Inventory of the Louis J. (Lou) Papan Papers

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Inventory of the Louis Papan Papers

Collection number: LP425

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

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Louis Papan Papers
Dates: 1973-2002
Collection number: LP425
Creator: Louis Papan, California Legislator
Collection Size: 17.5 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California


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], Louis Papan Papers, LP425:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the Louis Papan Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

Biography
Lou Papan was a man of many names. Born Elias Papandricoupolos to Greek immigrant parents; called "The Enforcer" for his tendency to punish recalcitrant members with smaller staffs and offices; called "Leadfoot Lou" for the speeding tickets he received racing home to the bay area from Sacramento every night to be with his ailing son; and, finally, called "The Conciliator" for advocating civility between members during his second tenure in the assembly. Louis John Papan,
Democrat, was a State Assembly Member, 1972-1986 and 1996-2002. His 27th District included Daly City, Millbrae, Pacifica, and San Bruno within San Mateo County. Following redistricting in 1974, he represented the 19th District which included cities such as Colma and parts of San Francisco. He was born on August 2, 1928, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He served in the Army during World War II. In 1951, he received his Bachelor of Arts in economics from Syracuse University. After college, he entered the Air Force and served during the Korean Conflict. He then worked as an FBI agent from 1955 to 1958. In 1958, he moved to San Mateo County with his wife, Irene C. Damis, to establish an insurance and real estate brokerage. Louis and Irene had three children, John V., Virginia (Gina), and Diane. Papan died of a heart attack, aged 78, in 2007.

Papan was an active member of his community. He was a member of many local organizations including the San Mateo County Mental Health Association, the California Society of the Neurologically Handicapped, the Society of Former FBI Agents, Sierra Club, and the Commonwealth Club. Elected to the Daly City Council in 1970, Papan also held memberships in several political organizations. These included the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the North County Council of Cities, the San Mateo County Development Association, and the League of California Cities.

Papan was elected to the State Assembly in 1972 and served until 1986. As a freshman assembly member, he was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore from 1974-1976. As chair of the Assembly Rules Committee for ten years, Papan was considered a powerful political force. He gave up his Assembly seat to run for the 8th District of the State Senate, but he lost the general election to Quentin Kopp. From 1987 to 1994, he was a member of the California Medical Assistance Commission. In 1996, he successfully regained his State Assembly seat representing the 19th District with 55.7% of the voters in his favor. Facing term limits, he openly transferred his remaining campaign funds to his daughter, Gina Papan, in her unsuccessful bid for the same assembly seat in 2002.

**Standing Committees**

- Appropriations, 1997-2002
- Banking and Finance, (Chair 1997-2002)
- Chair, 1997-2002
- Budget, 1997-2002
- Finance and Insurance, 1983-1986
- Insurance, 1997-1998
- Public Employees and Retirement, 1983-1986
- Public Investments, Finance, and Bonded Indebtedness, 1985-1986
- Retirement, 1973-1974
- Rules, (Chair, 1977-1986)
- Chair, 1977-1986

**Select Committees**

- California Horse Racing Industry, 1997-1998
- Department of Motor Vehicles, 2001-2002
- Genetic Diseases, 1983-1984
- Plastic Pipe Oversight, (Chair, 1983-1984)
- Chair, 1983-1984
- Veteran's Affairs, 1997-1998
- Joint Committees
- Rules, (Chair, 1979-198)
Chair, 1979-1986
Subcommittees
Health and Welfare (Ways and Means), (Chair, 1975-1976)
Chair, 1975-1976
Investment Practices, (Chair, 1981-1984)
Chair, 1981-1984
Licensing and Vocational Standards (Finance, Insurance, and Commerce), (Chair, 1975-1976)
Chair, 1975-1976
San Francisco Peninsula Commuter Service (Interim) (Transportation), (Chair, 1974-1979)
Chair, 1974-1979
State Administration (Budget #4), 1997-2002

Scope and Content

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Papan, Louis J., 1928-
California. Legislature. Assembly
California. Legislature. Assembly. Committee on Ways and Means. Subcommittee #1 on Health and Welfare
Southern Pacific Railroad Company
LP425:1-271  Series 1  Bill Files 1973-2002

Physical Description: 271 file folders

Arrangement

Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session and numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note


1977-1978: Legislative Status of Authored Bills (LP425:41)
1981-1982: AB201-AB3715; ACA63; ACR13-ACR95; HR7-HR11; AB15X (LP425:54-73)
1985-1986: AB50-AB4412; ACA31; ACR14-ACR163; AJR82-AJR83 (LP425:94-143)
1997-1998: AB126-AB2814; ACA8; ACR27-ACR187; AJR76 (LP425:144-204)
1999-2000: AB177-AB2808; ACA2-ACA21; ACR11; AJR19-AJR67; HR7 (LP425:210-250)


Physical Description: 20 file folders

Arrangement

Capitol Restoration Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

These files document the progress of the restoration of the State Capitol building. In 1972, the State Capitol was declared seismically unsafe. From 1976 to 1982, the Capitol underwent extensive construction. This $70 million project was the object of much publicity and criticism, and won an American Institute of Architects Honor Award in 1983. Papan was chair of the Joint Rules Committee during much of this period and, as such, was responsible for much of the oversight and funding of this historic undertaking. The files may include correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, transcripts, event programs, invoices, contracts, and news clippings. Significant topics include the Area Plan, the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Leon Ralph (former chair of Joint Rules), Subcommittee on Capitol Restoration, the re-opening Gala, various reports, and the sculpture "Columbus' Last Appeal to Isabella."

Physical Description: 13 file folders

Arrangement

News Clippings are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

These files contain news articles which mention Lou Papan, his voting record, or editorial opinions regarding legislation authored or supported by him. The files may include news clippings from local and major newspapers, newsletters, and trade journals. Significant topics include Medi-Cal, legislator’s wages, and education.


Physical Description: 9 file folders

Arrangement

Press Releases are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

These files contain press releases and related materials from Lou Papan's office directed toward his constituents regarding legislation affecting the 19th Assembly District as well as other bills authored or sponsored by Papan. These press releases typically describe why the assembly member voted a certain way and provide quotes of his recent statements.


Physical Description: 81 file folders, 28 dictabelts

Access Information

Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Arrangement

Southern Pacific Railroad Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

These files document the legal proceedings involving the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Subcommittee on San Francisco Peninsula Commuter Service. In 1974, Southern Pacific Peninsula Commuter Service filed an application to increase fares by 111%. In response, this Assembly Transportation subcommittee held hearings from 1974-1979. Papan, both as chair of the subcommittee and a representative of an affected Bay Area region, was invested in this case. The files may include minutes, subcommittee hearing transcripts and agendas, memoranda, correspondence, reports, Attorney General Opinions, and background material. Significant topics include Peninsula Transit Alternatives Project (PENTAP), Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and (Public Utilities Commission) Application #57289.

Audio materials have been removed to cold storage and separation sheets are included within the file folders to indicate this. Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

For a list of subject headings see Appendix A at the California State Archives.
Series 6 Speeches 1975-1985

Physical Description: 10 file folders

Arrangement
Speeches are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
These files pertain to Lou Papan's public speaking engagements from his first tenure in the Assembly. The files may include press releases, correspondence, note cards, draft and final versions of speeches, summary legislation, and news clippings. Papan typically spoke to groups in Sacramento and within San Mateo County. Examples of organizations Papan addressed include Greater Daly City Chamber of Commerce, San Mateo Council of Mayors, California Autobody Association, Millbrae Historical Society, and the National Association of Insurance Women (Northern California Chapter). Significant events include Skyline College's graduation, Annual Judges' Dinner, and a Roast for Jack Fenton. Some common themes in Papan's speeches include consumer protection, financial regulation, and health care reform.

Series 7 Subject Files 1975-1985

Physical Description: 21 file folders

Arrangement
Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
Subject Files contain information on a variety of topics of interest to Papan. The files may include correspondence, Legislative Counsel Opinions, notes, memoranda, background material, news clippings, speeches, and press releases. Significant topics include Armenia, Greece, Lupus, San Bruno Mountain, and term limits.

For a list of subject headings see Appendix B at the California State Archives.