Register of the America First Committee records

Processed by The Hoover Institution staff; machine-readable finding aid created by James Ryan

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Descriptive Summary

Title: America First Committee records
Date (inclusive): 1940-1942
Collection Number: 42001
Creator: America First Committee.
Collection Size: 340 manuscript boxes, 7 oversize boxes, 1 oversize folder, 2 envelopes, 2 motion picture film reels, 1 videotape cassette, 2 film strips, 26 phonorecords (154.3 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Correspondence, minutes, reports, studies, financial records, press releases, speeches, newsletters, campaign literature, clippings, photographs, and other audiovisual material, relating to the issue of American neutrality in World War II.
Language: English.
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], America First Committee records, [Box number]. Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1942.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Access Points
World War, 1939-1945.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.
United States--Foreign relations.
United States--Foreign relations--1933-1945.
United States--Neutrality.
Video tapes.
Moving-pictures.
Phonorecords.

ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT FILES

Box 1
Charles A. Lindbergh
America First Club Plan - general correspondence
America First Club plan of organization
Club plan mailings for North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Indiana
Congressional Districts for 48 states
Neutrality vote and miscellaneous materials
College chapters, all states

Box 2
Samples of form letters and releases (partial holdings)

Box 3
Samples of form letters and releases (remainder)
Folders on field and organization men:
   Robert L. Bliss
   Page Hufty
Register of the America First Committee records

ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT FILES

Box 4
Sprague - Spencer
Charles L. Smith
Joseph R. Boldt, Jr.
Arthur Brooks, Jr.
Earl Jeffrey
Jessamine Hoagland (Women's Clubs)
Letters to Senators and Congressmen
Pettengill’s file to Congressmen

Box 5
March on Washington, D.C.
Foreign correspondence
Chapter reactions to C. A. Lindergh’s Des Moines speech
Report on membership and membership drive
Methods of organization: state, district, county, chapter
Special campaign - Neutrality Act fight
Poster response
Report on sound slide film
Window display contest
Chapter letters - re political set-up and dissolution

Box 6
Chapter chairmen meetings
American Legion VFW miscellany
Billboards
Bishops and Archbishops letters
Chapter accountings for General Wood’s contribution of $25.00
Draft extension and draft questions
Congressional hearings (8) (missing 12/68)

CORRESPONDENCE BY STATES

Box 7
Alabama - Florida
Box 8
Florida (contd.) - Illinois
Box 9
Illinois (contd.) - Indiana
Box 10
Indiana (contd.) - Iowa
Box 11
Kansas - Massachusetts
Box 12
Massachusetts (contd.) - Michigan
Box 13
Michigan (contd.) - Minnesota
Box 14
Minnesota (contd.) - Missouri
Box 15
Missouri (contd.) - New Mexico
Box 16
Massachusetts, New York
Box 17
New York (contd.) - North Dakota
Box 18
Ohio
Box 19
Ohio (contd.) - Oregon
Box 20
Oregon (contd.) - Pennsylvania
Box 21
Rhode Island - Vermont
Box 22
Virginia - West Virginia
Box 23
Wisconsin
Box 24
Wisconsin (contd.) - Wyoming

PUBLICITY AND RESEARCH FILES

Box 25
Africa
Agriculture
Aiken, Senator George D.
Aircraft
Alaska
America - Britain Defenders
America Friends
American Peace Mobilization
American Youth Congress
Appreciate America
Army
Articles Unused
Balkans
Bullitt
Canada
Cartoons

Box 26
Carlson, Anton J.
Clark, Senator and Mrs. Bennett Champ
Clark, Senator D. Worth
College Men for Defense First
Committee of 100 - St. Louis
CDAAA literature
Washington News-Letter and literature
Congressional lists

Box 27
Convoys
Cost of war
Council for Democracy
Day, Stephen A.
Domestic production
Far East
Feeding Europe
Fever Chart
Fight for Freedom Committee
Fish, Hamilton

Box 28
Flynn, John T.
Foreign policy
Foreign trade
Friends of Democracy
Gallup Poll
Gallup Poll - general
Germany
Grass Roots Movement
Greece
Greenland
Halifax, Lord
Hammond, General Thomas
Hemisphere Defense
Hoover, Herbert
Hull, Cordell
Hutchins, Robert M.
Invasion
Johnson, Senator Ed C.
Johnson, Hugh
Johnson Act
Keep America Out of War Congress
Kennedy, Ambassador Joseph
Knox
Knudson
Lamont
LaFollette, Philip and Bob
Landon, Alfred M.
Latin America

Box 29
Lend-Lease Bill (partial holdings)

Box 30
Lend-Lease Bill (remainder)
Letters to the Editor
Lindbergh, Charles A.
Longworth, Alice
Luce, Henry R.
MacNider, Hanford

Box 31
Box 32
Marquand, Mrs. John P.
Ministers' No War Committee
Mothers' Groups
Mundt, Karl E.
McEnerney, Garret W. (copies of Releases)
Mckai, Ray
Various Mothers' Groups
National emergency
National Council for Prevention of War publications
National Committee members biographies, etc.
Negotiated peace
Navy

Box 33
Neutrality
No Foreign War Committee
Nye, Senator
O'Brien, Reverend Dr. J. A.
1/3 of a Nation
Peek, George N.
Pinchot
Propaganda
Religion
Moor, Robin

Box 34
Norris, Kathleen
Roll Call of American Women
Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt
Rankin, Jeannette
Russia
Research
Sarles, Ruth (see "A History of America First," Ms. D753, A5S24)
Torell, A. E.
Villard Letter to President
Wilkie, Leighton
Songs

Box 35
Miscellaneous correspondence
Wood, General Robert
Womens groups
Youth Committee Against War
Speaker - speaker schedule
"Pilgrimage to Washington"
Referendum
Sargent, Porter

Box 36
Stefan, Honorable Karl
Stimson
Student Defenders of Democracy
Taft, Robert A.
American Economic Foundation
Citizens No Foreign War Coalition
Turkey
Thompson, Dorothy
Tinkham, Honorable George Holden
Tobey, Senator
Thomas, Norman
Union Now
War Aims
War Resisters League
War Referendum
Washington, George
Wheeler, Senator Burton K.
Box 37
Willkie, Wendell L.
Uncensored (folder #1)

SPEAKERS BUREAU FILES

Box 37
State Correspondence
Alabama - Colorado

Box 38
Florida - Maryland

Box 39
Missouri - North Dakota

Box 40
Ohio - Vermont

Box 41
Washington - Wisconsin

Expenses - speakers bureau
"Thank you" letters sent to all speakers
Radio scripts for chapter use
Congratulatory telegram sent to chapter chairmen at time of meeting or rally
Book wire urging Armistice Day sermons
General name and address book for Speakers Bureau

Box 42
Speakers Bureau Inventory Form, letter to all chapter chairmen
Speakers Bureau chart
Bulletins pertaining to Speakers Bureau
American Forum of Democracy
List of speakers
Meetings - chapters - general
Chapters' financial classification letter
Young Democrats' Convention
Your rally
Foulis, William S.
Suggested letter to clergy
Meetings scheduled, concluded
Speakers Bureau report file, reports
Speakers - miscellaneous
Speakers unable to appear
Study material for speeches; the speeches

Box 43
Speakers' material
Second tours
Congratulations
Cartoons
Teletype
Memos
Special memo from Speakers Bureau
Financial procedure
Adams, Senator
Adair, Dr. Fred L.
Aiken, George D.
Armstrong, O. K.
Beal, Howard K.
Bolt, Don
Bolton, Congressman
Barnes, Henry Elmer
Baumhart, Jr., Congressman
Bazinet
Bone, Congressman Homer T.
Bradley, Congressman Fred
Brooks, C. Wayland
Brown, Congressman Clarence J.
Burdick, Congressman Usher L.
Bushfield, Harlan J.
Butler, Congressman John C.
Capper, Senator
Carroll, Reverend Patrick J.
Chavez, Senator Dennis
Chenoweth, Congressman
Clark, Honorable B. C.
Clark, D. Worth
Clevenger, Congressman Cliff
Cobb, Irvin S.
Coogan, Gertrude
Cramm, Fred
Crowther, Congressman Frank
Danaher, Senator John A.
Dancey, Captain S. N.
Day, Congressman Stephen A.
Donnell, Captain Cushing
Durant, Will
Dworshak, Congressman Henry C.
Elston, Congressman Charles H.
Engel, Congressman Albert J.
Fish, Hamilton
Gillett, Senator Guy M.
Gillie, Congressman George W.
Gillis
Grant, Congressman Robert A.
Grau, Phil A.
Greeley, Major Horace, Jr.
Harness, Congressman Forest A.
Helm, Wilbur
Hess, Congressman William E.
Hill, Knute
Hill, Congressman William S.
Hillyer, Mary
Hoffman, Congressman Clare E.
Holt, Honorable Rush D.
Hoover, Honorable Herbert R.
Houser, Reverend
Howard, James Irving
Hunter, Congressman John H.
Jenkins, Congressman Thomas A.
Jensen, Honorable Ben F.
Johns, Congressman Joshua L.
Johnson, Senator Edwin C.
Johnson, Senator Hiram
Johnson, General Hugh S.
Johnson, Congressman Noble J.
Jones, Congressman Robert F.
Keefe, Congressman Frank B.
Kennedy, Congressman Martin J.
Kinzer, Congressman J. Roland
Klotsche, J. M.
Knutson, Congressman Harold
Kohl, Edith E.
LaFollette, Philip F.
LaFollette, Robert M.
Langer, Senator William
Lindbergh, Charles A.
Lischner, Doctor Hyman
Lists...
Luckey, Henry C.
Box 45
McAllister, Frank E.
McCarran, Senator Pat
MacCracken, Henry Noble
McGregor, Congressman J. Harry
McLaughlin, Irene Castle
MacNider, Colonel
Manion, Dean Clarence (North Dakota University)
Meetings covered - miscellaneous
Monaghan, Reverend Monsignor Hugh J.
Morrison, Reverend Charles C.
Mundt, Congressman Karl
Murray, Frank J.
Murray, William H. ("Alfalfa Bill")
Norris, Kathleen
Nye, Senator Gerald P.
O'Brien, Father John A.
O'Brien, Congressman Joseph J.
O'Connor, Congressman James F.
O'Daniel, Senator Lee
Olson, W. W.
Outstanding letters to Senators, Congressmen
Parker, Reverend Louis A.
Patterson, Kellogg M.
Peek, George N.
Pencovic, Dr. F. H.
Peterson, Hjalmar
Pettengill, Samuel B.
Rankin, Jeannette
Reed, David A.
Reynolds, Senator Robert R.
Richards, Congressman James P.
Rizley, Congressman Ross
Robertson, Congressman Charles
Rolph, Congressman Thomas
Ross, Robert D.
Sauthoff, Congressman Harry
Scott, Congressman Hugh D.
Scott, Joseph
Secrest, Congressman Robert T.
Shafer, Paul W.
Shanley, Congressman James A.
Shipstead, Senator Henrik H.
Short, Dewey
Simms, Ruth Hanna McCormick
Smith, Senator Ellison D.
Smith, Congressman Fred C.
South, Mr.

Box 46
Speakers, potential - speeches
Springer, Congressman Raymond S.
Strange, Michael
Stratton, William G.
Sumner, Congressman Jessie
Swann, Howard G. - publicity for
Sweeney, Congressman Martin L.
Taft, Senator Robert A.
Taft, Mrs. Robert A.
Thomas, Norman
Toben, Senator Charles W.
Van Nuys, Frederick
Vorys, Congressman John M.
Wade, Bishop R. T.
Walker, De Loss
Walsh, Senator David I.
Wheeler, Senator Burton K.

Box 47
White, Congressman Compton I.
Wheeler's western trip
White, Charles Gorwin
Williams, Major Alfred J.
Willis, Senator Raymond E.
Winter, Congressman Thomas D.
Wolfenden, Congressman James
Woodruff, Congressman Roy O.

CLIPPINGS FROM CHAPTERS

Box 48-50
Clippings from Chapters

CLIPPINGS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Box 51-54
Clippings from National Headquarters

CORRESPONDENCE OF GENERAL ROBERT E. WOOD

Box 55-57
Correspondence of General Robert E. Wood

FILES OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR, R. DOUGLAS STUART

Box 57-69
Files of National Director, R. Douglas Stuart

CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS

Box 70
March and April 1941
Box 71
March 1941
Box 72
March, February and January 1941
Box 73
January and July 1941
Box 74
October and November 1941
Box 75
November and December 1941
Box 76
January 1942

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE-major contributors

Box 76
A-B
Box 77
B-E
Box 78
F-K
Box 79
K-M
Box 80
N-S
Box 81
S-Z

MAILINGS, BULLETINS

Box 81-83
Mailings (Mr. Camphausen's lists)
Box 84-87
Sample mailings and letters of criticism
Box 88-95
Material furnished the Dies Committee: bulletins, literature and releases

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE-general contributors

Box 96
B-All
Box 97
Bm-Bad
Box 98
Bah-Bau
Box 99
Be-Beu
Box 100
Bi-Bog
Box 101
Bol-Bre
Box 102
Bren-Bu
Box 103
Bue-Cal
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<td>Sen-Smith, F.</td>
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<td>Smith, K.-Spe</td>
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<td>Whi-Will</td>
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<td>Williams-Wol</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>Wooda-Za</td>
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<td>158</td>
<td>Zin-Anonymous</td>
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</table>

**CHAPTER RECORDS**

Box 159  Notebook of maps of chapter locations
CHAPTER RECORDS

Notebook of chapter addresses
Files on chapter dissolutions:
  Alabama-Connecticut
  Cuba-Indiana
  Iowa-New Mexico
  New York-Pennsylvania
  Philippines-Wyoming

List of chapter headquarters by state
  October 20, 1941 meeting, Palmer House, Chicago
  Miscellaneous correspondence before dissolution
  Miscellaneous correspondence after dissolution

Chapter records by state. (* Indicates that membership index cards are available for these cities and states, and are filed at the end of the collection, boxes 304-336.)

Maine
  Box 165-167
  Massachusetts: Springfield*, Boston, Worcester
  Rhode Island
  Vermont
  Connecticut

Connecticut (contd.): Hartford, Norwalk, Stamford
  Queens*, Rego Park*, Rockville*
  New York City
  New Jersey: Montclair, Passaic Valley

Florida: Sarasota*, Miami*
  Pennsylvania: Philadelphia
  Pittsburgh
  Maryland: Baltimore*
  Virginia: Richmond*
  Box 237
  Box 238-242
  Washington, D.C.
  Ohio: Dayton*, Columbus*, Warren*
  Indiana: Elkhart*, Gary*, Fort Wayne*, South Bend*
  Rockford*, Evanston
  Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska: Des Moines*, Kansas City*, Omaha*
  Michigan: Niles, Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids
  Wisconsin: Appleton, Beloit, Burlington, Bonduel, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire,
  Spencer, Seymour, Watertown
  Box 258-265
  Colorado*
  Box 266
  Arizona, New Mexico: Phoenix, Glendale, Albuquerque
  Utah: Salt Lake City
  Box 268
  California: Fresno*
  Box 269
  Southern California*
  Box 270-273
  Berkeley* (receipt books at the end of the collection)
  Box 274
  Los Angeles*
  Box 275-276
  Washington: Seattle*

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE FILES

Box 277
  Mailing lists
  Membership lists
  Box 278-280
  A.F.C. Bulletins 550-700
  Files on:
  Neutrality Law
  Ohio
  American Legion
  Publications
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 281</th>
<th>Oregon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News clippings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters to Congressmen about Lend-Lease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speeches and articles</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 281, Map case</th>
<th>Article sent to <em>Saturday Evening Post</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>List of committee members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatch Act</td>
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<td>Agenda for meetings</td>
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<td>Minutes of meetings</td>
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<td>Open letter to President, 10/20/41</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 282</th>
<th>Tribute to General Wood</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate of dissolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minutes of Directors Meeting on By-Laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final papers</td>
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<td>List of committee members</td>
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<td>Colonel Lindbergh's Des Moines speech</td>
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<td>Organization of A.F.C. as political, nonincorporated committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters about Jan. 29, 1942 meeting</td>
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<td>William Regnery's advance of $40,000</td>
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<td>Friends of Democracy, Inc.</td>
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<td>Lend-Lease Bill</td>
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<td>Letters to Congressmen</td>
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<td>1940 Presidential Election</td>
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<td>Bad publicity about A.F.C.</td>
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<th>Box 283</th>
<th>Correspondence, Sept. 1940-April 1944</th>
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<th>Box 284</th>
<th>Meeting, 12/11/41</th>
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<td>Chapter letters about dissolution</td>
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<td>Milwaukee Chapter</td>
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<td>A.F.C. chapter government</td>
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<td>Washington News Letter</td>
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<td>New York Chapter</td>
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<td>Unanswered letters, 1941</td>
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<td>Letters received since dissolution</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 285</th>
<th>Schnibbe, Mr.-correspondence</th>
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<td>Bureau of Internal Revenue-correspondence</td>
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<td>New York Chapter-correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C. Research Division-correspondence</td>
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<td>Organization of chapters-correspondence</td>
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<td>Sarles, Ruth-correspondence regarding her book</td>
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<td>Dissolution-correspondence regarding</td>
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<td>Letters received since dissolution</td>
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<th>Form letters to chapters</th>
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<td>Los Angeles Chapter-correspondence</td>
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<td>Wood, R. E.-correspondence</td>
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<td>Sarles, Ruth-correspondence</td>
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<td>Bliss, R. E.-correspondence</td>
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<td>Indianapolis Chapter-correspondence</td>
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<td>Chapters on policy-correspondence with</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Chapter-correspondence</td>
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<td>Material copied from R. E. Wood's file by Ruth Sarles for history</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 287</th>
<th>Despain, Donald-correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pugh, Clay-correspondence</td>
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<td>Georgia Chapter Meetings</td>
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<td>Washington Meeting, Feb. 24, 1941</td>
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<td>Field Organization-correspondence</td>
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<td>Gish, Lillian-correspondence</td>
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Louisville, Kentucky Meeting
Cartoon proofs
Telegrams

Box 288
Jewelry, buttons, flags-acquisitions
Form letters
Armistice Day
List of radio broadcasts from Armistice Week Bulletins
Catholic hierarchy and Catholic Laymen's Committee
Cartoon service correspondence
California
Draft extension
Miscellaneous
Chapters-local and general
Internationalists

Box 289
Form letters sent to newspapers
Case, Otto A.-correspondence
Farmers
Hertzberg, Syndey-correspondence
Hagood, General Johnson-correspondence
Hammond, General T. S.-correspondence
Howell, G. O.-correspondence
College poll
Judson, Clay-correspondence
Minnesota
O'Brien, Reverend John A.-correspondence
Landon, Alfred M.-correspondence
Fraser, Willard E.-correspondence
Lisehner, Dr. Hayman-correspondence
New York Chapter

Box 290
Publicity-Wheeler Trip
Radio broadcasts
Polls
Form letters
Cross-section of letters to chapters
National Committee correspondence
Material used in writing history
Old peace movement

Box 291
Correspondence from interested supporters
College polls
Schnibbe, H. C.-correspondence
Letters on new principles
Sarles, Ruth-miscellaneous historical materials from

Box 292
University & College
Telegrams
Historical material

Box 293, Box 347
Lend-Lease bill
Lindbergh, Charles-clippings
Radio complaints
Clippings
  Roosevelt
  Military incidents
  Vote on war
  Russian religion
  General
  Editorials
  Catholic material

Box 294
A.F.C. Bulletins reproduced
Clippings-cartoons
Box 319

- East Hartford, members
- Norfolk, members
- Norfolk, list of signers of petition to President, May, 1941
- West Norfolk, members
- Hartford, members

Box 320

- Stamford, signed membership cards
- Hartford, new members

District of Columbia

- Local mailing list

Box 321

- National and Congressional mailing list
- Membership list

Box 322

- Florida, members
- Illinois, members
  - Hyde Park, members
  - Riverside, members
- Rockford
  - Contributors
  - Members

- Indiana, members

Box 323

- Iowa, members
- Maryland, members

Box 324

- Massachusetts
  - Springfield
    - Original membership applications
  - Members

- General, members
- New England, members

Box 325

- Michigan, members

Box 326

- New Mexico, members

Box 327

- New York
  - Buffalo
  - Jamaica
  - Long Island City
  - Astoria

Box 328

- Queen Village, Bellmire, Bellerose
- Hollis
- Maspeth
- Forest Hills—Kew Gardens
- Laurelton
- Springfield Gardens
- St. Albans
- Corona

Box 329

- South Ozone Park
- Richmond Hill
- Woodhaven
- Belle Harbor Bayshore
- Howard Beach
- Broad Channel
- Arverne
- Stewart Manor
- Little Neck
- Far Rockaway
- Rockaway Park
- Glendale
- Ridgewood

Box 330

- Rockville Center
- Long Island, miscellaneous
- Ozone Park
Brooklyn
Woodside
Sunnyside

Box 333
Yonkers
Ardsley
Averill Park
Bedford Village
Bronxville
Crestwood
Dobbs Ferry

Box 334
Jackson Heights
Elmhurst
Flushing
Bellevue
Bayside

Box 335
Miscellaneous
Ohio, members
Virginia, members
Washington (state), members
Wisconsin, members

Box 336
Maps of Congressional Districts in Southern California, 1941
Sheet Music of A.F.C. and other patriotic songs
Handbills and campaign material
Press release of A.F.C.
Notebook of founding documents and minutes of the directors' meetings

Financial Records
Lists of contributors by state
Lists of large contributors
List of contributors
Auditor's Report, September 1941-February 1942
Taxes
Gift tax returns
Federal Old Age Benefits
State of Illinois return
Bank statements and passbooks
Summary statement of cash receipts and disbursements inception to March 1941
Balance sheet statements, 1940-41
Trial balance draft, ledger
Day journal of receipts and disbursements, 1941-1942. 3 volumes

OVERSIZE FILE

Box 339
Receipts for contributions, numbers 11-3342, 1941. 2 volumes

Box 340
Receipts and disbursements, 1940-1941. 2 volumes
Bulletins sent to local chapters, January-June 1941
Newspaper clippings and campaign material, Chicago. 1 scrapbook

Box 341
Receipt and disbursements, 1941-1942. 2 volumes

Box 342
Newspaper clippings
South Bend, Indiana Chapter
Los Angeles, California Chapter
Hartford, Connecticut Chapter
New York Chapter

Box 343
Form letters, pamphlets, and campaign buttons

Box 344
Accounts payable and accounts receivable, 1940-1942. 2 volumes

Box 345
Newspaper clippings, Colorado Chapter
Newspaper clippings and campaign material, Chicago Chapter (gift of Fred L. Adair). 1 scrapbook

Register of the America First Committee records
Object case

Wooden ballot box
Scope and Contents note
This object is restricted.

SOUND RECORDINGS
Scope and Contents note
26 phonorecords, mostly undescribed

Reading room workstation

Sound recording of Charles Lindbergh speech 1941 April 23
General note
Use copy reference number: 42001_a_0000144_a01
Scope and Contents note
This speech was delivered at Manhattan Center and broadcast by WMCA in New York.
Disc reads "No. 2976."

Reading room workstation

Sound recording of interview with Brigadier General Robert E. Wood 1941 July 25
General note
Use copy reference number: 42001_a_0002839
Scope and Contents note
Wood describes the activities of the America First Committee. He says both the committee and its opponents credit it with keeping America out of war at least two times in the past. The conversation also touches on Charles Lindbergh, Secretary Knox, accusations of Nazi funding, Wood's prediction for the end of the war, America going off the gold standard, the stand of the committee on national defense, future American foreign policy, British ambassadors, and the American economy. The general believes America cannot be invaded. He says the committee members are doing their civic duty to try to keep America out of the war. The interview was recorded at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California, on 2 discs

Reading room workstation

Sound recording of Senator Burton K. Wheeler speech undated
General note
Use copy reference number: 42001_a_0002977
Scope and Contents note
A speech by the Montana senator in the lead-up to America’s involvement in World War II. He criticizes the government for stockpiling war supplies such as caskets. He describes the war as Europe’s war. Criticizing House Bill 1776, he says it will sever the independence America won from the United Kingdom in 1776 and will allow the president to wage an undeclared war in defense of a foreign entity. Following, Burton criticizes how the government has transferred military arms to Britain even without H.R. 1776. However, he feels private citizens’ financial aid to other countries is each citizen’s private right. He notes that the non-interventionist foreign policy is not fashionable despite its root in the Founding Fathers’ rhetoric. He cites a poll that over eighty percent of the American population opposes a declaration of war.
Sound recording of Robert E. Wood speech: Our Foreign Policy 1940 October 26

General note
Use copy reference number: 42001_a_0002978

Scope and Contents note
General Wood discusses American involvement in the war between the United Kingdom and Germany. Beginning by calling the terms interventionist and isolationist non-descriptive, he mentions the issues on which the population is united. After analyzing the conflict between the two European countries, he believes there is no danger of invasion of the United States even if Germany is victorious. He argues this is true for a direct attack/invasion, attack from Central America, or from an air attack. He then criticizes some of the rhetoric used in the debate of American involvement, saying some of the "mudslinging...is no better than the Nazis." He believes American involvement in World War I was not worth the blood and money spent, and that the Treaty of Versailles laid the groundwork for Hitler's rise to power. Label reads: Oct. 26, 1940 CBS 10:15-10:30 P.M. E.S.T. "Our Foreign Policy" By General Robert E. Wood (Came up cut) Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn Chicago, Ill.