Inventory of the Wadie P. Deddeh Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Wadie P. Deddeh Papers
Dates: 1967-1993
Collection number: LP372 and LP211
Creator: Wadie P. Deddeh, California Legislator
Collection Size: 11.5 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California
Physical location: California State Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Wadie P. Deddeh Papers, LP[number]:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.
Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the Wadie P. Deddeh Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.
Biography
Deddeh attended the University of Baghdad and received a B.A. in Literature in 1946. After immigrating to the United States in 1948, he received a Master's Degree in Political Science in 1956 from the University of Detroit. In 1982, Deddeh received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from National University. Deddeh became a naturalized citizen in 1953 and worked variously as a grocery store clerk and owner, teacher of Arabic at the Army Language School at Monterey, California, and civics teacher at Sweetwater High School. Before being elected to office, Deddeh was Chair and Professor of the Southwestern College Department of Political Science.
Deddeh married Mary-Lynn Drake, a drama and speech coach at Hilltop Junior High School in Chula Vista, California. The Deddehs have one son, Peter.
Elected to the 77th Assembly District in 1966, Deddeh served for 16 years in the Assembly before successfully running for the 40th Senate District in 1982. During Deddeh's tenure in the Assembly, the 77th District extended from La Mesa on the north to the Mexican border on the south. Communities in the 40th District during Deddeh's tenure in the Senate include Balboa Park, Bonita, Chula Vista, Encanto, Harbor Island, Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, National City, San Diego, San Ysidro, Spring Valley, Castle Park, Harbor Side, La Presa, Lincoln Acres, Otay Mesa, Rancho del Otay, and Sunnyside. In 1986, Deddeh was interviewed by the Reagan White House for an ambassadorship to Iraq, but was not appointed.

As an Assembly Member, Deddeh's interests included alcoholic beverage policy and issues related to intoxicated motorists, border issues, education and retired educators, energy policy, environmental policy, gun control, judicial policy, Mexican-American affairs, retired employee benefits, tax policy, and unemployment compensation. In the Senate, Deddeh focused on taxation, education, public employees, and transportation. Some notable legislation sponsored by Deddeh in the Senate included limiting the dissemination of pornography, prohibiting abortions in certain cases, curtailing illegal gang activity, and banning transfers of funds between political candidates.

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

**State Assembly, 1967-1983**

*Standing and Interim Committees*
- Finance and Insurance, 1971-1974
  *Chair, 1973-1974
- Employment and Public Employees, 1971-1972
- Government Administration, 1970
- Governmental Organization, 1981-1982
  *Vice Chair, 1967-1968
- Public Employees and Retirement, 1969-1980
  *Chair 1969-1978
- Revenue and Taxation, 1967-1982
  *Chair 1979-1982
- Transportation and Commerce, 1967-1982
  *Chair 1969-1972
- Urban Affairs and Housing, 1969-1970

*Subcommittees*
- Administration of the Personal Income Tax and Bank Corporation Taxes, 1977-1978
- Air Quality, 1979-1980
- Corporate Taxes, 1977-1978
- Retirement, 1977-1978
- Transit, 1975-1978
- Unemployment-Disability Insurance, 1981-1982
- Workers Compensation, 1981-1982

*Select Committees (General Research Committees)*
- Mass Transit, 1979-1980
- San Diego Foster Care Programs, 1973-1974
- Medical Malpractice, 1970-1974

*Joint Committees*
- Economic Conversion, 1968-1970
- School Finance, 1972

*Commissions, Committees, Boards, and Task Forces*
- Commission of the Californias, 1967-1982
- State Highway Users Tax Study Commission, 1972
State Transportation Board, 1971-1972

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

Standing and Interim Committees
Appropriations, 1985-1990
*Chair, 1993
Commerce and International Trade, 1991-1992
*Chair, 1991-1992
Education, 1983-1993
Health and Human Services, 1989-1993
Housing and Urban, 1983-1984
*Vice Chair, 1983-1986
Public Employment and Retirement, 1983-1984
*Chair, 1983-1984
*Chair, 1989-1992
Transportation, 1983-1990
*Chair, 1985-1986
Veterans Affairs, 1989-1993

Select Committees (General Research Committees)
Border Issues, Drug Trafficking, and Contraband, 1987-1992
*Chair, 1987-1992
Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 1985-1986
Pacific Rim, 1985-1992
Planning for California's Growth, 1985-1992
Substance Abuse, 1987-1990
Tourism and Aviation, 1989-1990
*Chair, 1989-1990

Subcommittees
Education Reform, 1983-1990
*Chairman, 1983-1990

Special Committees
Border Issues, 1991-1992

Joint Committees
Legislative Retirement Committee, 1983-1992
*Chair, 1987-1992
Public Pension Fund Investments, 1985-1992

Additional Committees
Committee on Executive Salaries, 1983-1984
Study Team on Judges’ Retirement System, 1983-1984

Scope and Content
The bill files document Deddeh’s legislative activity during his tenure as a member of the California State Legislature. While the bills introduced by Wadie Deddeh include a wide array of subjects, Deddeh’s primary concerns included border issues, education, public employees and retirement, tax policy, and transportation. The subject files provide further detail on Deddeh’s work regarding education, energy, environmental regulation and pollution, finance, Mexican-American affairs, tax policy, and transportation.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

- Deddeh, Wadie P.
- Environmental policy
- Education and state

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<th>See below for LP numbers</th>
<th>Series 1 Bill Files 1973-1993</th>
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<td>Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session and then numerically by bill number.</td>
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<td>Bill files created by Wadie Deddeh while he served as Assembly Member, 1973-1983 and Senator, 1983-1993. The files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author’s statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973-1974: AB3673 (1ff)</td>
<td>LP372:1</td>
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<td>1975-1976: AB9-AB4133, ACA27-105, ACR74, AJR12, HR9 (16ff)</td>
<td>LP372:2-17</td>
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<td>1977-1978: AB54-AB3554 (9ff)</td>
<td>LP372:18-26</td>
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<td>1981-1982: AB4-AB3770, ACR47, HR19 (13ff)</td>
<td>LP211:142-154</td>
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<td>1993-1994: SB104-SB1112 (7ff)</td>
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<th>LP372:150-267</th>
<th>Series 2 Subject Files 1967-1976</th>
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<td>Subject files can contain newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence, reports, notes, memoranda, and other materials. The subject files contain information gathered by Deddeh from 1967 to 1976 and demonstrate his interest in education, the environment, Mexican-American affairs, public employees and retirement, and tax policy. A complete list of subject headings can be found in Appendix A of the master finding aid at the California State Archives.</td>
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