Descriptive Summary

Languages: English

Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175

Title: Charles Edwards Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0447

Physical Description: 3.4 Linear feet (6 archives boxes and 3 oversize folders)

Date (inclusive): 1970-1979


Scope and Content of Collection


The collection is arranged in five series: 1) MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL, 2) CORRESPONDENCE, 3) WRITINGS, 4) PHOTOGRAPHS, and 5) NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS.

SERIES 1: MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

The MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL series (1970-1983) contains a biographical sketch, a report compiled during Edwards' presidency of TSRI, memorabilia, and certificates and awards. Included are certificates of appointment to the post of Commissioner of the FDA, signed by Caspar Weinberger, and to the post of Assistant Secretary of H.E.W., signed by President Richard Nixon. For newspaper articles about and published interviews with Charles Edwards, see the NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS series.

SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE

The CORRESPONDENCE series contains primarily letters of congratulations sent to Edwards upon his appointment to the post of Assistant Secretary for Health in 1973. Included is a letter from President Ford accepting Edwards' resignation from H.E.W.

SERIES 3: WRITINGS

The WRITINGS series (1970-1979) is arranged in two subseries: A) Articles and B) Speeches.

A) The Articles subseries is arranged alphabetically and contains magazine and newspaper articles by Charles Edwards, principally on the subject of public health.

B) The Speeches subseries (1970-1979) is arranged chronologically and contains presentations delivered during Edwards' relationship with the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Becton, Dickinson and Co., and The Scripps Research Institute. This collection of speeches delivered by Edwards is nearly comprehensive, lacking only the speeches from 1976. Included are dedications, addresses, press conference statements, symposia remarks, acceptance speeches, and professional presentations to committees and subcommittees of both the U.S. Government and private industry. Topics include food and drug safety, the role of the FDA, public health concerns, the regulation of public health costs and health insurance, and points of progress in the health care field.

SERIES 4: PHOTOGRAPHS

The PHOTOGRAPHS series includes images from various trips, conferences and ceremonies; a portrait of Edwards; an autographed portrait of Caspar Weinberger; and two of Edwards' personal photograph albums containing pictures from trips to Cairo and Moscow.

SERIES 5: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Newspaper clippings (1970-1979) are arranged topically by folder and then chronologically within each folder. Topics include general biographical information, drugs and drug safety, food labels and food safety, health care, the National Institutes of Health, and interviews with Edwards.

Charles Edwards Papers MSS 0447 2
Biography
Dr. Charles C. Edwards was born on September 16, 1923, in Overton, Ohio. He attended Princeton University (1941-43) and then transferred to the University of Colorado, where he completed his A.B. in 1945 and his M.D. in 1948. He received an M.S. in surgery from the University of Minnesota in 1956. After teaching surgery (1957-62), maintaining a private practice (1956-61) and serving in several capacities at the American Medical Association (1962-67), Edwards was appointed Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration in December of 1969. His work in the FDA (1969-73) included the discovery and recall of tuna fish poisoned with mercury, the standardization of food nutrition labels, a ban on the cattle fattening chemical D.E.S., and the removal of dangerous dyes and other substances from cosmetics. In April of 1973, Edwards was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary for Health of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Caspar Weinberger. In this position he continued to focus on consumer safety while expanding his responsibilities to encompass investigations concerning the regulation and equitable provision of health care in the United States and world-wide.

In 1975 he resigned as Assistant Secretary to accept a position as senior vice president of Becton, Dickinson and Co., a world-leading manufacturer of medical supplies and equipment. In 1977 Edwards was appointed president and chief executive officer of The Scripps Research Institute (Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation). He also served as president of the National Health Council in 1977.

Dr. Edwards passed away in 2011.

Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information

OFF-SITE STORAGE
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. ALLOW ONE WEEK FOR RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS.

Related Materials
Scripps Research Institute Office of Public Affairs Records. MSS 72. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Medicine research -- California
Hospitals -- California -- San Diego County
Medicine -- California -- San Diego County -- History
Medical laboratories -- California
Clinics -- California -- San Diego County
Edwards, Charles C. -- Archives
Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006 -- Correspondence
Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation -- History
United States. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
United States. Food and Drug Administration
Scripps Research Institute -- History

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

Box 1, Folder 1  Biographical sketch
Box 1, Folder 2  Certificates and awards 1956 - 1984
Box 1, Folder 3  Memorabilia 1971 - 1975
Box 1, Folder 4  Orientation packet for Food and Drug Administration 1970
Box 1, Folder 5  CORRESPONDENCE
Box 1, Folder 6  Letter from President Ford 1974
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 7-11</th>
<th>Letters of congratulations to Edwards, Assistant Secretary for Health 1973</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Telegram to Dr. Howard 1974</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**WRITINGS**

### Articles

- **Box 1, Folder 13**
- **Box 1, Folder 14**
  - Case Against a Mandatory National Health Insurance Plan - Opinion, Des Moines Register December 1978
- **Box 1, Folder 15**
- **Box 1, Folder 16**
  - Goodbye Community Hospital - *American Medical News* September 1979
- **Box 1, Folder 17**
  - Health Insurance: An Idea Whose Time Has Gone - *San Diego Union* March 1979
- **Box 1, Folder 18**
- **Box 1, Folder 19**
  - Time for a National Health Authority - *Hospital Progress* June 1976
- **Box 1, Folder 20**
  - Toward a New Understanding - *Medical Marketing and Media* December 1970
- **Box 1, Folder 21**
  - What You Can Do to Combat High Blood Pressure - *Family Health* November 1973
- **Box 1, Folder 22**

### Speeches

- **Food and Drug Administration**
  - 1970 - 1971
  - 1971 - 1972
  - 1972 - 1973
- **Health, Education and Welfare**
  - 1973 - 1974
  - 1974 - 1975
- **Becton, Dickinson and Company**
  - 1975 - 1976
- **The Scripps Research Institute**
  - 1977 - 1978
  - 1979
- **World Federation of Proprietary Medicine Manufacturers**
  - Includes program 1979

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

- **Cairo Trip photograph album**
- **Edwards, Charles - Portrait**
- **Food Labeling Briefing 1973**
- **Moscow Trip**
  - Photograph album 1973
- **Loose photographs 1973**
- **Swearing-in ceremony 1973**
- **Twenty-Sixth World Health Assembly, Geneva - Includes invitation and agenda information 1973**
- **Weinberger, Caspar - Portrait**
- **White House Conference for Scientific and Medical Writers 1973**

**NEWPAPERP CLIPPINGS**

- **About Edwards - General information on Charles Edwards 1970 - 1979, undated**
- **Drugs and drug safety - F.D.A. 1969 - 1975**
- **Food labels and food safety - F.D.A. 1970 - 1973**
- **Health care 1971 - 1975**
Box 6, Folder 17  Interviews with Edwards 1970 - 1979
Box 6, Folder 18  National Institutes of Health 1973 - 1975