



# Ruebhausen (Oscar M.) papers

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

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## Table of Contents

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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
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	7

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## Summary Information

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

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical/Historical note

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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](#)

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## Scope and Contents note

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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](#)

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## Arrangement note

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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](#)

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## File Plan

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Former Classification: IV 3A 28

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

### 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 scholarly research, except where particular restrictions are noted (for boxes 21 and 22).

RAC is unable to provide access to obsolete media and original digital media. In addition separated media may not yet have undergone stabilization procedures. When feasible, a digital surrogate may be created via special order. All applicable charges will apply. See RAC Head of Archival Services or RAC Head of Digital Programs for details.

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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](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

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Materials requiring specialized equipment for access (film, audio, video, slides) may be closed to research dependent on availability of the applicable equipment

Brittle or damaged items, or materials otherwise in need of preservation care, may be closed to researchers at the discretion of the RAC Head of Archival Services/Head of Reference.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## 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
United States Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD), 1941	box 2	folder 11
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
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

**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
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Legislative proposals and hearings		
1945-1952	box 4	folder 18
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Reports, legislation		
1948-1951	box 4	folder 19
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Correspondence and memoranda		
1947	box 4	folder 20
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> 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**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
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
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Memos and correspondence		
Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 1956	box 8	folder 49
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Round Table Conference invitation to Oscar M. Ruebhausen and reply		
"Harvard Law Review" Article, June 1953	box 8	folder 50
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> 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
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> Annual reports, 1952-1959 Annual report to Rockefeller Foundation, 1952-1953		
Atomic Energy - Atomic Suspense and Information, 1955	box 9	folder 52
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> 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
<b>Scope and Contents note</b> 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

## Scope and Contents note

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

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

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

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

Atomic energy and bar associations

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

"Effects of an Atomic Attack upon the Legal Structure"

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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
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## Scope and Contents note

Interim reports

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

Draft statement of position, May 2, 1954

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

Natural gas pipeline

Atomic Energy Study (Envelope III), 1950-1951		
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<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	box 11	folder 71
Radioisotopes		
Atomic Energy Study (Envelope IV), 1950	box 11	folder 72
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
National Science Foundation		
Atomic Energy Study (Envelope IV), 1950	box 11	folder 73
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
National Science Foundation		
Atomic Energy Act of 1946 and Amendments, 1946	box 11	folder 74
Health, Education, and Welfare, 1968	box 11	folder 75
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Task Force on Prescription Drugs		
Health, Education, and Welfare, 1969	box 11	folder 76
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Second report on oral contraceptives		
National Academy of Sciences, 1959, 1965	box 11	folder 77
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
1.) Carcinogens in food additives, 1959 2.) Chemicals used in food processing, 1965		
Water Pollution and Clean Air, 1969-1971	box 12	folder 78
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Reports and legislation		
Pesticides and Herbicides, 1969-1971	box 12	folder 79
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Reports		
Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1971-1972	box 12	folder 80
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
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
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## 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

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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	box 13	folder 85
---	--------	-----------

## Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- spreadsheets,  
regulatory calendar, "New Yorker" article, "The Enigmatic  
Enzyme"

---

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	box 14	folder 87
---	--------	-----------

Physical Description: Folder 1 of 4

## Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report

---

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972	box 14	folder 88
---	--------	-----------

Physical Description: Folder 2 of 4

## Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report

---

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972	box 14	folder 89
---	--------	-----------

Physical Description: Folder 3 of 4

## Scope and Contents note

Panel on Chemicals and Health (PCH) -- draft report

President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC), 1972	box 14	folder 90
---	--------	-----------

Physical Description: Folder 4 of 4

## 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
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## 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
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## Scope and Contents note

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

Fallout Shelters, 1961-1963	box 15	folder 96
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## Scope and Contents note

Congressional reports and hearings

Fallout Shelters - Pamphlets, Reports, 1958-1967	box 15	folder 97
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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
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## Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous memos and pamphlets

Fallout Shelters, 1961	box 16	folder 100
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## 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
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## Scope and Contents note

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

Fallout Shelter Clippings, 1959, 1961	box 16	folder 102
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## Scope and Contents note

"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

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

"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.

Memorabilia, 1951	box 16	folder 105
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## Scope and Contents note

"Partners in Progress" report to President Harry Truman

Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 16	folder 106
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**Scope and Contents note**

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.

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Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958-1959	box 16	folder 107
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**Scope and Contents note**

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee, miscellaneous correspondence

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Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 108
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**Scope and Contents note**

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- basic campaign material

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Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 109
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**Scope and Contents note**

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

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Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 110
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**Scope and Contents note**

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- committee members and volunteers

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Nelson A. Rockefeller Gubernatorial Campaign, 1958	box 17	folder 111
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**Scope and Contents note**

Democrats for Rockefeller Committee -- administration

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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
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## Scope and Contents note

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

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC), 1973	box 18	folder 120
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## Scope and Contents note

Miscellaneous correspondence Oscar M. Ruebhausen  
resignation as a director

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International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC), 1968-1976	box 18	folder 121
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## Scope and Contents note

Deferred compensation of Oscar M. Ruebhausen

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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
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## Scope and Contents note

Correspondence

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

## Scope and Contents note

Correspondence

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Memorabilia, 1983	box 18	folder 125
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## Scope and Contents note

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

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Memorabilia, 1939	box 18	folder 126
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## Scope and Contents note

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

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Memorabilia, 1953	box 18	folder 127
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## Scope and Contents note

"Nucleonics" magazine issue

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

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Memorabilia - United States Government, 1942-1946		
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<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	box 18	folder 129
Oscar M. Ruebhausen employment records		
Memorabilia - United States Government, 1946-1975	box 18	folder 130
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) news clippings, Oscar M. Ruebhausen citation		
Memorabilia - United States Government, 1945	box 18	folder 131
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD): "Science," "The Endless Frontier"		
Memorabilia - United States Government, 1970	box 18	folder 132
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Commendation letter to Oscar M. Ruebhausen signed by Richard M. Nixon		
Memorabilia - United States Government, 1962	box 18	folder 133
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
White House dinner invitation		
Memorabilia - State of New York, 1959	box 18	folder 134
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Oscar M. Ruebhausen appointment as Special Advisor on Atomic Energy		
Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960	box 18	folder 135
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Oscar M. Ruebhausen civil defense commendation		
Memorabilia - State of New York, 1963	box 18	folder 136
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
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

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1968	box 18	folder 138
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### Scope and Contents note

Report of Special Committee on Insurance Holding Companies

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1970, 1974	box 18	folder 139
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### Scope and Contents note

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

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1959, 1969, 1972	box 18	folder 140
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### Scope and Contents note

Photos

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960	box 18	folder 141
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### Scope and Contents note

Certificate of Outstanding Public Service to State of New York

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1962	box 18	folder 142
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### Scope and Contents note

United Nations Day proclamation

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1960	box 18	folder 143
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### Scope and Contents note

Citation from National Institute for Disaster Mobilization

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1971-1974	box 18	folder 144
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### Scope and Contents note

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

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Memorabilia - State of New York, 1979	box 18	folder 145
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**Scope and Contents note**

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

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Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Papers by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1950-1953	box 19	folder 146
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**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

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Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Papers by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1950, 1955	box 19	folder 147
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**Scope and Contents note**

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

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Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1953	box 19	folder 148
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**Scope and Contents note**

"Industrializing the Atom"

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

"New Atomic Problems"

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Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1952	box 19	folder 150
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**Scope and Contents note**

"Possible Changes in the Atomic Energy Act"

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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

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Memorabilia - Atomic Energy - Paper by Oscar M. Ruebhausen, 1953	box 19	folder 152
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**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
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Conditions Governing Access:

## **Conditions Governing Access**

Restricted material.