



Ford Foundation records, Office of the President, Assistant to the President, Office Files of Waldemar Nielsen

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English

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Nielsen, Waldemar A.
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Office of the President, Assistant to the President, Office Files of Waldemar Nielsen
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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Waldemar A. Nielsen worked as a staff member of the Ford Foundation from 1952 through 1961. During the course of his tenure with the Foundation he held the following positions:

- October 1957, Associate Director, International Affairs
- May 1956, Executive Associate, Program Area I
- June 1953, Assistant to the President, Office of the President
- December 1952, West Coast Representative, Pasadena, CA
- October 1952, Staff Associate, Program Area V

Mr. Nielsen left the Foundation in 1961 to become President of the African-American Institute. He worked as a consultant to the Foundation on various occasions between 1961 and 1970.

Mr. Nielsen was born March 27, 1917 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Missouri in economics and received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the same university that year. He received a master's degree in political science at the University of Wisconsin in 1940. Prior to his career at the Ford Foundation, Mr. Nielsen held the following positions:

- 1951-52, Director of the European Information Division, Office of the U.S. Special Representatives in Europe
- 1948-51, Deputy Director of the Information Division, Office of the U.S. Special Representative in Europe
- 1947-48, Special Assistant, Secretary of Commerce
- 1946-47, [public opinion pollster], Department of State
- 1940-43, Field Director, Division of Program Surveys - Department of Agriculture

Mr. Nielsen published two books about foundations: *The Big Foundations* (1972) and *The Golden Donors* (1985). He also published various articles in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Harper's Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Journal of Social Issues*.

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Scope and Contents

The Assistant to the President Office Files of Waldemar A. Nielsen document the Ford Foundation's preparations for and responses to the Reece Committee. These files, dated 1952-55 (bulk: 1953-54), show the Committee's charges against the Foundation and individual staff members; material on its grantees and Funds gathered by the Foundation; the responses to the Committee; summaries of media reporting of the investigation; and other Foundation correspondence, memoranda, prepared statements, and press releases.

While these files do not represent all of the documents that the Foundation staff members prepared, they seem to be a complete record of those compiled by the President's Office. The documents were created by H. Rowan Gaither, Jr., Bernard Gladieux, Jane Hinchcliffe, Porter McKeever, William McPeak, Waldemar Nielsen, and other staff members. Additional records were produced by individuals at Cravath, Swaine and Moore, Arthur Newmyer and Associates, and Earl Newsom and Co.

It is apparent that these documents are not in the order which they were used as active files. These records were selected, arranged, and numbered, presumably by Mr. Nielsen. Since the material is accessible in this order, no attempt was made to re-establish the original, working order of the files.

Photocopies of documents from the early Foundation years (c. 1936-50) were not retained with these records (this information duplicates records already in the Archives). Government documents and other available printed material was discarded. Foundation Staff and Consultant Reports were pulled and transferred to that record group. These reports are listed in Appendix A; cross-reference sheets mark the original location of the reports. In many cases, drafts of letters and reports have been retained since they reflect the meticulous care that was used in preparing the responses to Representative Reece's queries.

These files do not document Mr. Nielsen's other responsibilities as Assistant to the President or activities in any of his other positions at the Ford Foundation.

"The [Reece Committee] investigation continued for over a year and was conducted in a manner openly hostile to foundations. The research methods employed by the staff were crude, consisting largely of culling secondary source material to find evidence to support the prejudices of the Chairman. Sixteen days of public hearings were held -- largely confined to the foundation activities in the social sciences. With one exception, the witnesses invited to testify were known to be hostile to foundations and the studies supported by foundation. Foundation officials were given no opportunity to appear before the Committee.

"The Final Report, signed by only three of the five members, was devoted largely to a summary of the hearings, witness by witness. No effort was made to evaluate the evidence presented or to take cognizance of the written statements submitted by foundations....

"The minority report attacked the aims, methods, and actions of the Committee and its staff, and charged that the majority report contained false statements, half-truths and misleading information.

Joseph M. McDaniel, Jr. memo to McGeorge Bundy March 1, 1966

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Arrangement

The files are arranged by topic. Items within each folder are arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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archive@rockarch.org
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Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

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.

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Collection Inventory

Reece Committee Investigation (United States House Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations), 1952-1955 (1953-1954)

Title/Description	Instances	
Administrative Files, 1953	box 1	folder 1
Policies and Programs, 1953	box 1	folder 2
Fund for the Advancement of Education, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 3-4
Fund for Adult Education, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 5
Resources for the Future, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 6
Eastern European Fund, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 7
Intercultural Publications, 1954	box 1	folder 8
Behavioral Sciences, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 9
Michigan Fund, 1953	box 1	folder 10
TV-Radio Workshop, 1953	box 1	folder 11
MIT Center for International Studies, 1953-1954	box 1	folder 12
Grants-in-Aid and Fellowships, 1953	box 1	folder 13

Pre-investigation Literature, 1954	box 1	folder 14
Report on Foundations, 1953	box 1	folder 15-16
A Bibliography of the Foundation in the Modern World. Feder, Robert	box 1	folder 17
Cox Resolution (H.R. 561), 1952	box 1	folder 18
Answers to Cox Questionnaire (1 of 2), 1952	box 1	folder 19
Answers to Cox Questionnaire (2 of 2), 1952	box 2	folder 19A
Updating of Cox Questionnaire, 1953-1954	box 2	folder 20
Reece Resolution Speech and Debate, 1953	box 2	folder 21
Reece Committee - Rules of Procedure [1st hearing], 1954	box 2	folder 22
Reece Committee - Operations Plan, 1954	box 2	folder 23
Reece Committee - Members and Staff, 1953-1954	box 2	folder 24
Reece Committee - Staff Correspondence and Foundation's Replies, 1953-1954	box 2	folder 25-26
Inter-Office Memoranda, 1953-1954	box 2	folder 27
Personnel - Biographical Data - 1	box 3	folder 28-29
Personnel - Biographical Data - 2	box 3	folder 30-31
Gladieux's Statement, 1952-1954	box 3	folder 32
Goodwin Statement, 1954	box 3	folder 33
Reece Committee - Staff Reports 1 , 1953-1954	box 3	folder 34-35
Reece Committee - Staff Reports 2, 1953-1954	box 3	folder 36
List of Charges and Related Material, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 37
Advertising Council, 1953	box 4	folder 38
India, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 39
Ford Motor Company, 1954	box 4	folder 40
Summary of Testimony and Press Coverage, 1954	box 4	folder 41
Newmyer Reports, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 42
Press Coverage Summaries, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 43
Press and Radio Comment, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 44
American Legion Magazine Articles, 1952-1955	box 4	folder 45
American Mercury Articles, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 46
H.R. Gaither, Statement to Committee with Related Documents , 1954	box 5	folder 47-48

H.R. Gaither Reply to Reece Report, 1954	box 5	folder 50
Distribution Lists, 1954	box 5	folder 51
H.R. Gaither Thank You Notes, 1954	box 5	folder 52
Statements by Other Foundations , 1952-1954	box 5	folder 53-54
Additional Statements (outside Committee), 1953-1954	box 5	folder 55
Congressional Resolutions (other than Reece), 1953-1954	box 5	folder 56
Ford Foundation Expenditure on Reece Episode, 1954	box 5	folder 57
Summary and Evaluation of Reece Episode, 1954	box 5	folder 58
M.T. Moore Evaluation Study, 1955	box 5	folder 59
Proposed White Paper, 1954	box 5	folder 60
Facts Forum & Heritage Foundation, 1953-1954	box 5	folder 61
Senator McCarthy and other material, 1953	box 5	folder 62
Board of Trustees, 1952-1953	box 5	folder 63
Tax-Exemption Privilege , 1952-1954	box 6	folder 64-65
Grant-Making Policies and Procedures, 1951-1952	box 6	folder 66
Safeguards Against Subversion, 1953-1954	box 6	folder 67
Relations of the Foundation with Comparable Agencies , 1952-1953	box 6	folder 68
Tradition and Progress in a Changing Scene, 1953	box 6	folder 69
Fund for the Republic, 1953-1956	box 6	folder 70-72
Grantee Organizations and Individuals that have Caused Public Controversy (other than FR), 1952-1955	box 6	folder 73
Statutory and Non-Statutory Limitation and Control (other than the Internal Revenue Code) , 1953-1954	box 6	folder 74
Graphic Data, 1953-1954	box 6	folder 75
Press Comment, 1953-1954	box 6	folder 76-77

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