Collection number: LP385

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

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Descriptive Summary
Title: John Stephen (Steve) Peace Papers
Dates: 1982-2002
Collection number: LP384
Creator: Steve Peace, California Legislator
Collection Size: 42 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: John Stephen (Steve) Peace, Democrat, was a State Assembly Member, 1982-1993, and a Senator, 1993-2002. The Steve Peace Papers consist of 42 cubic feet of textual records covering 1983-2002. The collection is organized into five series: Bill Files, Worker's Compensation Reform Committee Files, Correspondence Files, the Select Committee on International Water Treatment and Reclamation Files, and the Select Committee on Low Level Nuclear Waste Files.

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], John Stephen (Steve) Peace Papers, LP385:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the John Steven (Steve) Peace Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

Biography
John Stephen (Steve) Peace, Democrat, was a State Assembly Member, 1982-1993, and a Senator, 1993-2002. From 1982-1992, his Assembly District 80 included all of Imperial County and parts of San Diego County and Imperial City, most of Chula Vista, and southerly portions of the city of San Diego. Following redistricting in 1992, he represented the 79th Assembly District which included cities within San Diego County but excluded Imperial County. His Senate District 40 included half of San Diego City, Chula Vista, National City, and El Cajon in San Diego County.

Steve Peace was born on March 30, 1953 in San Diego. The son of two teachers, Steve served as Student Body President at Bonita Vista High School in Chula Vista, and played football and basketball. He graduated from the University of California...
at San Diego with a degree in Political Science. Before becoming a state legislator, Peace was a writer, director, actor, and producer. Peace was the Chief Financial Officer of Four Square Productions, a multimedia production company he co-founded in 1972, and was San Diego's largest producer of commercial and corporate films, videotapes, and multi-media presentations. The company, though, was best known for its original feature film, Attack of the Killer Tomatoes and its three sequels, as well as a Killer Tomatoes Saturday morning animated series on the Fox Children's Network. He married his wife, Cheryl, in 1974 and has three children, Clint, Bret, and Chad.

Throughout his career Peace remained tied to the community. He has been president of a homeowners association in the San Diego area, co-chair of Citizens for Clean Water, a Little League baseball coach, and a member of National City's Chamber of Commerce.

Before joining the Assembly, he was a legislative aid for six years to Wadie Deddeh and Larry Kapiloff. Steve Peace was elected to the State Assembly in 1982 and to the State Senate in December 1993 through a special election to replace Senator Wadie Deddeh. Peace served as the Majority Whip from 1985-1986. In 1988 he was a member of the "Gang of Five" and lost his committee assignments for that year. His legislative concerns were the environment, worker’s compensation, education, public utilities and deregulation, public safety, and consumer protection. Additionally, his fellow legislators considered him one of the most intelligent and hardworking legislators.

During his term in the Legislature, Steve Peace was a member of the following committees according to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks) and the California Blue Book:

### Standing Committees
- **Aging and Long Term Care**, 1983-1984
  - Vice Chair, 1983-1984
- **Agriculture**, 1983-1984
- **Banking, Finance, and Bonded Indebtedness**, 1991-1992
  - Chair, 1991-1992
- **Elections and Reapportionment**, 1985-1986
- **Environmental Safety and Toxic Material**, 1993
- **Finance and Insurance**, 1987
- **Finance, Insurance, and Public Indebtedness**, 1993
  - Chair, 1993
- **Human Services**, 1989-1990
- **Rules**, 1987
- **Televising the Assembly**, 1993

### Subcommittees
- **Employee Compensation**, 1985-1986
- **Resources and Parks**, 1985-1986
- **Unemployment and Disability Insurance**, 1985-1986
- **Worker’s Compensation**, 1985-1986
  - Chair, 1985-1986

### Select Committees
- **California-Mexico Affairs**, 1991-1992
- **California Youth**, 1983-1984
- **International Water Treatment and Reclamation**, 1983-1993
*Chair, 1983-1993
Low Level Nuclear Waste, 1985-1986
*Chair, 1985-1986
*Chair, 1989-1990

Joint Committees
Prison Construction and Operation, 1989-1990

Special Committees
Community Colleges, 1983-1984

Commissions
State Allocation Board, 1991-1992

Governor's Task Force
Governor's Taskforce on Long Term Care, 1986

Standing Committees
Appropriations, 1997-2004
*Chair, 2001-2004
Agriculture and Water Resources, 2001-2004
Education, 1997-2004
*Chair, 1999
Equalization, 1997-1999
Elections and Reapportionment, 2002
Environmental Quality, 1997-1998
Natural Resources and Wildlife, 1997-2004
Revenue and Taxation, 1997-2004
*Chair, 1997-1998

Special Committees
Community Colleges, 1983-1984

Select Committees
Agriculture and Water Resources, 1997-2000
Appropriations, 1996
Budget and Fiscal Review, 1993-2002
*Chair, 1999-2002
Education, 1995
Energy, Utilities, and Communications, 1995-2000
*Chair, 1995-1998
Insurance, 1997-1998
Insurance, Claims, and Corporations, 1993-1996
Judiciary, 1999-2002
Privacy, 2001-2002
*Chair, 2001-2002
Toxics and Public Safety Management, 1995-1996
Transportation, 1993-1994

Joint Committees
Coordination of Public Policy Research, 1996-1998
*Chair, 1996-1998
Investigate Financial Institution Mergers and Acquisitions, 2001-2002
Legislative Audit, 1998-2002
Legislative Budget, 1999-2002
*Chair, 2001-2002
Oversight on Lowering the Cost of Electric Services, 1995-2000
*Vice Chair, 1995-2000
Oversight of the State Library, 1995
*Chair, 1995
Public Policy, 1999-2000
*Chair, 1999-2000
Worker's Compensation, 1994-2000
*Chair, 1994-2000
Joint Subcommittee
Special Subcommittee on State Expenditures to Purchase Electricity, 2002
Taskforce
Taskforce on Personal Information and Privacy, 1998

Scope and Content
The Steve Peace Papers consist of 42 cubic feet of textual records covering 1983-2002. The collection is organized into five series: Bill Files, Worker's Compensation Reform Committee Files, Correspondence Files, the Select Committee on International Water Treatment and Reclamation Files, and the Select Committee on Low Level Nuclear Waste Files. The bill files document Peace's legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature. The bills introduced by Steve Peace include a wide array of subjects, including such topics as the environment, worker's compensation, education, public utilities and deregulation, public safety, and consumer protection. His bills reflect both local and statewide concerns.

Steve Peace focused on the pollution of rivers in his district. One of his most intensely fought battles was over the New River near the United States and Mexico border. He authored many bills designed to force the Mexican government to clean up the pollution flowing into the United States from the river. The cross-border issue was complicated because the federal government was responsible for all international treaties and Peace hoped to use California laws to force Mexico to spend money and build a water treatment plant. He successfully engaged the federal government to promise to work on a solution.

Peace's environmental concerns went beyond river pollution. He chaired the Assembly Select Committee on Low Level Nuclear Waste, 1985-1986, and the Assembly Select Committee on Radioactive Waste Disposal and Fusion Technology, 1989-1990. Both select committees investigated potential dump sites in southern Californian deserts. One particular issue was creating radioactive waste disposal sites on Native American territory. In addition to the work of these committees, Peace also addressed the issue when he authored AB240 during the 1991-1992 session. The bill expanded state regulatory oversight to waste disposal sites located on reservations.

Another one of Peace's most intensely fought battles was over worker's compensation reform. In the 1993-1994 session, Steve Peace worked with Governor Pete Wilson and other legislators to cut worker's compensation costs and increase benefits to workers. Chaptered in 1993, AB1110 marked Peace's triumph in restructuring the system to cut costs and increase benefits to workers in need. He authored many other bills on the subject and spent many years on committees concerned with worker's compensation reform. Worker's compensation reform bill files and other information can be found in the subject files of Joint Committee on Worker's Compensation—a committee he created with SCA29 (1993-1994) and on which he served as the chair.

The most infamous issue included within the collection is the electricity industry deregulation. Public utilities and pay rates were an issue Peace dealt with throughout his legislative career and deregulation of the electricity industry was an attempt to lower energy costs for both consumers and the power companies throughout the entire state. During the 1995-1996 session, Peace was a principle coauthor of AB1890 (Brulte), which deregulated the electricity industry. Although this collection does not contain a file for AB1890, he authored numerous bills relating to deregulation including SB1139 (1995-1996) and SB1141 (1995-1996), which were chaptered into state law.
Education was an issue Steve Peace focused on during his legislative career. In addition to serving on various education-related committees, he authored many bills concerning state regulation of schools, colleges, and universities. Peace fought to reduce fees at all the University of California, California State University, and Community Colleges campuses, which SB1896, 1997-1998, did.

Public safety was a recurrent theme throughout the collection. Peace authored many public safety bills. Most of the public safety bills focused on increasing sentences for offenders convicted of murder or rape, especially involving children. In the 1993-1994 session, he authored AB560, which lowered from 16 to 14 the age at which minors engaged in violent crimes can be tried and sentenced as adults. Another concern in public safety was gun control. Numerous successful and unsuccessful bills throughout the collection increase the state's ability to track firearms.

In the 1999-2000 session, Peace authored SB28, changing California's Primary elections from an "open" to a modified "closed" primary. This was in response to the Supreme Court decision that listed the previous system unconstitutional.

Personal privacy appeared throughout the collection as well. One of the most important contributions to privacy was SB129, 1999-2000, which created the Office of Privacy Protection within the Department of Consumer Affairs to monitor consumer privacy issues. Also, Peace authored bills protecting recipients of mail from identity theft and unwanted solicitation; SB458 (1997-1998) to stop the Franchise Tax Board's practice of putting Social Security numbers on mailing labels used on the outside of tax form envelopes; and SB185 (1999-2000) which prohibited any business from listing a customer's marital status - "single or married woman" - as a part of a customer's mailing address on a billing statement, correspondence, or enclosing envelope. In the 1995-1996 session, Peace authored SB1659, creating the Joint Task Force on Personal Information and Privacy.

Steve Peace's interest in local business also appeared throughout his entire tenure in the legislature. He authored many bills focusing on local businesses throughout his legislative term. These bills focused on protecting local business from international competition and on preventing the state government from undermining local businesses. Peace authored many bills regulating "grey markets" such as AB3363 in 1985-1986 session and AB124 in 1987-1988.

Related Material at the California State Archives
Assembly Committee on Banking, Finance, and Bonded Indebtedness
Assembly Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Public Indebtedness
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications
Senate Committee on Privacy
Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Peace, Steve
Public safety
Workers' compensation
Privacy
Series 1 Bill Files 1983-2002

Physical Description: 698 file folders

Arrangement

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

Scope and Content Note

Bill files created by Steve Peace may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, editorials and newspaper clippings, correspondence, committee statements, and other information. Major topics found throughout the series include the environment, waste disposal, worker's compensation, education, public utilities and deregulation, public safety, local business, and consumer protection.

1993-1994: AB17-AB3720, ACA7 (73ff) LP385:346-419
2001-2002: ACA12 (1ff) LP385:698

Series 2 Worker's Compensation Reform Files 1993-1994

Physical Description: 5 file folders

Arrangement

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

The Joint Oversight Committee on Worker's Compensation Reform files consist of documents relating to worker's compensation reform. Bill file information on AB110 is contained within the series. The first two files consist of bill files relating to worker's compensation reform, followed by two files made of various information gathered by the oversight committee, and conclude with two files of hearing transcripts from 1994 and four audio tapes of hearings held on managed health care. Audiotapes have been removed to cold storage and separation sheets are included in the files to alert researchers to that fact.

Series 3 Correspondence 1985-1994

Physical Description: 81 file folders

Arrangement

Correspondence is arranged into two subseries. The first subseries is arranged chronologically. The second subseries is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence files include incoming and outgoing correspondence from constituents and politicians and relate to legislation and other subjects of interest.
Series 4
Select Committee on International Water Treatment and Reclamation Files 1984-1994

Physical Description: 10 file folders

Arrangement
Select Committee files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content Note
The Select Committee on International Water Treatment and Reclamation files consist of records gathered by the committee concerning pollution flowing from Mexico into the New River in the United States. The series consists of two folders of assorted information about the New River and border pollution, three file folders on Speaker Willie Brown's pollution bill AB1012 (1985-1986), two folders from the international Boundary and Water Commission, one file folder on various aspects of the New River, one file folder on San Diego sewage, and one file folder on treaties and agreements.

Series 5
Select Committee on Low Level Nuclear Waste Files 1984-1994

Physical Description: 19 file folders

Arrangement
Select Committee files are arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
The Select Committee on Low Level Nuclear Waste files consist of records gathered by the committee concerning creating a dumpsite for low-level nuclear waste in California, particularly in the southern deserts. The files concern matters of general information, hearings held on January 28 and 29, 1986 on US Ecology, Inc. and the contract awarded by Governor Deukmejian's office, and the potential use of Ward Valley as a dumpsite. Additionally there are two reports titled California Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Project from U.S. Ecology, Inc. that argue in favor of using dumpsites. Records from the Select Committee on Radioactive Waste Disposal and Fusion Technology from 1989-1990 are also present in the series.