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Title: California State Commission on School Districts records
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Abstract: California governor Earl Warren (1943-1953) established the Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission. The Commission drafted the Optional Reorganization Act in 1945 to address school district reorganization. The Act created the State Commission on School Districts to survey school district reorganization. The Commission surveyed every county in California and made recommendations to the State Board of Education. In 1949 the State Commission on School Districts was disbanded and the State Board of Education assumed responsibility for the reorganization process. The collection consists of correspondence, commission meetings, legislative proposals, survey plans and reports for all counties except Inyo, Los Angeles, Plumas, and San Francisco.
Language of Materials note: English.
Custodial History note
The California State Commission on School Districts assembled these papers over many years. They were later donated to CSU Sacramento.
Scope and Contents note
Approximately one-third of collection consists of correspondence, reports, research files and minutes of the meetings of the Commission. Specifically, this portion contains a history of the school district reorganization in California, findings and recommendations of the Commission, a complete set of the Commission's minutes from 1946-1949, various legislative bills pertaining to school district reorganization, financial reports, and reports of the Local Survey Committees. Also included is a survey performed in State of Washington regarding School District Reorganization.
The other two-thirds of the collection contains the summaries, plans and progress reports of the Local Survey Committees from all counties in California except the counties of Inyo, Los Angeles, Plumas and San Francisco. It also contains statistical data regarding average daily attendance, current expenses and taxes for various counties.
Conditions Governing Access note
Collection is open for research. Some restrictions may apply.
Biographical/Historical note
By the end of World War II, California had been transformed into a highly industrialized economy and many new residents were attracted to the state. Concerned about the transition to a post-war economy and potential unemployment problems, Governor Earl Warren established the Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission (RRC). The RRC drafted the Optional Reorganization Act in 1945 to address school district reorganization in California. One result of the Act was the formation of the California State Commission on School Districts, which included Regional Commissions and Local Survey Committees.
The charge of the nine-member commission was to establish committees, conduct surveys, approve or disapprove recommendations by Local Committees, submit reports and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. Local committees, under the supervision of Regional Commissions, conducted surveys and submitted their reports to California State Commission and which in turn made recommendations to the State Board of Education. Regional Directors were appointed by the commission to coordinate the work of Regional Commissions and act as liaisons with the Local Committees.
During the two and one-half years of actual operation, the Commission conducted surveys in every county in California. During 1947 and 1948, it approved 58 local recommendations for reorganization. Out of which local electors accepted eleven recommendations and eighteen more recommendations were subject to local election during 1949. Through these surveys, the Commission found that the matter of reorganization would be an extremely slow process due to several factors such as financial and mechanical obstacles.
In 1949, the Commission on School Districts was disbanded, and the responsibility for school district organization fell to the State Board of Education. Provisions were made for counties to carry on the work the commission had started.
Officers:
Executive Director - Dr. George H. Geyer
Nine members:
Mr. Gilbert H. Jertberg - Chairman, Mr. Arthur S. Crites, Mrs. J. Roscoe Granger, Dr. Edward L. Hardy, Mrs. Edward Shearer, Dr. Roy E. Simpson, Mr. Walter Wells, Mr. John J. Allen (Mr. William J. Tunison upon resignation of Mr. Allen), and Harold B. Roberts - Vice-Chairman.

Processing Information note
Processed by Gurkiran Kaur.

Preferred Citation note
[Identification of item including date], [Folder Title], MSS 1980/02, California State Commission on School Districts records, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, The Library, California State University, Sacramento.

Accruals note
No additions are expected.

Conditions Governing Use note
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Immediate Source of Acquisition note
The California State Commission on School Districts records were given to the CSUS Special Collections and University Archives in 1980.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Roberts, Harold B.
California. State Commission on School Districts
School districts -- California
Schools

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