Guide to the Fight for Freedom Committee Records 1941-1947

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.FFC
Title  Fight for Freedom Committee. Records
Date  1941-1947
Size  6 linear ft. (12 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
            University of Chicago Library
            1100 East 57th Street
            Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract  The Fight for Freedom Committee Records include correspondence with local supporters and with national headquarters, as well as material dealing with the various activities of the committee, such as motorcades, rallies, speakers, the distribution of literature, press releases, radio scripts, lists of supporters and contributors, correspondence and literature of cooperating organizations, and numerous clippings.

Information on Use

Access
No restrictions.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Fight for Freedom Committee. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
The national Fight for Freedom Committee, formed in New York City in April, 1941, favored the immediate entry of the United States into World War II to aid in the defeat of Hitler. The Committee’s honorary chairmen were Henry W. Hobson, Protestant Episcopal Bishop for Southern Ohio, and Senator Carter Glass of Virginia. Included among its members and supporters were Marshall Field, Herbert Agar, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, James B. Conant, Admiral William H. Stanley, Ethel Barrymore, William Clark, and other prominent persons from all political parties and all walks of life.

The Chicago headquarters of Fight for Freedom were opened on July 1, 1941, under the directorship of Courtenay Barber. Denison B, Hull accepted the chairmanship of the Chicago group in October. Among the Chicago sponsors were Mortimer J. Adler, Anita McCormick

The principal activity of the Chicago organization was the distribution of interventionist literature in an obvious attempt to counter the influence of Col. Robert McCormick and the Chicago Tribune. Fight for Freedom was one of the major backers in a campaign to supplant the Chicago Tribune by a new morning newspaper. To accomplish this end, Fight for Freedom held rallies, distributed posters, buttons, car stickers, and other material. It publicized slogans such as "Billions for defense, not 2c for Tribune," and was successful in helping to convince Marshall Field and his associates that Chicago could and would support a new morning daily. The Chicago Sun was established in November 1941, with a vigorous pro-war stand. Fight for Freedom also organized motorcades, provided speakers to local organizations, held major rallies and street corner meetings in order to organize a pro-war attitude in Chicago and environs. The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor ended the activities of the committee on both the national and local level.

Scope Note
The Fight for Freedom Committee records include correspondence with local supporters and with national headquarters, as well as material dealing with the various activities of the committee, such as motorcades, rallies, speakers, the distribution of literature, press releases, radio scripts, lists of supporters and contributors, correspondence and literature of cooperating organizations, and numerous clippings.

Also included in the collection is the correspondence of Courtenay Barber, Jr., after December 7, 1941. This material is mainly concerned with Friends of Democracy, Inc., an organization devoted to investigating anti-democratic and pro-fascist groups and individuals in the United States. These personal papers include extensive correspondence with L. M. Birkhead, director of Friends of Democracy, of which Barber was the unofficial representative in Chicago, and with Arthur Derounian, who as an undercover agent for Friends of Democracy infiltrated several of these anti-democratic groups and published the books Undercover and The Plotters under the pseudonym of John Roy Carlson. Barber was personally involved in many of Derounian's investigations in the mid-west, such as the placing infiltrators in anti-democratic committee offices in order to have ready access to the files. Among others with whom Barber corresponded there is extensive correspondence with Herbert Agar, president of Freedom House, and later an officer in the navy during the war.

The collection is comprised of seven series: Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Chicago Committee; Series III: National Headquarters; Series IV: Cooperating Organizations; Series V: Clippings; Series VI: Miscellaneous; and Series VII: Courtenay Barber, Jr., Personal Papers.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:
Subject Headings

- Barber, Courtenay, Jr.
- Fight for Freedom Committee
- World War, 1939-1945-United States

INVENTORY

Series I: Correspondence

Box I
Folder 1
   Barber, Courtenay, Jr.
Box I
Folder 2
   Blaine, Anita McCormick
Box I
Folder 3
   Clayton, Helena
Box I
Folder 4
   Executive Committee
Box I
Folder 5
   Hirsh, Katherine (Mrs. Herbert)
Box I
Folder 6
   Hull, Denison B.
Box I
Folder 7
   Labor leaders, unions
Box I
Folder 8
   McMahon, Francis E.
Box I
Folder 9
   Objectors (Anti-FFF)
Box I
Folder 10
   Regional Chapters-Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania
Box I
Folder 11
   Regional Chapters-Tennessee, Wisconsin
Box I
Folder 12
   Religious groups
Box I
Folder 13
   Ridgway, Hamlet C.
Box I
Folder 14
   Sites, Henry W.
Box I
Folder 15
   Telegrams (copies)
Box I
Folder 16
   U.S. Congress (Form letters, lists)
Box I
Folder 17
   U.S. Government-miscellaneous
Box I
Folder 18
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Box 2
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Folder 4
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Box 2
Folder 5
   Fa-Fo
Box 2
Series II: Chicago Committee

Box 4
Folder 1
Chicago Committee; Organization, principles, purpose.

Box 4
Folder 2
Chicago Committee, Executive Committee; Minutes, statements.

Box 4
Folder 3
America First; Correspondence, press release.

Box 4
Folder 4
American Legion, Veterans’ groups; Survey, clippings.

Box 4
Folder 5
Chicago Tribune, Boycott campaign; Correspondence, petitions, form letter, press releases.

Box 4
Folder 6
Civilian defense; Correspondence

Box 4
Folder 7
Continental Congress (October 9-10, 1941, Washington, D.C.); Press releases, programs

Box 4
Folder 8
Motorcades; Lists of interested members, itineraries, press releases, reports

Box 4
Folder 9
Neighborhood distribution; Maps
Folder 10
  Rally, Open Air (July 26, 1941); Correspondence, press releases

Box 4

Folder 11
  Rally, Loyalty Defense Rally (Sept. 10, 1941) and Civilian Defense drives;
  Correspondence, press releases, broadsides, programs

Box 4

Folder 12
  Rally, Orchestra Hall (July 29, 1941); Transcripts of speeches, press releases, lists of
  members, programs, broadsides, arrangements

Box 4

Folder 13
  Rally, Orchestra Hall (July 29, 1941); Correspondence

Box 4

Folder 14
  Rally, Orchestra Hall (Oct. 3, 1941); Resolutions, programs, transcripts of speeches, press
  releases, broadsides, advertisements

Box 4

Folder 15
  Rally, Orchestra Hall (Oct. 3, 1941); Correspondence

Box 4

Folder 16
  Rally, Herbert Agar talks (October 20-27, November 6, 1941); Correspondence, schedules, itineraries, lists of names

Box 4

Folder 17
  Rally, International Amphitheatre (Nov. 19, 1941); Correspondence, press releases, program, arrangements

Box 4

Folder 18
  Rally, Opera House (Jan. 14, 1942-Cancelled); Correspondence, arrangements, 
  broadsides, clippings, advertisements

Box 5

Folder 1
  Rally, Miscellaneous; Lists of members, volunteers, arrangements

Box 5

Folder 2
  Rally, Miscellaneous; Correspondence; broadsides, arrangements

Box 5

Folder 3
  Rally and Motorcades; Photographs

Box 5

Folder 4
  St. Charles, Illinois, Festival (August 29-Sept. 1, 1941); Correspondence, broadsides, 
  arrangements, lists of members and volunteers

Box 5
Folder 5
"Repeal of Neutrality Act" Campaign; Petitions, press leases, form letters, correspondence

Box 5
Folder 6
Speakers, prospective speakers; Correspondence, lists, broadsides, transcripts of speeches,

Box 5
Folder 7
University of Chicago; Correspondence, statement by faculty members, press releases, clippings

Box 5
Folder 8
Youth Division; Correspondence, brochure, informational material.

Box 5
Folder 9
Literature; Broadsides, advertisements, reprints, copies of speeches. FFF Bulletin, posters, petitions, stickers, applications, etc

Box 5
Folder 10
Literature; requests for; and requests for banners, pins, etc

Box 5
Folder 11
Magazines; Correspondence

Box 5
Folder 12
Movies; Correspondence, advertisements

Box 5
Folder 13
Newspapers (Chicago); Correspondence

Box 5
Folder 14
Newspapers (Midwest); Correspondence

Box 6
Folder 1
Press releases; July-September, 1941 (Original manuscripts, typed)

Box 6
Folder 2
Press releases; September-December, 1941 (Original' manuscripts, typed)

Box 6
Folder 3
Press releases; June-September, 1941

Box 6
Folder 4
Press releases; October-December, 1941

Box 6
Folder 5
Radio; Correspondence
Box 6
Folder 6
Radio; Copies of broadcasts and speeches

Box 6
Folder 7
Radio; Article "Hearing is Believing," by Dixon Wecter (carbon)

Box 6
Folder 8
Speeches; Miscellaneous manuscripts sent by members, poems, speeches, songs, correspondence

Box 6
Folder 9
Applications for employment

Box 6
Folder 10
Contributions to Chicago office; June-September, 1941

Box 6
Folder 11
Contributions to Chicago office; October, 1941-January, 1942

Box 6
Folder 12
Financial reports, budgets, receipts for rallies, etc

Box 6
Folder 13
Fund-raising; Correspondence

Box 6
Folder 14
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 6
Folder 15
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 7
Folder 1
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 7
Folder 2
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 7
Folder 3
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 7
Folder 4
Lists of members and prospective members

Box 7
Folder 5
Mailings, samples of
Box 7
Folder 6
  Office maintenance; telephone, furniture, internal revenue service, etc
Box 7
Folder 7
  Printing; orders, correspondence
Box 7
Folder 8
  Sponsors; Chicago Committee, lists

Series III: National Headquarters

Box 7
Folder 9
  Bell, Ulric (Chr., Executive Committee)
Box 7
Folder 10
  Cusik, F. H. Peter (Executive Secretary)
Box 7
Folder 11
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Box 7
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  Graham, A. Liddon (Director of Organization)
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Folder 15
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Box 7
Folder 16
  Hobson, Henry W. (Chairman)
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Folder 17
  Miller, Merle (Press Bureau)
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Folder 18
  Rosenfield, Abe (Labor Division)
Box 7
Folder 19
  Miscellaneous
Box 8
Folder 1
Press releases, memos to chapter heads, memos to editors

Box 8
Folder 2
  Speeches, file copies of "Fight for Freedom" song, postcards, stickers, buttons, advertisements

Box 8
Folder 3
  Miscellaneous copies of The Freedom Press, clippings and mats of newspaper advertisements

Box 8
Folder 4
  Speeches, memos to chapter heads and editors, FFF songs, statements, advertisements

**Series IV: Cooperating Organizations**

Box 8
Folder 5
  Appreciate America, Inc.; Literature

Box 8
Folder 6
  Committee for American-Irish Defense; Speeches, press releases, organizational memos, clippings, petitions

Box 8
Folder 7
  Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies; Correspondence, memos

Box 8
Folder 8
  CDAAA; Lists of local committees, chairmen, sponsors, etc.

Box 8
Folder 9
  CDAAA; Miscellaneous office data, samples of mailings, operating expenses, petitions

Box 8
Folder 10
  CDAAA; Memoranda, speeches, literature, advertisements, press releases, statements

Box 8
Folder 11
  CDAAA; Miscellaneous newsletters.

Box 8
Folder 12
  Czechoslovak National Council of America; Miscellaneous newsletters

Box 9
Folder 1
  Friends of Democracy; Literature

Box 9
Folder 2
  Labor unions; Miscellaneous newsletters, statements, literature
Folder 3
Little Businessmen’s League; Literature

Box 9
Folder 4
Miscellaneous literature

Box 9
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Miscellaneous literature

Box 9
Folder 6
Miscellaneous literature

Series V: Clippings

Box 9
Folder 7
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Folder 8
July 16-July 31, 1941

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Folder 9
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August 19-31, 1941

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Folder 11
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Box 9
Folder 12
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Box 10
Folder 1
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Folder 4
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Box 10
Folder 5
December, 1941-January, 1942
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**Folder 6**  
Clippings concerning Paul Douglas, October-November, 1941  

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**Folder 7**  
Clippings concerning state and national politics, August, 1941-January, 1942  

**Series VI: Miscellaneous**  

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**Folder 1**  
Miscellaneous copies of Labor News Service, published by FFF  

Box 11  
**Folder 2**  
Miscellaneous copies of Labor News Service, published by FFF  

Box 11  
**Folder 3**  
Miscellaneous copies of Labor News Service, published by FFF  

Box 11  
**Folder 4**  
Scrapbook of literature, buttons, decals, pamphlets, advertisements, petitions, press releases  

**Series VII: Courtenay Barber, Jr., Personal Papers**  

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**Folder 1**  
Agar, Herbert; 1942-1944 correspondence  

Box 12  
**Folder 2**  
Agar, Herbert; 1942-43 correspondence about speeches, pamphlets  

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Agar, William; 1942-44 correspondence  

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Balderston, John L.; 1942-43 correspondence  

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Bell, Laird; biographical sketch, speech  

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Birkhead, L.M.; 1944 correspondence  

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Birkhead, L.M.; 1944 correspondence  

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  Davies, Ernest; 1943 correspondence
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  Derouian, Arthur; 1943-44 correspondence
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Folder 12
  Derounian, Arthur; 1945 correspondence
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Folder 13
  Derounian, Arthur; 1946-47 correspondence
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  Eichelberger, Clark M.; 1943 correspondence
Box 12
Folder 15
  Hull, Denison B.; 1942 correspondence
Box 12
Folder 16
  Newsletter, The Propaganda Battlefront (issued by the Friends of Democracy, Inc.); Miscellaneous issues, 1943-44
Box 12
Folder 17
  Newsletter, The Propaganda Battlefront; 1945, complete
Box 12
Folder 18
  Newsletter, The Propaganda Battlefront; 1946, complete Miscellaneous issues, 1947