Title: Edwin Francis Gay papers
Date (inclusive): 1917-1927
Collection Number: XX085
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 6 manuscript boxes, 1 roll of charts, 1 oversize folder (2.6 linear feet)
Abstract: Correspondence, diary, reports, memoranda, and writings, relating to American economic mobilization and government control of the economy during World War I, and to activities of the Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics, War Industries Board, War Trade Board, Shipping Board, and Commercial Economy Board, and to the American delegation at the Paris Peace Conference. Digital copies of select records also available at https://digitalcollections.hoover.org.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
creator: Gay, Edwin Francis, 1867-1946
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Accruals
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Edwin Francis Gay papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired.
Alternate Forms Available
Digital copies of select records also available at https://digitalcollections.hoover.org.
1867 Oct.
Born, Detroit, Michigan
27
1902-1903 Instructor, Economics, Harvard University
1903-1906 Assistant Professor, Economics, Harvard University
1906-1919 Professor, Economics, Harvard University
1908-1919 Dean, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University
1917
Apr.-1918 Member, Commercial Economy Board, Council of National Defense
May 1917
Dec.-1918 Special expert, U.S. Shipping Board
Feb? 1918
Feb.-1919 Director, Division of Planning and Statistics, U.S. Shipping Board
Mar. 1918
Feb.-1919 Member, War Trade Board
June 1918
May-1918 Member, Conservation Division, War Industries Board
Dec. 1918
June-1919 Chairman, Division of Planning and Statistics, War Industries Board
Jan.
1918
June-1919  Director, Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics
June
1920-1923  President, New York Evening Post
1924-1936  Professor, Economic History, Harvard University
1936-1941  Member, Research Staff, Huntington Library
1941-1946  Chairman, Huntington Library
1946 Feb. 8 Died

Scope and Content Note
The Edwin Francis Gay papers relate to U.S. government economic mobilization and government control of the economy during World War I. They document Gay’s work for agencies that collected and analyzed economic and statistical data to organize the war effort. In particular, the papers provide statistical data about imports and exports, shipping, and trade routes during World War I. They also provide information about the relationship between the U.S. and the Allies, and activities of the U.S. delegation to the Paris Peace Conference.

Gay's diary runs from Dec. 27, 1917, to July 9, 1919, and covers much of his federal service. Diary entries list Gay's meetings, significant actions taken, things to be done, and milestones achieved. Brief notations concerning subject matter are sometimes included, and occasionally there is a more extensive narrative. A lengthy entry about the Chairman of the Shipping Control Committee is attached to the entry for Feb. 12, 1918.

The series Notes for War Controls Book consists of preliminary material collected by Gorton James from 1925 to 1927 for a proposed volume on war controls by Gay, which apparently was not completed. What may be drafts of chapters are available for two subjects, labor and organization for the war. Included are typewritten memoranda of conversations with U.S. wartime figures such as Bernard M. Baruch, Robert S. Brookings, Herbert Hoover, Vance C. McCormick, and Generals George W. Goethals, C. B. Wheeler, and C. C. Williams. Some typewritten speeches and manuscripts written by interviewees are included.

The War File series documents Gay's war work, in which Gay was associated with a confusing array of wartime agencies. The American Commission to Negotiate Peace (Nov. 1918 - Dec. 1919) was organized to negotiate formal treaties ending World War I. Gay corresponded with his staff members assigned to the Commission, and with delegate John Foster Dulles. The Allied Maritime Transport Council (Mar. 1918 - Apr. 7, 1919) was an inter-allied body that studied and recommended a concerted shipping policy. The American Section of the Council included staff from the Division of Planning and Statistics of the U.S. Shipping Board, which obtained necessary statistical data. Gay corresponded with his statistical staff in London. The Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics (June 1918 - July 1919) prepared surveys of U.S. government war activities for the President, operated a statistical clearinghouse, and provided economic data to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace. It functioned as an independent agency under the President but reported through the War Industries Board until Dec. 31, 1918, after which it was administered through the War Trade Board. Gay was Chairman of the Central Bureau.

The Commercial Economy Board (Mar. 24, 1917 - May 9, 1918), part of the Council of National Defense, studied commercial business and identified economies to meet war needs, such as standardizing shoe styles. It was superseded by the Conservation Division of the War Industries Board. Dr. A. W. Shaw was Chairman of the Commercial Economy Board and Gay was a member.

The Conservation Division (May 9, 1918 - Dec. 31, 1918), part of the War Industries Board, continued the activities of the Commercial Economy Board. Dr. A. W. Shaw was Chairman of the Conservation Division and Gay was a member.

The Division of Planning and Statistics, part of the U.S. Shipping Board (USSB), was established on Feb. 11, 1918, to record ship movements and study imports and exports to identify essential trade routes. The Division's data formed the basis for recommendations to the Shipping Control Committee for the allocation of ships, and to the War Trade Board for restricting imports. Edward N. Hurley succeeded William Denman as Chairman of the USSB; Gay was Director of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the USSB.

The Shipping Control Committee, part of the USSB, allocated vessels to cargoes and routes and controlled the discharge of U.S. tonnage. The USSB Division of Planning and Statistics assigned a representative to the Committee, which was headquartered in New York. Gay corresponded with his representative and noted problems with Committee Chairman P. A. S. Franklin.

The War Industries Board (WIB; July 28, 1917 - Dec. 31, 1918) analyzed industrial requirements and capacities of the U.S. and the Allies, set priorities in commodity production and delivery, and arranged price-fixing agreements for raw materials. Bernard M. Baruch was Chairman of the WIB. Gay served as a member of the Conservation Division of the WIB and as Chairman of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the WIB. (The Chairman of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the WIB and the Director of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the USSB were separate positions in different
The War Trade Board (Oct. 12, 1917 - June 30, 1919) controlled imports and exports, and conserved commodities and shipping facilities for U.S. and Allied use. Vance C. McCormick was the Chairman of the War Trade Board and Gay was a member of the Board representing the USSB.

In the War File series, papers relating to peace negotiations and international cooperation are in the file American Commission to Negotiate Peace - General Records. Weekly reports and staff conference summaries of the Division and Planning and Statistics (USSB) for July-August 1918 are attached to letters in the file Division of Planning and Statistics - Correspondence. The Division of Planning and Statistics (USSB) file Special Report to Edwin Francis Gay on P. A. S. Franklin, 1918, contains documentation of differences with the Shipping Control Committee Chairman about tonnage allocation between trade and military purposes and data sharing with the Allied Maritime Transport Council.

The series Printed Matter includes speeches by Bernard M. Baruch at the Army War College and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Printed reports of federal agency offices headed by Gay are in the War File series.

The bulk of Gay's papers are housed at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)
United States. Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics.
United States. Shipping Board.
United States. War Industries Board.
United States. War Trade Board.
Economists.
United States--Foreign relations.
United States--Politics and government.
World War, 1914-1918--Economic aspects.
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.
World War, 1914-1918.

**BIOGRAPHICAL FILE 1917-1922**

Scope and Contents note
Business card, clipping, directory, poem, and government agency reunion and dinner programs, arranged by subject.

**DIARY 1917-1919**

Scope and Contents note
Arranged by physical form

**NOTES FOR WAR CONTROLS BOOK 1911-1927**

Scope and Contents note
Bibliographies, manuscripts, memoranda of conversations, notes, outlines, correspondence, and transcript of a lecture, arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Box/Folder 1 : 21 War Industries Board 1924-1926
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WAR FILE 1917-1920
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Reading room workstation

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