Inventory of the Ernest N. Mobley Papers

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Inventory of the Ernest N. Mobley Papers

Collection number: LP175:167-229

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

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ernest N. Mobley papers,
Date (inclusive): 1967-1976
Collection number: LP175:167-229
Creator: Mobley, Ernest N.
Extent: 3 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: Ernest M. Mobley, Republican, was a member of the Assembly from 1967-1976. Some of his legislative interests were local government and wildlife conservation.

Physical location: California State Archives
Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ernest N. Mobley Papers, LP175:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition Information
The California State Archives acquired the Ernest N. Mobley Papers following his final Assembly term.

Alternative Forms of Material Available
Some of these records are available on microfilm at the California State Archives.

Biography

Ernest M. Mobley, Republican, was a member of the Assembly from 1967-1976. He represented the 33rd District, which included the city of Fresno in Fresno County. After redistricting in 1973, Mobley represented the 31st District that included parts of the counties of Fresno and Tulare.

He was born on November 1, 1918 in Shadyside, Ohio. He attended public schools in Shadyside, and Rio Grande (Ohio) College. In 1943, he earned a B.S. from Ohio University. He served in the European Theater during World War II. His service was recognized with the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. He then served as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was the Fresno Country Administrative Officer, 1956-1962 and Santa Monica City Manager, 1962-1964. In addition, he was a rancher. Assembly Member Mobley married Lillian Van Zant. They had one daughter, Jill.

He was a charter member of the National Association of County Administrator. He was also a member of the Fresno Elks Lodge, the Scottish and York Rite Bodies, the American Legion, AMVETS, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also belonged to the Fresno County Farm Bureau, Sun Maid Raisin Growers Association, and the California Almond Growers Exchange.

Assembly Member Mobley was elected to the State Assembly of California in 1966.

According to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks), he served on the following committees:

Standing Committees
- Agriculture, 1969-1976
- Constitutional Amendments, 1967-1968
- *Vice Chair, 1967-1968
- Efficiency and Cost Control, 1971-1972
- *Vice Chair, 1972
- Finance and Insurance, 1973-1974
- Local Government, 1969
- Resources and Land Use, 1975-
- Revenue and Taxation, 1970-1972
- Rules, 1969-1975
- *Vice Chair, 1975
- *Chair, 1976
- Ways and Means, 1973-1974

Select Committees
- County Jurisdiction, 1972-1974
- Farm Labor Violence, 1974
- Manpower Development, 1972-1974
- *Vice Chair, 1973-1974
- Open Space Lands, 1973-1974
- *Vice Chair, 1973-1974

Joint Committees
- Legislative Budget, 1969-1976
- Legislative Organization, 1969
- Organization and Financing of Local Government, 1972
- *Chair, 1972
- Rules, 1970
- Permanent Subcommittee
- Water, 1975
As a member of the legislature, he also served on the State Electronic Date Processing Policy Commission, 1969-1970 and the Little Hoover Commission, 1971-1976.

Scope and Content
The Ernest N. Mobley Papers consist of Assembly Bill Files, 1967-1976, Legislative Counsel Opinions, 1967-1976, and records of the Joint Committee on Organization and Financing of Local Government, 1971-1972. The bill files document his legislative activity during all of his terms as a member of the California State Legislature. Often the first folder on a legislative session includes a summary of bills and resolutions introduced by the Assembly Members and their outcomes (see LP175:167 for an example from 1968).

One of his legislative interests was local government. His own experience as a county and city administrator made him especially aware of the challenges facing these officials; his successful bill AB1614 (1968) established guidelines for local government wishing to establish commissions to negotiate with unions and exempted their negotiations from the Brown Open Meeting Act. AB2264 (1967) allowed county to expand the kind of services they provided to their residents. Because of the importance of agriculture to his district and his own experience as a rancher, he also introduced a number of related bills. Some focused on the growing of cotton: AB681 (1967) introduced regulations to discourage the spread of the pink bollworm and AB2931 (1975-1976) delayed implementation of clean-air regulations that would have prevented growers from burning waste after harvesting. He also maintained an interest in veterans' affairs, including the support of measures to increase the availability of Cal-Vet loans to California Vietnam Veterans, such as the successful Proposition 3 of 1974.

Assembly Member Mobley also introduced the Duck Stamp bill (AB770) which required duck hunters to buy an additional stamp with their hunting license. The revenue from the program went to the protection of the habitats of migratory birds in California and elsewhere. It was highly supported by Ducks Unlimited, an organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, restoring and managing wetlands. Other measures focused on the needs of Fresno and the surrounding area, such as AB284 (1970) that introduced a pilot Youth Conservation Corp program centered in state parks and forests in the Fresno area.

The Legislative Counsel Opinions are responses by the Office of Legislative Counsel to inquiries from Assembly Member Mobley on a wide range of issues of interest to himself and his constituents.

The limited collection of records of the Joint Committee on Organization and Financing of Local Government document Mobley's role as chair of this committee created by ACR 93 in 1971. The committee researched available sources of financing for city and county governments and made recommendations about methods to give these governments more sources. They recommended allowing local governments to impose income taxes in addition to property taxes. One folder documents the activities of Citizen's Committee on Local Governmental Reorganization, a Sacramento organization.

Arrangement
Arranged into three series: bill files, Legislative Counsel Opinions, and records of the Joint Committee on Organization and Financing of Local Government.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been associated with these materials in the Archives' automated public access system (currently in development, July 2004).

Subjects
Mobley, Ernest N.
California - - Legislature - - Assembly
Local government - - Law and Legislation

Physical Description: 57 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by session and numerically by bill number.
Scope and Content Note
Bill files created by Ernest N. Mobley may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, editorials and newspaper clippings, correspondence, committee statements, and other information. Microfilm copies of bill files are available for the years 1967-1976 as indicated by (mf) following the LP number.

1967: AB247-AB2479, ACRs, AJRs, HRs (4ff) LP175:167-170 (mf)
1968: AB183-AB2077, AJR10, HRs, RCR365 (6ff) LP175:171-176 (mf)
1969: AB90-AB2076, ACA87, ACRs, AJR54 (6ff) LP175:177-183 (mf)
1970: AB68-AB2478, ACRs, AJRs, HRs (8ff) LP175:184-190 (mf)
1971: AB68-AB3097, ACRs, AJR17, HR65 (9ff) LP175:191-199 (mf)
1972: AB43-AB2371, ACR16 (4ff) LP175:200-203 (mf)
1973-1974: AB156-AB4481, ACRs, AJR58, HR165 (7ff) LP175:204-210 (mf)
1975-1976: AB13-AB4513, ACA74, ACRs, AJR35 (13ff) LP175:211-223 (mf)

Folder LP175:224-227
Series 2. Legislative Counsel Opinions, 1967-1976

Physical Description: 4 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date of Legislative Counsel response.
Scope and Content Note
These files contain inquiries to the office of the Legislative Counsel about matters of interest to Assembly Member Mobley and the response of the Legislative Counsel to these inquiries.

Folder LP175:228-229

Physical Description: 2 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged roughly chronologically or by subject.
Scope and Content Note
These records briefly document Assembly Member Mobley's role as chair of the Joint Committee on Organization and Financing of Local Government. These records contain information about the formation of the committee, notes on meetings, minutes, correspondence, and draft report. The Joint Committee investigated new sources of revenues for local government, methods to monitor local expenditures, and the effect of state and federal mandates on local governments. They also include a series of reports from the Citizen's Committee on Local Governmental Reorganization, a group investigating consolidation of city and county government in the Sacramento area.