

# Merwin K. Hart papers, 1929-1962

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Hart, Merwin K. (Merwin Kimball), 1881-
<b>Title</b>	Merwin K. Hart papers
<b>Dates</b>	1929-1962 (inclusive) 1929 1962
<b>Quantity</b>	8.5 linear feet, (9 containers)
<b>Collection Number</b>	Coll 121
<b>Summary</b>	Merwin K. Hart (1881-1962) was a lawyer and political figure who founded the New York State Economic Council. The collection contains records from the National Economic Council.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.</a> UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 <a href="mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu">spcarref@uoregon.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Collection is open to the public.  Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
<b>Additional Reference Guides</b>	Paper finding aid with additional information available in Special Collections & University Archives.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

Merwin K. Hart was born in 1881 in Utica, New York and educated at Harvard University from which he was graduated in 1904. He read law and was admitted to the New York bar in 1911. In 1914, he formed the Utica Mutual Workmen's Compensation Insurance Company, later the Utica Mutual Insurance Company.

After service in World War I, Hart became increasingly concerned about the problems of government spending and taxation. With James W. Gerard, Hart planned and held the New York State-wide Economic Congress in April, 1929 in order to discuss and search for solutions to those problems. The 1929 economic congress appointed the Committee of Twenty-Five that reorganized in 1931 as the New York State Economic Council with Hart as its president. It was dedicated to the twin goals of lowering taxes and reducing government spending. In 1943, the name was changed to the National Economic Council and actively promoted conservatism in politics and economics.

Although Hart and Franklin Roosevelt were Harvard schoolmates and acquaintances, the two were often great distances apart. Hart, in spite of his service on the Governor's Budget Advisory Commission under Roosevelt, worked in opposition to Roosevelt and his programs.

Hart was also a member of Robert Welch's John Birch Society and served as the head of the New York City Branch until his death in 1962.

## Content Description

The Merwin K. Hart Papers consist almost entirely of records of the National Economic Council, its predecessor, the New York State Economic Council, and the spinoff organizations such as the Committee for the Revival of Private Enterprise of which Hart was also the head. The records include information on meetings, publications, addresses, correspondence, statements to Congressional committees, position papers, internal committee files, and reports of Hart's European trips. Of special interest are the files the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities (the Buchanan Committee) which investigated the National Economic Council in 1950.

The files also include records of the Educational Advisory Committee, which prepared reports on the school systems of Little Falls, New York, and Niagara Falls, New York, as well as reports on social science textbooks (particularly those by Harold Rugg) and on an economics textbook written by Lorie Tarshis.

Major correspondents include Flamen Ball, John B. Bently, William F. Buckley, Jr., Martin Dies, Frank E. Gannett, James H. Gipson, Robert LeFevre, Manuel Maestro, Benjamin Minifie, J. Earl Schaefer, Samuel M. Shoemaker, Robert A. Taft, J. Howard Pew, A. K. Chesterton, George W. Robnett, and Gerald L. K. Smith.

## Use of the Collection

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

### Preferred Citation

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series:

- National Economic Council material
- Personal material

### Processing Note

Collection processed by manuscripts processor.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

### Separated Materials

Broadsides in this collection are stored separately in the Broadside Collection.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series: National Economic Council material, undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	NY Economic Council, Statewide Council on Public Expenditures Meeting	June 10, 1932
1	2	NY Economic Council Meeting	February, 4, 1932
1	3	NY Economic Council Meeting	Dec 15. 1932
1	4	NY Economic Council Meeting	April 17, 1933
1	5	NY Economic Council Meeting	June 14, 1932
1	6	NY Economic Council Meeting	November 10, 1933

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	7	NY Economic Council Meeting	December 16, 1935
1	8	NY Economic Council, Mass Meeting for America	November 29, 1939
1	9	NY Economic Council, Lincoln Incentive System Meeting	September 21, 1944
1	10	National Economic Council, Ignacio Cojendio Meeting	March 23, 1948
1	11	NY Economic Council Membership Letters A-E	1933
1	12	NY Economic Council Membership Letters F-O	1933
1	13	NY Economic Council Membership Letters P-W	1933
1	14	Miscellaneous Letters and Plans	undated
1	15	NY Economic Council Publicity Material	undated
1	16	National Economic Council Open letters	undated
1	17	National Economic Council News Releases	undated
1	18	Book: New York State Wide Economic Congress Committee of Twenty Five New York State Budget Advisory Committee Reports	April 1929-December 23, 1933
1	19	National Economic Council Publications 1	undated
1	20	National Economic Council Publications 2	undated
1	21	National Economic Council Publications 4, "M. K. Hart, American"	undated
1	22	National Economic Council Publications 5	undated
1	23	National Economic Council Addresses	1932-1935
1	24	National Economic Council Addresses	1936-1940
1	25	National Economic Council Addresses	1941-1960

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	26	National Economic Council Addresses	1936
1	27	National Economic Council Addresses Binghamton, NY	December 13, 1939
2	1	Radio Addresses	undated
2	2	Radio Addresses	February 19, 1933
2	3	Radio Address WSYR- Syracuse	March 26, 1933
2	4	Radio Address by Mjr. Gen. J.F.O'ry	April 4, 1933
2	5	Radio Addresses	August 10, 1933
2	6	Radio Address by Merwin K. Hart	March 2, 1934
2	7	Radio Address by MKH	April 8, 1934
2	8	Radio Address by MKH	July 30, 1934
2	9	Radio Talk by MKH	September 18, 1934
2	10	Radio Debate MKH and Arthur Garfield Hays	January 25, 1935
2	11	Radio Address MKH "Child Labor Amendment"	January 27, 1935
2	12	Radio Talk Gen. J. F. O'Ryan	February 27, 1935
2	13	Radio Address MKH Public Affairs Council	February 18, 1935
2	14	Radio Talk MKH	March 15, 1935
2	15	Radio Talk MKH	November 2, 1935

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 16	Debate, Town Hall MKH vs. Sen. Hugo Black	December 5, 1935
2 17	Debate, "Shall we Ratify the Child Labor Amendment"	January 26, 1936
2 18	Radio Broadcast MKH "The Waste of Taxpayer Money"	February 15, 1936
2 19	Radio Broadcast MKH "Relief"	November 16, 1938
2 20	Radio Broadcast MKH "Threat to Private Enterprise"	January 11, 1938
2 21	Broadcast "On the Revival of Private Enterprise" MKH	undated
2 22	Private Enterprise Broadcast A=Arizona thru C=Conneticut	June 11, 1937
2 23	Private Enterprise Broadcast F=Florida thru L=Louisianna	June 11, 1937
2 24	Private Enterprise Broadcast M=Maine thru Montana	undated
2 25	Private Enterprise Broadcast O=Ohio thru P=Pennsylvania	undated
2 26	Private Enterprise Broadcast N=Nebraska thru North Dakota	undated
2 27	NEC Correspondence, American Union for Nationalist Spain	undated
2 28	National Economic Council, Correspondence A	undated
2 29	NEC Correspondence B	undated
2 30	NEC Correspondence Ball, Flamen	undated
2 31	NEC Correspondence Bandak, Yusif	undated
2 32	NEC Correspondence Bentley, John B.	undated
2 33	NEC Correspondence British Broadcasts	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 34	NEC Correspondence Buckley, William F.	undated
2 35	NEC Correspondence C	undated
2 36	NEC Correspondence D	undated
2 37	NEC Correspondence Cavalry Church, NYC	undated
2 38	NEC Correspondence Carlson, John Roy (Review in NY Times)	undated
2 39	NEC Correspondence Dies Committee	1940
2 40	NEC Correspondence DuPont, S.	undated
2 41	NEC Correspondence E,F	undated
2 42	NEC Correspondence Flynn, John T.	undated
2 43	NEC Correspondence Foundation for Freedom	undated
2 44	NEC Correspondence Friends of Democracy	undated
2 45	NEC Correspondence G	undated
2 46	NEC Correspondence Gannett, Frank	undated
3 1	NEC Correspondence Gipson, James H.	undated
3 2	NEC Correspondence Gipson, James H., Sale and Distribution/Cecil Palmer's Book	undated
3 3	NEC Correspondence H,I,J,K	undated
3 4	NEC Correspondence L	undated
3 5	NEC Correspondence Lafarge, John	undated
3 6	NEC Correspondence Lefevre, Robert	undated
3 7	NEC Correspondence M	undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
3	8	NEC Correspondence Maestro, Manuel	undated
3	9	NEC Correspondence Minifie, Benjamin	undated
3	10	NEC Correspondence National Association of Manufacturers	undated
3	11	NEC Correspondence National Rifle Association	undated
3	12	NEC Correspondence N,O,P	undated
3	13	NEC Correspondence Pearson, Drew	undated
3	14	NEC Correspondence R	undated
3	15	NEC Correspondence Radio Broadcasts	undated
3	16	NEC Correspondence Republican National Committee	undated
3	17	NEC Correspondence Republican Party	undated
3	18	NEC Correspondence Roosevelt, Eleanor	undated
3	19	NEC Correspondence S	undated
3	20	NEC Correspondence Schaefer, J. Earl	undated
3	21	NEC Correspondence Schoenfeld, Dave	undated
3	22	NEC Correspondence Schuyler, George S.	undated
3	23	NEC Correspondence Shoemaker, Samuel	undated
3	24	NEC Correspondence T	undated
3	25	NEC Correspondence Taft, Robert A.	undated
3	26	NEC Correspondence Tague, Otto G.	undated
3	27	NEC Correspondence The Times, NY	undated
3	28	NEC Correspondence United World Federalists	undated



Container(s)		Description	Dates
3	29	NEC Correspondence U,V	undated
3	30	NEC Correspondence W,X,Y,Z	undated
3	31	NEC Correspondence Webster, Mrs. Arthur	undated
3	32	NEC Correspondence (Re: World Revolution) Wirt, F.A.	undated
3	33	NEC Correspondence Wood, Robert E.	undated
3	34	NEC, Letters to Editors	undated
3	35	NEC, Position Papers Full Employment Bill	undated
3	36	NEC, Position Papers European Recovery Plan	undated
3	37	NEC, Position Papers Immigration Europe	undated
3	38	NEC, Position Papers Immigration Europe	1944
3	39	NEC, Position Papers International Monetary Fund	undated
3	40	NEC, Position Papers LaFollette Committee	undated
3	41	NEC, Position Papers Third War Powers Bill	undated
3	42	NEC, Statements to Congress 1	undated
3	43	NEC, Statements to Congress 2	undated
3	44	NEC, Statements to Congress 3	undated
3	45	NEC, Statements to Legislature	undated
3	46	NEC, Statements to Republican Party	undated
4	1	Portugal, MKH Trip	undated
4	2	England, MKH Trip	undated
4	3	MKH Correspondence England	1948

Container(s)		Description	Dates
4	4	MKH Spain Trip	1948
4	5	MKH Europe Trip Miscellaneous	1948
4	6	MKH Trip France	1948
4	7	MKH Germany Trip correspondence	1953
4	8	MKH Portugal Trip	1955
4	9	MKH France Trip	1955
4	10	MKH Germany Trip	1957
4	11	MKH Spain Trip	1957
4	12	Reports of European Trips	undated
4	13	MKH Trip Caldwell, Idaho	1952
4	14	MKH Trip Seattle, WA	1952
4	15	NY Economic Council, Committee for American Private Enterprise	1937
4	16	National Economic Council, Committees of correspondence	1944
4	17	NEC Educational Advisory Plans/Statements	1933-1934
4	18	NY Economic Council Educational Advisory Committee Carnegie Application	undated
4	19	NY Economic Council, Educational Advisory Committee, Correspondence/Reports	1933-1934
4	20	NYEC EAC Correspondence C.O. Davis	undated
4	21	NYEC EAC Correspondence, F.E. Spaulding	undated
4	22	NYEC EAC Inquiries	1934-1935

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4 23	NYEC EAC Little Falls NY Report	1934
4 24	NYEC EAC Little Falls Requests	undated
4 25	NYEC EAC Niagara Falls Report	1934-1935
4 26	NYEC EAC Niagara Falls Report	1935
4 27	NYEC EAC New York City Education	undated
4 28	NYEC EAC Social Science Textbook Invest	undated
5 1	N.Y. Economic Council, Tarshis Textbook Case	1947-1948
5 2	N.Y. Economic Council, Tarshis Textbook Case c21	1948-1949
5 3	N.Y. Economic Council, Educational Advisory Committee, N.Y. Appropriation Hearing	1934
5 4	N.Y. Economic Council, Educational Advisory Committee, State Aid to Ed.	1935
5 5	N.Y. Economic Council, Educational Advisory Committee, "What Price Education"—Pam	undated
5 6	N.E.C., House Investigation, corresp. with committee members	1950
5 7	N.E.C., House Investigation, Statement 6/28. Transcripts 6/6-20-21-28	1950
5 8	N.E.C., House Investigation, Analysis of N.E.C. Contributions	undated
5 9	N.E.C., House Investigation, Memos, Statements, Etc.	1950
5 10	N.E.C., House Investigation, Miscellaneous correspondence	1950
5 11	N.E.C., House Investigation, Re "In Fact" Statement	undated
5 12	N.E.C., House Investigation, General Interim Report	1950

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5 13	N.E.C., House Investigation, Re American Enterprise Association	1950
5 14	N.E.C., House Investigation, Clippings, Broadcasts, Etc.	1950
5 15	Article Manuscripts	undated
5 16	Obituaries, Photos, Mementos	undated
5 17	N.E.C., Clippings	undated
5 loose	7 Miscellaneous Congress Hearing Publications	undated
6 loose	Five scrapbooks	undated
7 loose	Two scrapbooks, bound	undated
9 loose	Two scrapbooks, bound; One scrapbook, loose sheets	undated
7 loose	One Poster, Mass Meeting for America: Congressman Martin Dies	undated
8 1	Correspondence—A	undated
8 2	Correspondence—Al-Dujaili	undated
8 3	Correspondence—American Colony Aid Association	undated
8 4	Correspondence—Anti-Detamation League	undated
8 5	Correspondence—Dick, Carl P.	undated
8 6	Correspondence—B	undated
8 7	Correspondence—Browne, Edward R.	undated
8 8	Correspondence—C	undated
8 9	Correspondence—D	undated
8 10	Correspondence—Donner, Robert	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8 11	Correspondence—Dunn, Rogers	undated
8 12	Correspondence—E,F	undated
8 13	Correspondence—Fellers, Bonner	undated
8 14	Correspondence—G	undated
8 15	Correspondence—Goethe, C.M.	undated
8 16	Correspondence—Gulf Oil Corporation	undated
8 17	Correspondence—Harnischfeger, Walter	undated
8 18	Correspondence—Harvard University	undated
8 19	Correspondence—H,I,J	undated
8 20	Correspondence—K	undated
8 21	Correspondence—Korda, Geza	undated
8 22	Correspondence—L,M	undated
8 23	Correspondence—N,O,P	undated
8 24	Correspondence—Pew, J. Howard	undated
8 25	Correspondence—R	undated
8 26	Correspondence—Reed, Douglas	undated
8 27	Correspondence—Robnett, George W.	undated
8 28	Correspondence—Spain	undated
8 29	Correspondence—Spain-Letter to Summer Wells	undated
8 30	Correspondence—Stafsing, Ivar	undated
8 31	Correspondence—Stewart, John F.	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8 32	Correspondence—S	undated
8 33	Correspondence—T	undated
8 34	Correspondence—U	undated
8 35	Correspondence—V,W	undated
8 36	Correspondence—Webster, Nesta (Mrs. Arthur H.)	undated
8 37	Correspondence—Willoughby, Charles A.	undated
8 38	Correspondence—Wood, Robert E.	undated
8 39	Correspondence—Skorzeny, Otto (Supplement II)	October 1970
8 40	Biographical, In Memoriam Recollections	undated
8 41	Merwin K. Hart Award Dinner	May 10, 1972

## Broadsides

1.0 item

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Communism in education  
 Conservatism--Economic aspects  
 Conservatism--United States  
 Economic councils  
 Political Campaigns

### Personal Names :

Ball, Flamen.  
 Bently, John B.  
 Buckley, William F. (William Frank), 1925-  
 Chesterton, A. K. (Arthur Kenneth)  
 Dies, Martin, 1900-1972  
 Gannett, Frank E. (Frank Ernest), 1876-1957  
 Gipson, James H.  
 Goethe, C. M. (Charles Matthias), 1875-1966  
 LeFevre, Robert, 1911-  
 Maestro, Manuel  
 Pew, J. Howard (John Howard), 1882-1971

Robnett, George W. (George Washington), 1890-1970

Schaefer, J. Earl

Shoemaker, Samuel M. (Samuel Moor), 1893-1963

Smith, Gerald L. K. (Gerald Lyman Kenneth), 1898-

Taft, Robert A. (Robert Alphonso), 1889-1953

**Corporate Names :**

John Birch Society

National Economic Council (U.S.).

United States. Congress. House. Select Committee on Lobbying Activities

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