Inventory of the Bruce Bronzan Papers

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Inventory of the Bruce Bronzan Papers

Collection number: LP409

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Bruce Bronzan Papers
Dates: 1983-1992
Collection number: LP409
Creator: Bruce Bronzan, California Legislator
Collection Size: 9 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: Bruce Bronzan was a Democratic California State Assembly Member, 1983-1992, and who served the 31st Assembly District. Bronzan was on the Assembly Health Committee for all ten years, serving as Chair the last four. As a leading legislator in health care and an expert on the Medi-Cal program, he has carried legislation to create a health facilities financing system and to increase funding for health care of the indigent. The Bruce Bronzan Papers consist of 9 cubic feet of textual records reflecting Bronzan's legislative activities during his 10-year Assembly career. Record series include Bill Files, 1983-1992; Subject Files, 1968-1990; Press Files, 1986-1988; and a subgroup consisting of Joint Legislative Audit Committee Subject Files, 1972-1989. This collection is particularly useful to researchers interested in California's health care policies, especially as it concerns the homeless and mentally ill during the 1980s.

Physical location: California State Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bruce Bronzan Papers, LP409:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History

The California State Archives acquired the Bruce Bronzan Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

Biography

Bruce Bronzan was a Democratic California State Assembly Member who served the 31st Assembly District. During his time in office, AD 31 encompassed much of eastern Fresno County, stretching from the Madera County border in the north, Tulare County in the south, and running down the Central Valley roughly following State Highway 99 in the west. He was first elected to the State Legislature in 1982. His popularity continued and he easily won victories in his district for the next
five elections. He ran unopposed in what became his last election in 1990. He left office in 1992 having represented his constituents from the cities of Clovis, Fowler, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and the eastern part of the city of Fresno for ten years. (Who's Who in the California Legislature). Bruce Bronzan was born in Fresno, California on September 28, 1947 and went to Fresno schools including McLane High School and California State University, Fresno, where he graduated with a B.S. in Political Science and a teaching credential in 1969. He received a Masters in Urban Studies from Occidental College in Los Angeles in 1970 and was a Coro Foundation Fellow that same year. In 1968, Bronzan wed Linda Barnes and eventually had two children, daughter Chloe and son Forest. He began his political career as a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, serving for eight years from 1975-1982. He became Vice Chair in 1980 and Board Chairman in 1981. Before he entered the political arena, Bronzan was the founder, director and teacher at a small, alternative-education, secondary-level school in Fresno before becoming the director of an alcoholism program at Fresno Community Hospital in 1973 (Oral History Interview, 1994).

During Bronzan's early childhood, his father's career took the family from his native Fresno to Los Angeles and Visalia for a few years before returning to Fresno for a job at the YMCA. Bronzan suggests that his own time spent in YMCA organizations and groups prepared him for a life in politics. Learning parliamentary procedures, working with small group dynamics, planning, and budgeting yearly projects and activities created a "milieu of little models of democracy" which Bronzan would apply towards his experiences in the student government, program development, and the legislature (Oral History Interview, 1994). With a progressive, open-minded, well-read father, Nick, and artistic mother, Peggy, Bronzan was a creative leader in his endeavors inside and outside of politics.

Bronzan not only gained experience but also an interest in health care related issues during his time at the Fresno Community Hospital. After he was elected to the Board of Supervisors at age twenty-eight in a 1975 special election, Bronzan "inherited" health care issues because no one else wanted to deal with them. After spending seven years on the Board of Supervisors he fostered a passion for health, which would become his major platform in the Assembly. While he sponsored other issues and was member on several other committees, Bronzan stated that while in the Assembly "health was the thing I cared most about...by far and away the most important thing to me." (Oral History Interview, 1994-1995). Bronzan was on the Assembly Health Committee for all ten years, serving as Chair the last four. As a leading legislator in health care and an expert on the Medi-Cal program, he has carried legislation to create a health facilities financing system and to increase funding for health care of the indigent. He wrote the Mental Health Services Reform Act of 1985 and carried a liberal platform on health issues throughout his service on the Assembly Health Committee, numerous subcommittees such as the Subcommittee on Health and Welfare, the Subcommittee on Health and Workers Insurance, and the Subcommittee on Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse, as well as multiple health related select and special committees. As a member and later as Chair of the Ways and Mean Subcommittee on Health and Welfare he was highly influential at both the budgeting and legislative end of the health care spectrum in the Assembly.

Bronzan also served as a member of the Assembly Agriculture Committee for all ten years of his tenure in the State Assembly and demonstrated his loyalty to agricultural interests by authoring and supporting legislation that followed a conservative agenda. Coming from a district with a large population of small farmers, Bronzan's legislation sought to stop the "Big Green" initiative, which would have restricted even further the pesticide use of California farmers in the 1990s. He lamented that farmers and consumers have lost connection with one another and strove to encourage local farmers to reach out to the urban and suburban communities to remind them of the importance of local growers to California residents and the economy (Oral History Interview, 1994-1995).

Bruce Bronzan left the Assembly in 1993 and took a job as the Associate Dean for Administration and Development at University of California, San Francisco at Fresno with the main responsibility of spearheading a model healthcare delivery system reform in central California (Oral History Interview, 1994-1995). As of March 2010, he served as the President of Trilogy Integrated Resources. According to their website, "Trilogy Integrated Resources, Inc. is a company dedicated to improving information and communication in the health and social service fields at the community level. Trilogy works primarily with state and county governments and other local human service entities to establish one-stop information places, centered on highly interactive, community-based Web sites" (Oral History Website).

According to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks) and the Assembly Final History, Bronzan served on the following committees:

**Standing Committees**
- Aging and Long Term Care, 1983-1984
- Agriculture, 1983-1992
- Finance and Insurance, 1987-1990
- Chair, 1989-1992

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Human Services, 1989-1990 (Chair, 1989-1990)
Chair, 1989-1990
International Trade and Intergovernmental Relations, 1987-1988
Local Government, 1985-1986
Televising the Assembly, 1991-1992
Vice Chair, 1983-1984
Ways and Means, 1985-1988
Select Committees
California Wine Production and Economy, 1987-1992
Children and Youth Services, 1991-1992
Genetic Diseases, 1989-1990
Mental Heath, 1983-1984
Chair, 1983-1984
Small Business, 1983-1984
Utility Performance, Rates, and Regulation, 1983-1984
Vice Chair, 1983-1984
Subcommittees
Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Substance Abuse, 1989-1990
Minority Health Affairs, 1991-1992
Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance, 1987-1988
Joint Committees
Legislative Audit, 1987-1990 (Chair, 1987-1988)
Chair, 1987-1988
Special Committees
Medi-Cal Oversight, 1987-1992
Oversight Committees
Tobacco Tax Programs, 1991-1992
Legislative Task Force
Taiwan Sister State, 1989-1992
Televising the Assembly, 1989-1990
Additional Committees, Commissions, and Boards
California Commission on Health Care Policy and Financing, 1989-1990

Scope and Content
The Bruce Bronzan Papers consist of 9 cubic feet of textual records reflecting Bronzan's legislative activities during his 10-year Assembly career. Record series include Bill Files, 1983-1992; Subject Files, 1968-1990; Press Files, 1986-1988; and a subgroup consisting of Joint Legislative Audit Committee Subject Files, 1972-1989.

This collection is particularly useful to researchers interested in California's health care policies, especially as it concerns the homeless and mentally ill during the 1980s. As a member of the Assembly Health Committee from 1983-1992, serving as chair from 1989-1992, and a member of six health related subcommittees during his career in the Legislature, Bruce Bronzan spent his legislative career focused on creating awareness and focusing legislative attention and funds on public health issues for traditionally disadvantaged groups such as children, the poor, and the mentally ill. Bronzan also served on the Agriculture Committee dealing with irrigation, pesticide regulation, tax credits, and world trade as it relates to agriculture and agricultural products. Subject files from his time as chairman and member of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee from 1987-1990 reflect the committee's deliberation and recommendations to the Auditor General regarding
State audits. Among the most notable were the audits of the major agencies including the Department of General Services and Worker's Compensation. Because of Bronzan's experience with Medi-Cal and insurance and his continued commitment to farmers, families, and the mentally ill, his collection provides a detailed view of policy changes in these areas and the effects on California during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
California. Legislature. Assembly
California. Legislature. Assembly. Committee on Agriculture
California. Legislature. Assembly. Committee on Ways and Means. Subcommittee #1 on Health and Welfare
Series 2 Subject Files 1968-1990

Physical Description: 16 file folders

Arrangement

Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

Subject Files may contain newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence, reports, notes, memoranda and other materials. The subjects covered in this series are reflective of Bronzan's particularly controversial or important legislation and those topics of particular interest to the records' creator during his 10-year legislative career.

Background Reading Material, 1968-1986 (1ff) LP409:118

Bill Schedules, 1989 (1ff) LP409:119


Family Planning, Office of (OFP), 1987-1990 (2ff) LP409:122

Mental Health, AB1896, 1990 (1ff) LP409:123

Mental Health Reform Act of 1985, AB2541, 1984-1985 (6ff) LP409:124-129

Mental Health Reform Act of 1985, Bebe Nolan's File, 1985 (1ff) LP409:130

Office of Family Planning Press Conference, 1990 (1ff) LP409:131

Photos and Artwork, undated (1ff) LP409:132


Series 3 Press Files 1986-1988

Physical Description: 6 file folders

Arrangement

Press Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading. Within each subject grouping the records are organized in the order assigned by the creator's numerical system.

Scope and Content Note

The Press Files series contains Issue Responses for a variety of different subjects and events, news clippings, and News Releases written by Bronzan and his office. The Issue Responses are correspondence templates directed to his constituents expressing his views on subjects and announce state-sponsored events and celebrations. News Clippings mentioning Bruce Bronzan, his legislation, or issues of importance to Bronzan are also included in the Press Files series. The articles are from a variety of different newspapers across California including the Sacramento Bee, the San Francisco Chronicle, and many other publications from cities including San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Fresno. The News Releases are public statements conveying Assemblyman Bronzan's views and actions regarding specific bills or groups of legislation before the State Legislature.

Assembly Joint Legislative Audit Committee Records 1972-1989

Scope and Content Note

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) was created in 1955 following the recommendations of Price Waterhouse and Company in 1954 that the legislature have an independent, post-audit capability. The JLAC is comprised of seven members from each house with Senate members being appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and Assembly members being appointed by the Assembly Speaker. The Committee selects its own chairman and is non-partisan.

Bruce Bronzan served as a member of this committee from 1987-1990 and was chairman from 1987-1988. The JLAC determines the policies of the Auditor General, sets priorities for audits, and approves audit requests. Audit requests can only come from legislative officers, committee chairs, the Auditor General, or members of the JLAC. The JLAC subject files maintained by Assemblyman Bronzan relate to audit requests received and audits performed during his time serving as chair of the committee.
Physical Description: 40 file folders
Arrangement
Press Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.
Scope and Content Note
Subject files may contain newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence, reports, notes, memoranda and other research materials. The subjects covered in this series concern audits, suggested audits of California government agencies and departments, and issues of concern to the committee.

Asbestos Removal - Schools, 1984-1988 (2ff) LP409:140-141
Auditor General, 1988 (1ff) LP409:142
Board of Corrections, 1987-1988 (1ff) LP409:143
Business Development Office, 1988 (1ff) LP409:144
Commerce Department (1ff) LP409:145
Consulting Services and Contracts, 1984-1988 (1ff) LP409:146
Department of General Services (DGS), 1981-1988 (1ff) LP409:147
Domestic Violence, 1988 (1ff) LP409:148
Emergency Medical Services (EMS), 1988 (1ff) LP409:149
Employment Development Department, 1982-1988 (1ff) LP409:150
Excess Land, Better Management of, 1983 LP409:151
Government Operations Review, 1982 (1ff) LP409:152
Health Services Department, 1985-1988 (1ff) LP409:153
Hearing Transcript, August 15, 1988 (1ff) LP409:154
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 1988-1989 (1ff) LP409:155
Office of the State Architect (OSA) and Office of Project Development and Management (OPDM), 1985-1988 LP409:156
Press Releases, 1988 (1ff) LP409:157
Private Care for the Retarded, 1987-1988 (1ff) LP409:158
Property Management, 1984-1988 (1ff) LP409:159
School Facilities Construction, 1988 (2ff) LP409:160-161
Waste Management Board, 1985-1989 (3ff) LP409:162-164
Workers' Compensation, 1972-1988 (15ff) LP409:165-179