
Inventory of the Alan Robbins Papers

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Inventory of the Alan Robbins Papers

Collection number: LP438

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Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

Processed by:

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Alan Robbins Papers

Dates: 1973-1991

Collection number: LP438

Creator: Alan Robbins, California Legislator

Collection Size: 15.5 cubic feet

Repository: California State Archives

Sacramento, California

Abstract: Alan Robbins, Democrat, was a State Senator, 1973-1991. He initially represented the 22nd Senatorial District. Following redistricting in 1974, he represented the 20th Senatorial District. The Alan Robbins Papers consist of 15.5 cubic feet and are organized into three record series: Bill Files (1973-1991); Subject Files (1973-1991); and Press Releases (1973-1981).

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], Alan Robbins Papers, LP438:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History

The California State Archives acquired the Alan Robbins Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

Biography

Senator Alan Robbins, Democrat, was a State Senator, 1973-1991. He initially represented the 22nd Senatorial District, that included the San Fernando Valley communities of Sepulveda, Panorama City, Sylmar, San Fernando, Pacoima, Sun Valley, and parts of Van Nuys, North Hollywood, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, Reseda and Burbank. Following redistricting in 1974, he represented the 20th Senatorial District, which included cities within Los Angeles County.

Alan Robbins was born in Philadelphia in 1943. In 1949 his family moved to Southern California, where he attended Lankershim Elementary School, North Hollywood Junior High, and North Hollywood High School. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1963 with a Bachelor's Degree in political science, and in 1966 he graduated from the UCLA School of Law where he received the American Jurisprudence Prize in land use planning.

In 1966 he was admitted to the California Bar at the age of 23, becoming the youngest licensed attorney in the state at that time. In 1966 he also drafted the Revision of the Legislative Article of the State Constitution, which had been the only successful constitutional revision in California since 1879, for which he was commended by the California Legislature. He married Miriam Elbaum and they have two children, Leah and Jacob.

Throughout his career, Robbins participated in many community and philanthropic organizations. He was an active participant in the Valley Association for the Vista del Mar Orphanage, the San Fernando Valley Symphony Association, the United Jewish Welfare Fund, the American Bar Association, the Valley and County Bar Associations, the Valley Beach and Bar Committee for Israeli Bonds, the Van Nuys Toastmasters, the Encino Chamber of Commerce, the North Hollywood, B'nai B'rith and the Justice Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, the Van Nuys Elks, the Environmental Education Group, the San Fernando Valley Naval Reserve Association, the United Crusade, City of Hope, and the Cedar-Sinai Medical Center.

Alan Robbins also served in the California Army National Guard with active duty in the U.S. Army in 1967, and in 1968 he became a Commissioned Officer in the United States Naval Reserve. He was also President of the Valley Council of Young Democrats, the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the Democratic State Central Committee of California, and in 1960 was the Vice Chairman of the Youth for Kennedy (Southern California).

During his initial term in 1973, Robbins authored more legislation than any other freshman Senator in history. During this first session, he authored the Robbins Rape Evidence Law (Chapter 569, Statutes of 1974), which became the model for similar legislation in several other states. In 1979 he authored and successfully helped pass Proposition 1, which was California's landmark anti-busing initiative. And he was also involved in authoring and passing the Robbins-Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and various auto insurance bills which required drivers to carry proof of insurance.

In 1991 Robbins was charged with racketeering and tax evasion and was sentenced to 20 months in prison and a \$250,000 fine for accepting bribes and filing a false tax return. He also agreed to aid in the investigation of government corruption in an attempt to lessen his federal sentence. Robbins resigned from the State Senate on November 20, 1991. In 2000, the California Legislature passed a bill which wiped Robbins' name from any and all laws he authored and which were "tombstoned" in his memory.

During his term in the Legislature, Alan Robbins was a member of the following committees:

Standing Committees

Banking and Commerce, 1981-1990

Budget and Fiscal Review, 1985-1989

Business and Professions 1981

Elections and Reapportionment, 1975, 1983-1984

Finance, 1981-1984

Governmental Organization, 1983-1986

Industrial Relations, 1975-1980 (Vice Chair, 1975-1976)

Vice Chair, 1975-1976

Insurance, Claims and Indemnity 1983-1984 (Chair, 1983-1984)

Chair, 1983-1984

Insurance, Claims and Corporations 1985-1990

Chair, 1985-1990; Insurance and Financial Institutions 1977-1980; Insurance and Indemnity, 1981-1982

Chair, 1981-1982

Judiciary, 1973-1980, 1982

Local Government, 1977-1982

Public Employment and Retirement, 1973-1976

Public Utilities and Corporations 1973

Revenue and Taxation, 1973

Transportation, 1983-1990

Select Committees

Government Efficiency, 1982-1990 (Chair, 1982-1990)

Chair, 1982-1990

Motion Picture, Television, Commercial and Recording Industries, 1984-1990

Public Transportation Problems in Los Angeles, 1977-1980 (Chair, 1979-1980)

Chair, 1979-1980

Special Committees

Legislative Oversight and Government Efficiency, 1980 (Chair, 1980)

Chair, 1980

Scope and Content

The Alan Robbins Papers consist of 15.5 cubic feet and are organized into three record series: Bill Files (1973-1991); Subject Files (1973-1991); and Press Releases (1973-1981). The Bill Files document Robbins' legislative activity during his terms and include a wide array of subjects. Of particular interest are bills concerning rape legislation, Proposition 1 (the California anti-busing initiative), auto insurance, health insurance, drug use prevention, the Robbins-Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and transportation.

The Alan Robbins Papers also include Subject Files that pertain to proposed legislation, with topics including constituent correspondence, energy, rape legislation, San Fernando Valley Fair, reapportionment, redevelopment, and busing. The Press Releases include bound volumes of official press releases from Senator Robbins.

Indexing Terms

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

Robbins, Alan, 1943-

California. Legislature. Senate

United Jewish Welfare Fund

LP438:1-240

Series 1 Bill Files 1973-1991

Physical Description: 240 file folders

Arrangement

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

Scope and Content Note

Bill Files created by Alan Robbins while he served as a State Senator, 1973-1991. The files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements. Bill topics include auto insurance, health insurance, Fraternity/Sorority housing, land development, reapportionment and public transportation in Southern California.

1973-1974: SB682-SB2483, SCA30, SCR75-SCR144, SJR24-SJR60 (LP438:1-11)

1975-1976: SB8-SB2153, SCA1-SCA50, SCR62-SCR97, SR30-SR104 (LP438:12-30)

1977-1978: SB23-SB2190, SCA2-SCA57, SCR56-SCR65, SJR7, SR33-SR37, SR2X-4X, SCA1X (LP438:31-47)

1979-1980: SB133-SB2060, SCA 20, SCR19-SCR80, SJR23 (LP438:48-61)

1981-1982: SB5-SB2059, SCA1-SCA40, SCR23-SCR67, SJR8, SR37 (LP438:62-77)

1983-1984: SB2-SB2304, SCA28, SCR7-70, SJR30, SR30 (LP438:78-110)

1985-1986: SB1-2577, SCA29, SCR21-SCR101 (LP438:111-141)

1987-1988: SB15-SB2801, SCR2-SCR90, SJR9 (LP438:142-176)

1989-1990: SB1-SB2895, SCA4-SCA49, SCR5-SCR118, SJR7-SJR41 (LP438:177-218)

1991-1992: SB6-SB1250, SCR14-SCR30 (LP438:219-240)

LP438:241-296

Series 2 **Subject Files 1970-1981**

Physical Description: 55 file folders

Arrangement

Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content Note

The Subject Files can contain correspondence, reports, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, photographs, notes, memoranda, press releases and other material and demonstrate Robbins' interest in transportation, auto insurance, energy, reapportionment, redevelopment, the San Fernando Valley Fair, rape legislation, the anti-busing initiative, the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, and the Los Angeles School District. Of special interest are the files concerning the San Fernando Valley, the anti-busing initiative, reapportionment, and redevelopment.

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

LP438:297-301

Series 3 **Press Releases 1973-1991**

Physical Description: 5 file folders

Arrangement

Press Releases are arranged chronologically by date of release.

Scope and Content Note

The Press Releases series contain bound volumes of press releases from Senator Robbins and provide announcements of legislation authored by the Senator, scheduled hearing, updates to legislation pertinent to Senator Robbins, explanations of upcoming legislation, statements about current events, and statements urging passage of certain bills. The topics vary according to bill subject and the press releases are organized chronologically within the volumes.