, which convened jurists and journalists to discuss hypothetical court cases that highlighted areas of conflict between the press and the courts

During the mid and late 1970s, Friendly oversaw a substantial withdrawal of Foundation support for public television programming and infrastructure development as those costs were increasingly met by government funding, viewer support and corporate sponsorship. In 1975 Friendly's job title was changed to Advisor on Communications, to reflect a shift in the emphasis of his work which was increasingly focused on media policy, journalism and law. Significant projects in these areas included support to the Aspen Institute Program on Communications and Society, and funding for research and conferences on the impact of television on children.

Friendly retired from the Ford Foundation in 1980.

Concurrent with his career at the Ford Foundation, Friendly was Edward R. Murrow Professor of Journalism at Columbia University. He was the author of several books, including Due To Circumstances Beyond Our Control (1967), an account of his CBS career and an analysis of commercial and non-

commercial television, and The Good Guys, the Bad Guys and the First Amendment: Free Speech vs. Fairness in Broadcasting (1975).

Fred W. Friendly died on March 3, 1998.

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Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation first made grants in the field of media and communications in 1951, when funds were provided to the Radio and Television Workshop for the production of broadcast programming. Through 1977, the foundation gave over \$295 million to develop public television stations, networks and content. Fred W. Friendly was hired as Advisor on Television in 1966, and later headed the Foundation's Office on Television, which coordinated grants in this field beginning in 1968. Friendly oversaw an expansion of grant making into such related fields as telecommunications and telecommunications policy, journalism education and media law. In February 1975 the Office of Public Broadcasting was renamed the Office of Communications and Friendly's title was changed to Advisor on Communications, reflecting a shift in the emphasis of the program. The Foundation dramatically scaled back funding for public television development and programming, and increasingly focused its resources on the public policy, research and media law elements of the portfolio. Some funding continued to go to public TV programming on subjects related to the interests of other parts of the Foundation, such as public affairs and the arts. Shortly after Friendly's retirement in 1980, the Office of Communications was disbanded as a separate unit of the Foundation, with ongoing grants related to communications being channeled through other program divisions.

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Scope and Contents

The Office Files of Fred W. Friendly, Ford Foundation Advisor on Television (1966-1975) and Advisor on Communications (1975-1980) document his oversight of program development and grants in the fields of public television, telecommunications and media law. The collection spans 1945-1980 and consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, grant proposals, writings, speeches, news clippings and photographs.

The Office Files of Fred W. Friendly document the professional activities of the noted journalist, educator and grant maker during the period 1945-1980, with an emphasis on the years of his association with the Ford Foundation, 1966-1980. The bulk of the records concern Friendly's work as the Foundation's Advisor on Television and Advisor on Communications, and consist of correspondence, memos and reports pertaining to Foundation grant making to support public television development and programming, telecommunications policy research, journalism education and media law. The collection

also documents Friendly's pre-Ford Foundation career as a television producer and executive at CBS, his activities as a Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, and his personal life. There are substantial records documenting Friendly's public speaking engagements, his published writings, and his chairmanship of the Mayor's Advisory Task Force on CATV and telecommunications.

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Arrangement

Material is arranged into seven series:

Series I: Correspondence;

Series II: Mayor's Advisory Task Force on CATV and Telecommunications;

Series III: Media and Law Seminars;

Series IV: Photographs;

Series V: Speeches and Interviews;

Series VI: Subjects;

Series VII: Writings;

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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

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Jim Moske, Ford Foundation Archives, June 2006.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. This collection was originally accessioned by the Ford Foundation in 2004. The collection was transferred to, and officially accessioned, by the Rockefeller Archive Center in 2012. Box 14, containing the contents of Series 5, has not been transferred to RAC and is therefore not available for research.

Conditions Governing Access

Records more than 10 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details.

Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Appendix A: Reports – Unpublished reports written by Ford Foundation staff and consultants were removed from the papers and transferred to the Archives' collection of staff and consultant reports. See Appendix A for a list of these reports and their specific assigned number. The reports are listed in alphabetical order by author. The assigned number may be used to access reports in the online catalog.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Mass Communications
- Television
- Television broadcasting
- Mass media
- Radio
- Radio broadcasting -- History

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1945-1980

Physical Description: 13.8 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Series I. Correspondence, 1945-1980

Letters, memoranda, telegrams and supporting documentation relating to Friendly's professional activities and personal life. The correspondence is arranged in three subseries.

A. Alphabetical, 1955-1980

Correspondence with individuals and organizations concerning Ford Foundation program development, grant making and grantee activities in the fields of public television, telecommunications policy, journalism and media law. While the bulk of the letters are to or from Friendly himself, there are also numerous documents authored by or addressed to other members of his staff including Stuart Sucherman, David Davis and Tinka Nobbe. Of particular interest are letters and reports exchanged with dozens of public television stations across the United States that evaluate their programming, finances and operation, correspondence with NASA and COMSAT regarding satellite communication systems, and information on the merger of New York stations WNET and WNDT that created Channel 13. A few items date from Friendly's years at CBS and relate to his work as a producer and executive in the network's News Division. There are also several items pertaining to Friendly's collaboration with Edward R. Murrow, as well as letters from such prominent individuals as jurists Hugo Black and Warren Berger, political journalist William F. Buckley and television personality Bill Moyers. The subseries also documents the day to day operation of the Office of Public Broadcasting and its successor, the Office of Communications, and includes such routine business correspondence as consultant's reports and general inquiries from grant and job seekers. Files are arranged alphabetically.

B. Chronological, 1971-1980

Outgoing letters written by Friendly and members of his staff at the Ford Foundation, dealing with grant making and administrative matters, arranged by date of writing. There is some duplication of items filed by author or recipient in the Alphabetical subseries.

C. Personal, 1945-1979

Letters to and from friends, family, colleagues and associates concerning financial affairs, family matters, school and summer camp arrangements for Friendly's children, his activities as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Riverdale Country School and social engagements. Of particular interest is a May 19, 1945 letter written by Friendly to his mother regarding his visit to the Mauthausen concentration camp shortly after its liberation by the American military (box 12, folder 16).

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Stations - WETA (Washington, D.C.), 1974-1980

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Stations - WFLD (Chicago), 1967	box 9 (34442)	folder 2
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Miscellaneous chronological, 1958-1970	box 12 (34657)	folder 1-10
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Scarsdale Public Schools, 1968	box 12 (34657)	folder 13
Stockbridge School, 1967-1970	box 12 (34657)	folder 14
Summer camps, 1962-1970	box 12 (34657)	folder 15
Wachenheimer, Therese, 1945-1957	box 12 (34657)	folder 16

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Mayor's Advisory Task Force on CATV and Telecommunications, 1961-1971

Physical Description: 1.2 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

All documents are arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, memoranda, agendas, reports, and meeting minutes documenting the work of this task force appointed by New York Mayor John V. Lindsay in 1967 and chaired by Fred W. Friendly. The group, which met during 1967-1968, investigated potential television interference created by the construction of the World Trade Center, evaluated existing community antenna television (CATV, or cable television) franchises in New York City and made recommendations concerning city government involvement in the development and operation of the local telecommunications infrastructure.

Title/Description	Instances
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Chronological file, 1967

	box 12 (34657)	folder 17-22
Chronological file, 1967-1971	box 13 (34701)	folder 1-8

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Media and Law Seminars, 1974-1980

Physical Description: 1.2 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, publicity material and transcripts documenting a seminar series convened under Friendly's leadership to explore areas of conflict between the press and the courts. Prominent judges, lawyers and journalists met in cities across the country to discuss hypothetical court cases that highlighted tensions between the two groups, such as First Amendment protections and an individual's right to privacy. The subject area of the series was later broadened to include business and the media, human rights, terrorism and communications policy. More than 80 conferences were held over a seven year period.

Title/Description	Instances	
Case studies, 1976-1980	box 13 (34701)	folder 9-11
Chronological file, 1974-1980	box 13 (34701)	folder 12-18
Fund for Media and the Law, 1976	box 13 (34701)	folder 19
Handbook, undated Conditions Governing Access:	box 14 (34777)	folder 1

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Israel, 1979-1980	box 14	folder 2
	(34777)	

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Transcripts, 1976-1980

Conditions Governing Access:

box 14 (34777) folder 3-15

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

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Photographs, circa 1950-1979

Physical Description: 0.3 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Filed here are a few dozen photo prints and negatives of Fred W. Friendly, his colleagues and associates. Many were taken at public speaking engagements and Media and Law seminars. There are a few portrait photographs of Friendly, and several pictures of him with Edward R. Murrow during the years of their collaboration at CBS

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Title/Description	Instances		
Bundy, McGeorge, circa 1966	box 14	folder 16	
Custodial History:	(34777)		
Custodial History			
Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.			
Conditions Governing Access:			
Conditions Governing Access			
Not available.			
Contact sheets, circa 1960-1979	box 14	folder 17	
Custodial History:	(34777)		
Custodial History			

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Friendly, Fred W., circa 1950-1979

box 14 (34777)

folder 18

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Friendly, Fred W. with Murrow, Edward R., undated

box 14 (34777)

folder 19

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Negatives, circa 1960-1979

box 14 (34777)

folder 20

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

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Speeches and Interviews, 1965-1980

Physical Description: 1.5 Cubic Feet

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 has not been transferred to RAC, therefore its contents are not currently available for scholarly research.

If at some point in the future Box 14 is received by RAC, this material will then be made available for research.

Scope and Contents

Transcripts, speaking notes, correspondence, publicity materials and news clippings regarding speeches and interviews by Friendly. Includes transcripts of testimony by Friendly at several U.S. Senate and House meetings on broadcast and telecommunications policy. Friendly also spoke frequently on issues related to freedom of the press and judicial restrictions on journalists. Files are arranged chronologically by date of speech or interview.

Title/Description	Instances	
WCBS Radio interview, 1965 May 27 Custodial History: Custodial History	box 14 (34777)	folder 21
Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access Not available.		
American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1966 May 19 Custodial History: Custodial History Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access Not available.	box 14 (34777)	folder 22
National Broadcast Editorial Conference, 1966 July 29 <u>Custodial History:</u> Custodial History Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Not available.	box 14 (34777)	folder 23
United States Senate Committee on Commerce Subcommittee on Communications testimony, 1966 August 17 Custodial History: Custodial History	box 14 (34777)	folder 24

Conditions Governing Access:

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Custodial History:

box 14 folder 25 National Association of Educational Broadcasters, 1966 October (34777)**Custodial History: Custodial History** Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** Not available. box 14 folder 26 Chicago speech, 1967 March 8 (34777)**Custodial History: Custodial History** Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. Conditions Governing Access: **Conditions Governing Access** Not available. WNEW Radio interview, 1967 March 26 box 14 folder 27 (34777)**Custodial History: Custodial History** Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. **Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access** Not available. WNDT Radio interview, 1967 March 27 box 14 folder 28 (34777)**Custodial History: Custodial History** Box 14 was not transferred to RAC. **Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access** Not available. box 14 folder 29 WHYY Television interview, 1967 May 1 (34777)

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

United States Senate Committee on Commerce Subcommittee on Communications testimony, 1967 April 12

box 14 (34777)

folder 30

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

U.S. News and World Report interview, 1967 May 8

box 14 (34777)

folder 31

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Nichols College commencement, 1967 June 2

box 14 (34777)

folder 32

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

International Press Institute, 1967 June 21

box 14 (34777)

folder 33

Custodial History:

Custodial History

Box 14 was not transferred to RAC.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Not available.

Granada Guildhall Lecture, 1967 October 24	box 15 (34785)	folder 1
National Council of Teachers of English, 1968 November 28	box 15 (34785)	folder 2
Stockbridge School Commencement, 1969 June 8	box 15 (34785)	folder 3
Pittsburgh Conference on Media and Minorities, 1969 November 14	box 15 (34785)	folder 4
World Mental Health Assembly, 1969 November 19	box 15 (34785)	folder 5
California Institute of Technology, 1969 November 21	box 15 (34785)	folder 6
Indiana Civil Liberties Union, 1970 January 24	box 15 (34785)	folder 7
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1970 February 25	box 15 (34785)	folder 8
U.S. House of Representatives Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Communications and Power testimony, 1970 April 27	box 15 (34785)	folder 9
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Public Relations Society of America, 1970 November 16	box 15 (34785)	folder 11
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Publi-Cable Inc. conference, 1972 May 5

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National Press Club Luncheon, 1972 June 1	box 15 (34785)	folder 20
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University of Oregon, 1979 April 16	box 15 (34785)	folder 50
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Subjects, 1958-1980

Physical Description: 6.6 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, memoranda, agendas, reports and research materials compiled by Friendly on a variety of topics relating to broadcasting, telecommunications, journalism and law. There are substantial files on the early design and implementation of community antenna television (CATV, or cable television) systems, especially in the New York City region, satellite broadcast technology, and the Foundation-funded operations of public television stations and organizations including National Educational Television (NET) and the Public Broadcast Laboratory. Reports and memos from the Office of Public Broadcasting and Office of Communications (box 19, folders 8-12) illuminate staff thinking during the period when Foundation support for public television was dramatically reduced.

Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically.

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See It Now – transcripts, 1955-1958	box 20 (34949)	folder 20
Seminar on Children and Television Violence, 1978	box 20 (34949)	folder 21
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Telecommunications Task Force, 1971-1973	box 20 (34949)	folder 28-29
Television in the Courthouse, 1978-1980	box 20 (34949)	folder 30

Tornillo, Pat L., 1973-1974

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Tydings, Joseph C., 1967	box 21 (35020)	folder 2
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U.S. Congress – televised proceedings, 1978-1979	box 21 (35020)	folder 4
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Power, 1973	box 21 (35020)	folder 5
U.S. House of Representatives – House Gallery, 1971	box 21 (35020)	folder 6
U.S. Virgin Islands Public Television, 1968-1969	box 21 (35020)	folder 7
U.S. Vision One, 1966	box 21 (35020)	folder 8
Washington Post Conference on Media and Government, 1980	box 21 (35020)	folder 9
WETA (Washington D.C.) – Woestendiek firing, 1970	box 21 (35020)	folder 10
Whitehead, Clay T., 1971-1974	box 21 (35020)	folder 11
WNET – program evaluations, 1973-1974	box 21 (35020)	folder 12

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Writings, 1956-1979

Physical Description: 1.8 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

Published and unpublished articles and monographs authored by Friendly. Most articles are commentaries on the television industry and telecommunications policy. Many files contain correspondence with publishers and reader, publicity materials, reviews and research materials pertaining to the publication. Topics include freedom of the press, media policy and public television finance.

Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically by title.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Asleep at the Switch of the Wired City," Saturday Review, 1970 October 10	box 21 (35020)	folder 13

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"McGraw-Hill and a Free Press," The Wall Street Journal, 1979 January 26	box 22 (35175)	folder 14
Miscellaneous, circa 1960-1969	box 22 (35175)	folder 15
"Murder in Nebraska," Dateline '77, 1977	box 22 (35175)	folder 16
"Must the Industry Be Ruled by 'The Numbers," New York Times, 1978 August 6	box 22 (35175)	folder 17
"Paying the High Price of a President In an Isolation Booth," New York, 1973 June 11	box 22 (35175)	folder 18
"Public TV must operate under handicap," Louisville Times, 1967 August 15	box 22 (35175)	folder 19
"The Public's Right to Know," The Wall Street Journal, 1978 October 5	box 22 (35175)	folder 20
"South Africa in Transition: Review", 1956	box 22 (35175)	folder 21
"Television and the First Amendment," Saturday Review, 1972 January 8	box 22 (35175)	folder 22
"This is Murrow," Saturday Review, 1969 September 27	box 22 (35175)	folder 23
"Trying to keep Henry Kissinger out of Columbia," The Sunday Sun, 1977 May 29	box 22 (35175)	folder 24
"TV at the turning point," Columbia Journalism Review, 1970-1971	box 22 (35175)	folder 25
"The unselling of The Selling of the Pentagon," Harper's, 1971 June	box 22 (35175)	folder 26
"We Offer Our Activism, Our Faith," New York Times, 1970 May 31	box 22 (35175)	folder 27
"What's Fair on the Air," New York Times Magazine, 1975 March 30	box 22 (35175)	folder 28

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