Daniel Patrick Moynihan Papers, White House Central Files, 1969-1970

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Daniel Patrick Moynihan Papers, White House Central Files, 1969-1970

Dates: 1969-1970

Collection Number: 3620259

Creator/Collector: Moynihan, Daniel P. (Daniel Patrick), 1927-2003

Extent: 39 linear feet, 10 linear inches; 91 boxes

Online items available http://research.archives.gov/description/3620259

Repository: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

Abstract: The materials of Daniel Patrick Moynihan cover the period from January 1969 to December 1970 when Dr. Moynihan served as Counselor to the President for Urban Affairs during the administration of President Richard Nixon and reflect Moynihan's activities in wide range of domestic policy issues.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Some materials may be unavailable based upon categories of materials exempt from public release established in the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974.

Publication Rights

Most government records are in the public domain; however, this series includes commercial materials, such as newspaper clippings, that may be subject to copyright restrictions. Researchers should contact the copyright holder for information.

Preferred Citation


Acquisition Information

These materials are in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration under the provisions of Title I of the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-526, 88 Stat. 1695) and implementing regulations.

Biography/Administrative History

Daniel Patrick Moynihan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 16, 1927. At the age of six Dr. Moynihan and his family moved to New York City where he graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School in East Harlem in 1943. After spending a year at the City College of New York, Dr. Moynihan enlisted in the United States Navy and received officer training at Tufts University in Massachusetts. He served on active duty with the navy from 1944 - 1947 and was the gunnery officer onboard the U.S.S. Quirinus. After being discharged from the navy, Dr. Moynihan returned to Tufts University and received a B.A. in Sociology in 1948. He continued his education by attending the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts in which he earned his M.A. in 1949. In 1950, Dr. Moynihan was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and moved to London to attend the London School of Economics. He remained in Great Britain until 1953. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from Syracuse University in 1961. Daniel Patrick Moynihan is best known for his work in academia and politics. However, in his youth he also worked as a shoe shiner, longshoreman and bartender. His first entry into politics was in 1953 when he worked on Robert Wagner’s New York City mayoral campaign. In 1954 he worked on W. Averell Harriman’s New York gubernatorial campaign and later worked in Harriman’s administration as a speech writer and chief aid. Dr. Moynihan served in the administrations of four United States presidents. He was a delegate at the 1960 Democratic National Convention for John F. Kennedy. He then worked for the Kennedy Administration as an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy. He remained in this position into the early years of the Johnson Administration working primarily on national policy with regards to poverty. He left the Johnson Administration in 1965 and remained out of politics until 1969 when as a Democrat he joined the Nixon Administration as Counselor to the President for Urban Affairs. He was in this position until December of 1970 and focused on welfare reform through his Family Assistance Plan. In 1973 President Nixon appointed Dr. Moynihan as United States Ambassador to India in which he remained until 1975. In 1975, President Ford appointed Dr. Moynihan as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations where he served as the President of the United Nations Security Council. In 1976 Daniel Moynihan retired from the United Nations and became a United States Senator from New York, defeating incumbent Republican James Buckley. As a senator, Dr. Moynihan sat on the Select Committee on Intelligence and was the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He won re-election to the senate for three additional terms and retired in 2001. In 2000, President Clinton awarded Dr. Moynihan the Medal of Freedom. Daniel Moynihan’s career in academia began in 1958 after Governor Harriman lost his re-election effort to Nelson Rockefeller. He relocated to Syracuse University to complete his Ph.D. and to write about his time in the Harriman administration. After leaving the Johnson administration in 1965, Dr. Moynihan became a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at Wesleyan University. In 1966 he became the Director of the Joint Center for Urban Studies at Harvard University as well as a tenured professor of...

Scope and Content of Collection

The materials of Daniel Patrick Moynihan cover the period from January 1969 to December 1970 when Dr. Moynihan served as Counselor to the President for Urban Affairs during the administration of President Richard Nixon. The materials are arranged into five series including: Correspondence, Meetings Files, Subject Files, Council for Urban Affairs Files (CUA) and Photographs. The materials in this series reflect Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s activities in a wide range of domestic policy issues. The correspondence subseries contains documents, in which Moynihan tries to utilize members of the academic community, particularly his fellow faculty members at Harvard, to offer assistance on developing policy, recruiting for government positions, and dealing with student unrest. There are also a number of internal memoranda to other staff members of the administration including H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Henry Kissinger and Donald Rumsfeld, as well as Chester Finn who worked on Moynihan’s staff. The meetings files subseries consists of speeches, speech drafts and agendas from a number of meetings and conferences that Moynihan attended throughout the country. The materials in the subject files subseries relate to Dr. Moynihan’s domestic policy activities, including poverty, housing, jobs, education, race, nutrition, the environment, health care, student unrest, city riots, crime and drug enforcement, the bicentennial, population control, civil rights, and the war in Vietnam. Materials include letters to members of Congress and governors, internal memoranda to respond to criticism, statistical documentation and press releases. The Council for Urban Affairs (CUA) files subseries includes items about the creation of the Council including memoranda on who should be part of the CUA and what responsibilities each Council member will have. The materials in the subject files series relate to Dr. Moynihan’s domestic policy activities. Poverty was a major area of interest for Dr. Moynihan and there are numerous materials on the Family Assistance Plan (FAP), a plan which would replace certain federal programs with a direct cash payment to those who qualified. Materials include documents on the development of FAP, letters to members of Congress and governors to support the program, internal memorandum to respond to criticism, statistical documentation and press releases. In addition to FAP, the collection contains other materials relating to poverty including items on housing, jobs, education, race, and nutrition. The environment is another topic covered in the subject files. There includes documents on fossil fuel consumption and the green house effect along with materials relating the Council on the Concerns of Modern Society (CCMS). The CCMS was a conference in Brussels, Belgium in which representatives from several nations came to discuss environmental issues, and Moynihan was the United States representative to the conference. The collection contains materials dealing with architectural issues including hiring the Architect of the Capitol and the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. with the Pennsylvania Ave. Commission. Other topics in the subject file series include health care, student unrest, city riots, crime and drug enforcement (especially dealing with heroin traffic from Turkey), the bicentennial, population control, civil rights, and the war in Vietnam. The subject file also contains a number of books, articles, essays, reports and papers submitted to Dr. Moynihan from scholars, government officials and corporations. These materials were used by Dr. Moynihan as research materials and were either submitted at Moynihan’s request or independently. The series on the Council for Urban Affairs files (CUA) includes items about the creation of the Council including memoranda on who should be part of the CUA and what responsibilities of each council member will have. President Nixon’s speech officially creating the CUA is included. Other materials in this series include schedules, agendas and minutes from CUA meetings. This series contains its own subject file which includes many of the same topics as in Moynihan’s office subject file. Additional topics are insurance, legal matters, dealing with local governments, migration, science, transportation and creating volunteer programs. The CUA series includes its own correspondence and meetings files. This series also contains numerous books, articles, news clippings and reports used by the CUA. The photographs series maintains several loose photographs of Moynihan himself as well as events and meetings attended by Moynihan.
Some of these photographs are official White House photographs while others were independently taken. A few of the photographs include President Nixon. This series also contains multiple binders of black and white photographs taken from major cities in the United States detailing the cleanup efforts in urban areas. Cities include Boston, New York, Detroit, Washington D. C., Baltimore and Los Angeles. Some of the cleanup efforts took place after a city riot had occurred. The materials in this series have been transferred to our audio visual department and are not included with the textual materials. Please contact our audio visual staff to view these materials.