

*South Carolina Political Collections*

*The University of South Carolina*

**James Prioleau Richards**

*(1894 - 1979)*

**Papers, 1932 - 1974**

|                       |  |
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| <b>Volume:</b>        | 10 linear feet   |
| <b>Processed by:</b>  | Herbert J. Hartsook, additions 2004 by Stephanie Stewart   |
| <b>Provenance:</b>    | Donated by Richard E. Richards   |
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## **Biographical Note:**

James Prioleau “Dick” Richards (1894-1979) represented South Carolina’s Fifth District in the United States House of Representatives from 1933 until his retirement following the 1956 session.

Richards was born in Liberty Hill. He attended Clemson College and the University of South Carolina before enlisting in the United States Army in April 1917. Richards fought in France and Belgium and advanced through the ranks. At the time of his discharge in 1919 he had attained the rank of Reserve Second Lieutenant. He returned to the University of South Carolina and received his law degree in 1921.

The following year, Richards was elected Probate Judge of Lancaster County. He served in that capacity until his election to Congress on the Democratic ticket. In Congress, Richards received an appointment to the Foreign Affairs Committee. He served on that committee throughout his Congressional career and became expert in Foreign Affairs. He chaired the committee from 1951 to 1953, when the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican, required Richards’ replacement as chair.

Following his retirement, Richards accepted a mission for the Eisenhower administration.

He served as Special Assistant to President Eisenhower for the Middle East from January 1957 until January of 1958. With the object of advancing the Eisenhower Doctrine, Richards undertook a mission to the Middle East in which he visited Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tripoli and Turkey, among other countries. He also visited Formosa [Taiwan] and Malaya. At each stop he met with the nations’ leaders and attempted to convince them to strengthen their ties to the United States.



## **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection, 10 linear feet of material, relates to Richards’ Middle East mission as well as significant records of his Congressional career. The collection ably documents Richards’ interest and expertise in foreign policy. The collection also includes information on Richards’ membership on the Joint Committee on Foreign Economic Cooperation Administration. The ECA was charged with the administration of the Foreign Economic Assistance Act, funding the European Recovery Program.

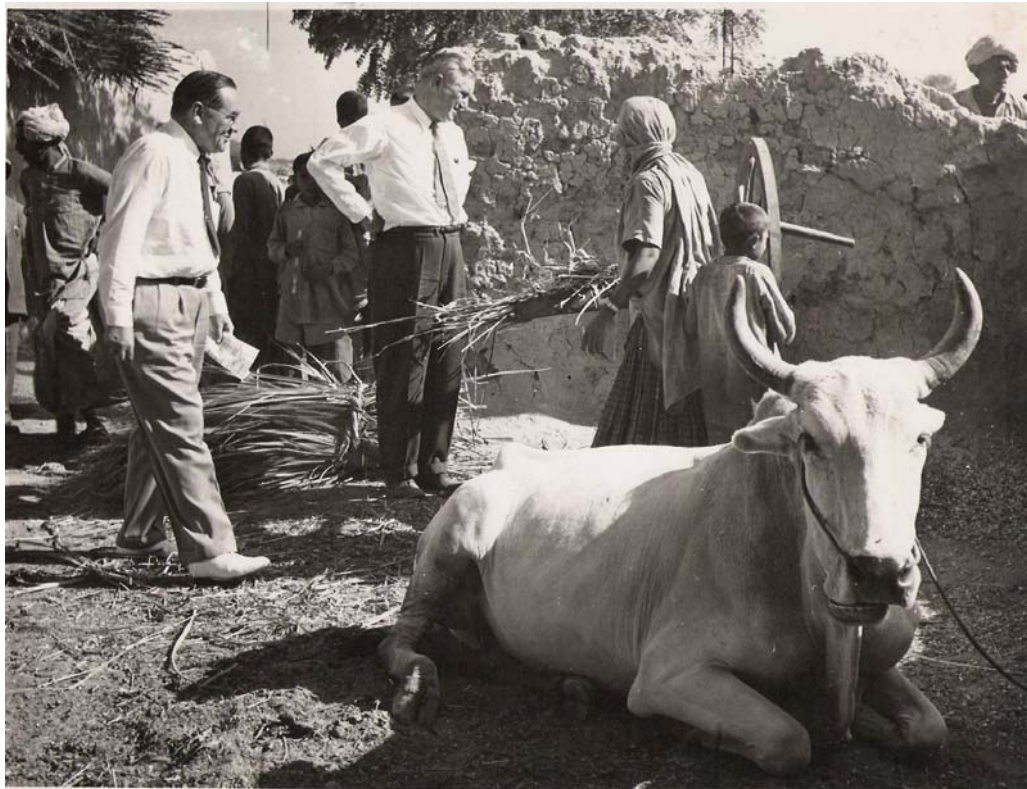
The collection has been arranged into five main series: Correspondence, 1932 to 1933, 1941 to 1974; Topical Files, c. 1933 to 1958; Photographs; Newspaper Clippings; and House of Representatives Journals.

Correspondence includes letters of congratulation upon Richards' election to the House, 1932 to 1933, and offers of support, c. 1951 to 1952, should Richards decide to run for Governor in 1953.

Topical files include reference material on Middle Eastern countries; files on bills, resolutions, and concerns before the House, such as the Bretton Woods Agreement, 1944 to 1945; Foreign Policy, including a file, 1945 to 1955, regarding relations with China; the Neutrality Act, 1941; the Mutual Security Act, 1951; UNESCO, 1946; and the UNICEF Children's Emergency Fund, c. 1950 to 1953. Countries represented by individual reference files include China, Formosa (Taiwan), Israel, Lebanon, and the Soviet Union.

Photographs and newspaper clippings date chiefly from Richards' mission to the Middle East. Included are numerous clippings from foreign newspapers commenting on the mission. Rounding out the collection is a biographical file and a small number of speeches and press releases.

The Journals of the House of Representatives cover the proceedings of the Committee on Foreign Affairs from the 77<sup>th</sup> to the 83<sup>rd</sup> congresses.



## Contents List

**Box 1**

Biographical Data

Correspondence:

1932, Nov. - June 1933

1941, Sept. - Nov.

1942, Dec. - 1945

1946 - 1947

1949:

Jan. - July

Aug. - Dec.

1950:

Jan. - Apr.

Sept - Dec

1951:

Jan. - Feb.

Mar. - June

July - Aug 14

Aug. 15 - Sept.

Oct. - Dec.

1952:

Jan. - July

Aug. - Dec.

1953:

Jan. - May

June - July

Aug. - Sept.

Oct. - Dec.

1954:

Jan. - Mar.

Apr. - June

July - Sept.

Nov. - Dec.

1955:

Jan. - Mar. 15

Mar. 16 - Apr.

May - Sept.

Oct. - Dec.

1956:

Jan. - Feb. 16

Feb. 17 - May

June - Sept.

Oct. - Dec.

1957:

Jan. - Mar.

Apr. 3 - 17

Apr. 18 - Dec., & c. 1957

1958 - 1974

n.d.

Speeches:

1951 - 1955

1956

1957 - 1963

Press Releases, 1955

Photographs:

General (7 folders)

Ethiopia (2 folders)

Topical Files:

Agriculture:

General

Abaca [Manila Hemp] Production, Philippines

Tobacco

Bretton Woods Agreement, 1944 - 1945

China, c. 1945 - 1950

**Box 2**

Dulles, John Foster, Oral History Project, Interview, JPR, 1965

Dumbarton Oaks Proposal, 1944 - 1945

Economic Cooperation Administration:

1949

1950

1951

Far East, Beane Report, 1951

Finnish Aid Bill, 1949

Foreign Affairs, Committee on

Foreign Claims Settlement, 1942 - 1955

Foreign Policy:

China, 1949 - 1954

Speech Material

Foreign Trade:

General, 1950, 1958 - 1959

Textiles and Minerals

Clippings

Formosa [Taiwan]:

General, c.1955 - 1958

Herter-Richards Trip, 1957 - 1958

Great Britain, Loan, 1945 - 1946

Israel, 1951 - 1956

Lebanon, 1956 - 1957

Malaya, 1957

Middle East:

General, 1857 - 1958

Badeau Report, 1957

Richards Mission Public Statements, 1957

Naval Construction Bill, 1951

Neutrality Act, 1941 (5 folders)

UNESCO, Cultural Relations and Short Wave Radio Broadcasting, 1946

Unicef, Children's Emergency Fund, c.1950 - 1953

Misc., General

Misc. Illustrations

Newsclippings:

**Box 3**

General

1941 - 1949

1951

1952

1953

1954 - 1955

1956

1957 (9 folders)

1957 - 1958

1960

1963

Ethiopia

Greece  
Iran  
Iraq  
Morocco  
Pakistan  
Tripoli  
Tunisia (2 folders)  
Turkey (3 folders)

House of Representatives Journals:

**Box 4**

Committee on Foreign Affairs:

77<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session and 78<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

Hearings, Reports, Laws, Relating to Lend-Lease

77<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions and 78<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

Reports to the Congress on Lend-Lease Operations, Reports 1-14 from March 11, 1941 through December 31, 1943

78<sup>th</sup> Congress:

Hearings and Documents Relating to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

80<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session:

Hearings, Reports; Messages from the President and Miscellaneous Documents Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Vol. IV

Subcommittee Reports

Bills, Resolutions, and Committee Calendars, Vol. II

Hearings, Reports; Messages from the President and Miscellaneous Documents

**Box 5**

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Vol. III

Miscellaneous Documents and Memoranda

Hearings and Report (H. Report No. 1585) on United States Foreign Policy for a Postwar

Recovery Program, H.R. 4579, H.R. 4840, and S. 2202, Vol. II

81<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

House Bills, 81<sup>st</sup> Congress, Vol. I

Resolutions, Senate Bills and Committee Calendars, Vol. II

Hearings, Vol. I

Hearings, Vol. II

House Reports, Public Laws, and Miscellaneous Documents, Vol. III

**Box 6**

House Documents, Vol. IV

81<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session:

Bills, Resolutions, and Committee Calendars, Vol. I

Miscellaneous and Staff Memoranda, Vol. I

Hearings, Vol. 1

House Reports and Public Laws, Vol. II

**Box 7**

House Documents, Vol. III

82<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

House Bills, Vol. I

82<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session:

Hearings, Reports, and Public Laws, Vol. IV

House Documents, Vol. V

Miscellaneous Documents and Staff Memoranda, Vol. VI

**Box 8**

House and Senate Bills and Resolutions and Committee Calendar, Vol. III

83<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

House and Senate Bills and Resolutions and Committee Calendar, Vol. I

Reports, Public Laws, and House Documents, Vol. II

House Documents, Vol. II-A

Miscellaneous Documents and Staff Memoranda, Vol. III

83<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session:

Report on Eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (2)

64<sup>th</sup>–82<sup>nd</sup> Congresses:

Index of Minutes (1916-1952)