

# Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Papers, 1940-1984

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Title</b>	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1940-1984 1940 1984
<b>Quantity</b>	6.8 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	Collection 2095, MtBC, us (collection)
<b>Summary</b>	The Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Papers consist of correspondence, speeches, research notes, and printed publications pertaining to the Republican far right, especially the John Birch Society in Montana during the 1960s. These papers are the resource material that explain the positions taken by The People's Voice and also document the tie between the Billings and the Montana AFL-CIO. Since the Billings were involved in many political issues, they corresponded with many high ranking government officials.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections</a> Montana State University-Bozeman Library Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections P.O. Box 173320 Bozeman, MT 59717-3320 Telephone: 406-994-4242 Fax: 406-994-2851 <a href="mailto:asc@montana.libanswers.com">asc@montana.libanswers.com</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	This collection is open for research.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

---

## Biographical Note

Harry L. Billings was born in Somers, Montana, in 1913 where his father worked in the lumber mill. His mother was a homesteader and early day schoolteacher in the Hot Springs area where he was raised. He was a graduate of Thompson Falls High School and earned a degree in journalism from the University of Montana in 1933. His wife, Gretchen Garber Billings was a native of Whitefish whose grandparents homesteaded in the Plains area in the mid-1880s. The Billings jointly edited the farmer-labor owned newspaper *The People's Voice* in Helena from 1946 to 1969, resigning after a lengthy dispute with organized labor over support of the Vietnam War. Billings opposed American involvement in Korea and Vietnam. During the sales tax fight of 1971, Harry coordinated the successful opposition to enactment of the proposed tax, and then spent two and one half years as Director of Education and Research for the Montana State AFL-CIO. He was also a member of the Montanan Bicentennial advisory council in the mid-1970s and in 1983 was awarded the University of Montana's distinguished

alumni award. The Billings retired first to their home in Thompson Falls and then moved full-time to Apache Junction, Arizona, when Harry began suffering respiratory problems. He died on April 23, 1990.

## Content Description

The Billings papers contains correspondence, speeches, research notes, and printed publications pertaining to the Republican far right, especially the John Birch Society in Montana during the 1960s. These papers are the resource material that explain the positions taken by *The People's Voice* and also document the tie between the Billings and the Montana AFL-CIO. Since the Billings were involved in many political issues, they corresponded with many high ranking government officials, including John F. Kennedy, who wrote to the Billings after a trip to Montana in 1959, and Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, and Jeanette Rankin, a personal friend of the Billings. They also worked closely with several Montana governors and senators. Included in the papers are letters written by Mike Mansfield, Lee Metcalf, John Melcher, James E. Murray, and Burton K. Wheeler as well as governors Sam C. Ford, John W. Bonner, Tom Judge, and Ted Schwinden. Billings also collected the papers of Colonel Jerome G. Locke who was appointed General Surveyor of Montana by President Taft. Included in the Billings papers is Locke's certificate of his appointed signed by Taft. The Billings papers have been topically divided into series.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Series 1 Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Speeches, 1946-1984

Series 2 Labor Movement, 1944-1979

Series 3 Montana AFL-CIO, 1956-1984

Series 4 General Subject Files, 1940-1981

Series 5 Individuals, 1947-1984

Series 6 The Right Wing, 1948-1968

Series 7 Group Research, Incorporated, 1961-1967

Series 8 Photographs and Audio Recordings, 1948-1974

### Acquisition Information

Harry L. and Gretchen Billings donated their business and personal papers to Special Collections in the fall of 1982. A separate donation of papers in 1984, originally accessioned as collection 2123, was combined with this collection during processing.

### Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 April 1

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series 1: Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Speeches, 1946-1984

Through their work with *The People's Voice* and the labor movement, the Billings corresponded with many people across the state. This series contains correspondence with labor leaders and people voicing their support or disagreement over various political issues. The bulk of the letters were written when the Billings were editors of *The People's Voice*. Most of letters are connected with the paper, but a few are personal letters to Harry and Gretchen. The Billings were also ardent spokespersons for labor and the Democratic party and were often asked to speak at various functions. This series also contains speeches and radio broadcasts the Billings made in conjunction with their position with the paper. The bulk of the letters in Series 1 is general and some personal correspondence. The only specific topics contained in this series are the Grain Terminal Association, the Hillman Award, and the Billings's retirement from *The People's Voice*. Correspondence relating to specific topics such as the labor movement, the AFL-CIO, and the right wing are found in Series 2-6.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1946-1948
1/2	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1950-1953
1/3	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1954-1955
1/4	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	February to April 1956
1/5	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	May to December 1956
1/6	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to March 1957
1/7	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	April to May 1957
1/8	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	June to December 1957
1/9	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to April 1958

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1/10	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	May to August 1958
1/11	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	September to December 1958
1/12	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to May 1959
1/13	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	June to July 1959
1/14	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	August to December 1959
1/15	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to February 1960
1/16	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	March to April 1960
1/17	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	May to August 1960
1/18	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	September 1960
1/19	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	October 1960
1/20	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	November to December 1960
1/21	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to March 1961
1/22	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	April to July 1961
1/23	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	August to October 1961
1/24	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	November to December 1961

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1/25	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to May 1962
1/26	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	June to July 1962
1/27	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	August to December 1962
1/28	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to July 1963
1/29	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	August to September 1963
1/30	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	October to December 1963
1/31	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to April 1964
1/32	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	May 1964
1/33	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	June to July 1964
1/34	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	September to December 1964
1/35	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1965
2/1	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to March 1965
2/2	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	April 1965
2/3	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	May to June 1965
2/4	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	July to December 1965

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2/5	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to February 1966
2/6	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	March to July 1966
2/7	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	September to October 1966
2/8	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	November to December 1966
2/9	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to August 1967
2/10	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	September to December 1967
2/11	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	January to May 1968
2/12	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	June 1968 to 1969
2/13	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1972
2/14	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1973-1974
2/15	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1975
2/16	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1976
2/17	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1977-1981
2/18	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1982
2/19	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Correspondence	1983-1984
2/20	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Personal Correspondence	1968 to March 1969
2/21	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Personal Correspondence	April to December 1969

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/22	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Personal Correspondence	1970-1972
2/23	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Personal Correspondence	1973-1976
2/24	Grain Terminal Association Correspondence	1957 to January 1960
2/25	Grain Terminal Association Correspondence	February 1960 to 1961
2/26	Grain Terminal Association Correspondence	1962 to 1965; 1970
2/27	Grain Terminal Association Correspondence	1960; 1970
2/28	<a href="#">Hillman Award Correspondence</a>	November 1958 to March 1959
2/29	<a href="#">Hillman Award Correspondence</a>	April 1959
2/30	<a href="#">Hillman Award Correspondence</a>	May 1959
2/31	<a href="#">Hillman Award Correspondence</a>	June 1959
2/32	<a href="#">Hillman Award Correspondence</a>	July 1959 to 1961; 1967
2/33	<a href="#">Hillman Award Clippings</a>	1959
2/34	Correspondence about Harry L. and Gretchen Billings' Retirement	1968
2/35	Clippings about Harry L. and Gretchen Billings' Retirement	1968
3/1	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Radio Broadcasts	January 1953
3/2	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Radio Broadcasts	February to March 1953
3/3	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Radio Broadcasts	1957
3/4	Harry L. and Gretchen Billings Interviews	1975-1976

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3/5	Dean Stone Night, Correspondence and Speech	April 1976
3/6	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1960
3/7	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1962-1963
3/8	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1964
3/9	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1972
3/10	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1973
3/11	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1974
3/12	Harry L. Billings Speeches	1976-1978
3/13	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	1960
3/14	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	circa 1960-1969
3/15	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	1964-1967
3/16	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	circa 1964-1967
3/17	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	1969
3/18	Gretchen Billings Speeches,	circa 1969-1970
3/19	Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Speeches	1959-1961
3/20	Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Speeches	1962-1963
3/21	Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Speeches	1964-1965
3/22	Gretchen Billings Correspondence and Clippings for Speeches	1964-1967
3/23	Gretchen Billings Correspondence with Women in Politics	1959-1972
3/24	Gretchen Billings Women in Politics Questionnaire and Panels	1973
3/25	Gretchen Billings Notes about Teaching Communism	1961-1963



## Series 2: Labor Movement, 1944-1979

One area of specific interest to the Billings was the labor movement in Montana. Both Harry and Gretchen were involved in the farmer-labor institute, appearing at various conferences and meetings. This series contains mainly clippings dealing with the labor movement in Montana. It also contains correspondence with various labor leaders and programs from the Farmer-Labor Institute conferences during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. (The last conference was held in 1972)

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box/Folder</a>		
4/1	American Labor History Pamphlets, Samuel Gompers	
4/2	American Labor History Pamphlets, History of the Department of Labor	
4/3	American Labor History Pamphlets, Labor	
4/4	American Labor History Pamphlets, Unions	
4/5	American Labor History Clippings	1961-1976
4/6	Montana Labor History Correspondence	1967; 1973
4/7	Montana Labor History Correspondence	1974-1979
4/8	Montana Labor History Pamphlets	1973-1976
4/9	Montana Labor History Clippings	1944; 1967
4/10	Montana Labor History Clippings	1968-1969
4/11	Montana Labor History Clippings	1972-1973
4/12	Montana Labor History Clippings	1974
4/13	Montana Labor History Clippings	1975-1977
4/14	Montana Labor History Clippings	1978-1979
4/15	Montana Labor History Clippings	undated
4/16	Montana State Federation of Labor Golden Jubilee Year Book	1894-1944

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/17	Montana State Federation of Labor Convention	1951
4/18	Montana State Federation of Labor	1953-1955
4/19	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Correspondence	1956-1959
4/20	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Correspondence	1967-1970
4/21	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Correspondence	1972
4/22	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Conference Programs	1952-1972
4/23	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Conference Summaries and Addresses	1949-1970
4/24	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Articles, Notes, and Committee Members	1953-1972
4/25	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Finances and Receipts	1972
4/26	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1951-1958
4/27	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1961
4/28	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1962
4/29	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1963
4/30	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1965-1968
4/31	Montana Farmer-Labor Institute Clippings	1972

### Series 3: Montana AFL-CIO, 1956-1984

After retiring from *The People's Voice*, Harry and Gretchen remained vocal about labor issues in Montana. During the 1970s, Harry became the Director of Education and Research of the Montana State AFL-CIO. This series contains correspondence with AFL-CIO leaders, especially James Murray, AFL-CIO publications, including the COPE pamphlets from 1979 to 1982, statements made by Harry and other AFL-CIO leaders at various hearings, information about the internal fight within AFL-CIO in 1978, and clippings about various topics pertaining to the AFL-CIO. Box 7 in this series contains the Montana State AFL-CIO Year Books from 1957-1983 (broken run).

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/1	Montana AFL-CIO Merger	1956
5/2	Montana AFL-CIO Correspondence	1962-1973
5/3	Montana AFL-CIO Correspondence	1974-1979
5/4	Montana AFL-CIO Correspondence	1980-1984
5/5	Montana AFL-CIO Budget	1971-1975
5/6	Montana AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education	1959
5/7	Montana AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education	1963
5/8	Montana AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education Clippings	1962-1963
5/9	Montana AFL-CIO "COPE" Pamphlets	1979-1980
5/10	Montana AFL-CIO "COPE" Pamphlets	1981
5/11	Montana AFL-CIO "COPE" Pamphlets	1982
5/12	Montana AFL-CIO Environmental Legislation	1974
5/13	Montana AFL-CIO Hearings and Statements	1971-1973
5/14	Montana AFL-CIO Hearings and Statements	1974
5/15	Montana AFL-CIO Internal Fight Correspondence	1978
5/16	Montana AFL-CIO Internal Fight Executive Board Meeting Minutes	December 12, 1977
5/17	Montana AFL-CIO Internal Fight Executive Board Meeting Minutes	February 25, 1978
5/18	Montana AFL-CIO Internal Fight Executive Board Meeting Minutes	May 6, 1978
5/19	Montana AFL-CIO Internal Fight Clippings	1977-1978

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/20	Montana AFL-CIO Legislative Reports	1974-1979
5/21	Montana AFL-CIO Legislative Support	1972-1974
5/22	Montana AFL-CIO Occupational and Safety and Health Bill	1973-1974
5/23	Montana AFL-CIO Pamphlets	
6/1	Montana AFL-CIO <i>The People's Voice</i> Correspondence	1968
6/2	Montana AFL-CIO <i>The People's Voice</i> Clippings	1968
6/3	Montana AFL-CIO Statements and Publications	1964-1967
6/4	Montana AFL-CIO Statements and Publications	1972-1973
6/5	Montana AFL-CIO Statements and Publications	1974
6/6	Montana AFL-CIO Statements and Publications	1975-1978; 1980-1981
6/7	Montana AFL-CIO Clippings	1957-1958
6/8	Montana AFL-CIO Clippings	1972-1979
6/9	Montana AFL-CIO Clippings	1980-1984
7/1	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1957
7/2	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1958
7/3	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1961-1962
7/4	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1966
7/5	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1967
7/6	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1968
7/7	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1969
7/8	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1970

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/9	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1971
7/10	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1972
7/11	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1973
7/12	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1974
7/13	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1975
7/14	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1976
7/15	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1977
7/16	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1978
7/17	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1979
7/18	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1980
7/19	Montana State AFL-CIO Year Book	1983
7/20	Montana State AFL-CIO Delegate Handbook	1971
7/21	Montana State AFL-CIO Delegate Handbook	1973
7/22	Montana State AFL-CIO Delegate Handbook	1974

#### **Series 4: General Subject Files, 1940-1981**

The Billings were interested in a wide range of topics and issues. As editors of *The People's Voice* and during their retirement, they kept clippings, articles, and publications on various subjects, mainly dealing with labor and the right wing movement. This series contains subject headings arranged in alphabetical order of the various clippings and research Harry and Gretchen collected on topics such as the Democratic party, environmental concerns, gambling, land use, the legislature, Paradise Dam, poverty, taxation, and Young Americans for Freedom. Two main topics in this series are the Montana bicentennial and the fight against the proposed sales tax in 1971. As one of the main leaders in the opposition to the sales tax, Harry corresponded with many people across the state in order to defeat the tax. This series contains that correspondence and other materials used in the fight against the sales tax.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/1	ACM Strike	1967-1968
8/2	America's Future Background Information and Articles	
8/3	America's Future Textbook Evaluation	
8/4	Bicentennial Commission Correspondence	1973
8/5	Bicentennial Commission Correspondence	1974
8/6	Bicentennial Commission Correspondence	1975
8/7	Bicentennial Commission Correspondence	1976
8/8	Bicentennial Commission Project Descriptions	
8/9	Bicentennial Commission Final Report to the Governor	October 16, 1975
8/10	Bicentennial Commission "The Bicentennial Era: 1972-1976" Pamphlet	1972-1976
8/11	Bicentennial Commission Bicentennial State Park, Three Forks	
8/12	Bicentennial Commission Clippings	1973-1975
9/1	Calendars: Goldwater; American Almanac Calendars: Goldwater, 1964; American Almanac, 1973	1964; 1973
9/2	Church League of America	1961
9/3	Coal	1972-1974
9/4	Coal Tax Correspondence and Clippings	1972-1974
9/5	Coal Tax Resolutions	1972-1974
9/6	Colstrip-Montana Power Company Correspondence	1966; 1977-1981
9/7	Colstrip-Montana Power Company Clippings	1972-1984

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/8	Communism Pamphlets and Clippings	1961-1962
9/9	Environmental and Legislative Concerns Legislative Reports, 1979; Clippings	1960; 1964; 1977; 1979
9/10	Democratic Party Platforms; Police Committee Democratic Party Platforms, 1972, 1976; Police Committee, 1981	1972; 1976; 1981
9/11	Democratic Party Clippings	1964-1981
9/12	Frank Dryman Case	1961-1962
9/13	Educational Cooperative Publishing Company of Montana	1939
9/14	Election Reform	1974
9/15	Environmental and Legislative Concerns "The Capital Monitor" Newsletter	1979
9/16	Environmental and Legislative Concerns Legislative Reports; Clippings Environmental and Legislative Concerns Legislative Reports, 1979; Clippings, 1969-1979	1979; 1969-1979
9/17	Free Press	1977-1979
9/18	Gambling	1977
9/19	Hellgate Herald	July 1965
9/20	Hellgate Herald	August 1965
9/21	Hellgate Herald	September to October 1965
9/22	House Un-American Committee	1961; 1967
9/23	KMON and KCAP Radio Stations	1961-1962
10/1	Land Use: SB625	1974
10/2	Legislative Reports	1973-1983

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/3	Legislative Reports Publications	1975-1983
10/4	Legislative Reports Clippings	1975; 1981-1985
10/5	Legislature: Annual v. Biennial	1974
10/6	Lewistown Speech Correspondence and Publications	1961-1965
10/7	Lewistown Speech Clippings	1960-1965
10/8	The Missoulian Centennial Edition	April 30, 1973
10/9	Montana Christian Conservative	July 1961 to June 1962
10/10	Montana History Conference	1974
10/11	Montana History Conference	1975
10/12	Montana and National Press Progressive Opinion Montana Newspapers	
	Daily Herald (Helena)	August 1867
	Free Press (Helena)	May 1930
	Great Falls News	January 1933
	Roundup Record-Tribune	March 1933
	The Scout (Terry)	November 1932
	Montana Standard (Butte)	June 1932
	The Western Progressive (Helena)	April 1932; December 1932; March 1933; April 1933
10/13	Montana and National Press Progressive Opinion National Newspapers	
	American Freedom (Kansas)	October 1932



Container(s)	Description	Dates
	The Bugle Call (Missouri)	July 1932
	Daily Worker (New York)	October 1931
	New York Times	January 1933
	The Progressive (Wisconsin)	April 1932; February 1933
	Vinita Daily Journal (Oklahoma)	February 1933
10/14	Nixon Support; League of Women Voters; Institute for American Democracy Nixon Support, 1956; League of Women Voters; Institute for American Democracy, 1967	1956; 1967
10/15	Pamphlets "Looking Toward a Sound Fiscal Policy"; "The Needle's Eye"; "Tax Facts and Figures"; "The NRAG Papers"	
10/16	Paradise Dam Testimonies and Legal Papers	1958-1959
10/17	Paradise Dam Publications	1958-1959
10/18	Paradise Dam Clippings	1958-1959
10/19	<i>The People's Voice</i> Investigation by David Rankin for National Farmers Union Service Corporation	
10/20	<i>The People's Voice</i> Correspondence	1940-1945
10/21	<i>The People's Voice</i> Correspondence	1947-1948
10/22	<i>The People's Voice</i> Correspondence	1951-1953; 1965
10/23	<i>The People's Voice</i> Clippings	1949; 1960-1966
11/1	<i>The People's Voice</i>	February to June 1963
11/2	<i>The People's Voice</i>	July 1963 to April 1964
11/3	Plains Nuclear Power Plant Correspondence and Publications	1965-1968

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
11/4	Plains Nuclear Power Plant Clippings	1967-1969
11/5	Poverty	1965
11/6	Proposed Northern Tier Pipeline	1978-1980
11/7	Sales Tax Correspondence	May 10-12, 1971
11/8	Sales Tax Correspondence	May 13-21, 1971
11/9	Sales Tax Correspondence	May 26-31, 1971
11/10	Sales Tax Correspondence	June 1-7, 1971
11/11	Sales Tax Correspondence	June 8-30, 1971
11/12	Sales Tax Correspondence	July 1-13, 1971
11/13	Sales Tax Correspondence	July 14-31, 1971
11/14	Sales Tax Correspondence	August 1971
11/15	Sales Tax Correspondence	September 1971
11/16	Sales Tax Correspondence	October 1-12, 1971
11/17	Sales Tax Correspondence	October 13-21, 1971
11/18	Sales Tax Correspondence	October 22-31, 1971
11/19	Sales Tax Correspondence	November 1971
11/20	Sales Tax Correspondence	December 1971
11/21	Sales Tax Correspondence	1972; 1981
11/22	Sales Tax Donations and Publications	1971
11/23	Sales Tax Clippings	1955; 1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/24	Slot Machines	1948-1949
11/25	Social Security	1981-1982
11/26	Taxation Clippings	1971-1977
11/27	Thunder on the Right Correspondence and Publications	1954-1961
11/28	Thunder on the Right Clippings	1949; 1953-1963
12/1	United States Congress Roll Call Votes	1963
12/2	Up with People	1967
12/3	The Vigilant Citizen (Sidney); The Western Voice The Vigilant Citizen (Sidney) June 1961 to January 1962; The Western Voice September 1961	June 1961 to January 1962; September 1961
12/4	Voting Record Pamphlets	1957-1961
12/5	Voting Record Pamphlets	1963-1969
12/6	Voting Record	1948-1983
12/7	"Wheeling" Contracts	1951-1952
12/8	Young Americans for Freedom Correspondence	1959-1963
12/9	Young Americans for Freedom Newsletters	November 1961 to March 1962
12/10	Young Americans for Freedom Newsletters	April to October 1962
12/11	Young Americans for Freedom Newsletters	December 1962 to May 1963
12/12	Young Americans for Freedom Newsletters	May to December 1963
12/13	Young Americans for Freedom Newsletters	January 1964 to February 1965

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12/14	Young Americans for Freedom Clippings	1961-1965

## Series 5: Individuals, 1947-1984

Like the subject headings, the Billings gathered information on several individuals in Montana. This series contains correspondence and clippings about major personalities in Montana. Billings also collected the papers of Colonel Jerome G. Locke which includes his correspondence. Of special interest in this series are letters written by national government officials such as John F. Kennedy, Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, and Jeanette Rankin. Letters written by Montana leaders such as Mike Mansfield, Lee Metcalf, John Melcher, Burton K. Wheeler, and James E. Murray as well as from several Montana governors are also included in this series.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box/Folder</a>		
12/15	Governor Tim Babcock Young Americans for Freedom and United States Day in Montana	1963-1965
12/16	Governor Tim Babcock Clippings	1962-1966
13/1	Governor John W. Bonner Letters	May 1951
13/2	Dorothy Bradley Correspondence	1977-1983
13/3	Frank Church; Orvin Fjare	
13/4	Joseph M. Dixon, Clippings about his death	1975
13/5	Dorothy Floerchinger Correspondence; Speech Dorothy Floerchinger Correspondence, 1972; Speech 1962	1972; 1962
13/6	Governor Sam C. Ford Letter	July 7, 1947
13/7	Edmund L. Freeman Correspondence and Clippings	1960; 1974-1977
13/8	Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey Letter	April 1, 1965
13/9	John Jarussi Correspondence and Clippings	1962
13/10	Governor Tom Judge Letters	1973-1974; 1977
13/11	Governor Tom Judge Clippings	1965-1975

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/12	John F. Kennedy Letter	March 15, 1959
13/13	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Biographical notes by Harry L. Billings; Correspondence	1947-1949
13/14	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	January to June 1950
13/15	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	July to December 1950
13/16	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	January to March 1951
13/17	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	April to June 1951
13/18	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	July to September 1951
13/19	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	October to November 1951
13/20	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Correspondence	1952-1954
13/21	Colonel Jerome G. Locke Pamphlets, "A Sign of the Times"; "Conclusions"	
13/22	Senator Mike Mansfield Letters	1950; 1959; 1963; 1969
13/23	Lowndes Maury, Correspondence about	1974-1981
13/24	Senator John Melcher Letters	1969-1983
13/25	Senator John Melcher Clippings	1976-1979
13/26	Perry Melton; Mel Hoy	1947; 1978; 1983
13/27	Senator Lee Metcalf Letters	1958-1972
13/28	Senator James E. Murray Letters	1959-1960

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/29	Thomas Payne: "Interest Groups in Montana"	1984
13/30	Governor Ted Schwinden Letters	1981-1982
13/31	Ernest Salvas Correspondence and Clippings	1955; 1963-1966
13/32	Jeannette Rankin Letters	May 1973
13/33	Jeannette Rankin Clippings and Articles	1972-1980
13/34	Sharon Van Quill: Paper on Dan Smoot	
13/35	Dan Whetstone Correspondence and Clippings	1946-1964
13/36	Senator Burton K. Wheeler Letter	June 19, 1956
13/37	Senator Burton K. Wheeler: "Meet the Press" transcript	December 31, 1945
13/38	Anita Wilford Correspondence	1967-1968
13/39	Anita Wilford: " <i>The People's Voice</i> : Crusader for More Rigid Control of the Montana Power Company"	

## Series 6: The Right Wing, 1948-1968

Of particular interest to the Billings and a large portion of their research dealt with the Right Wing, especially the John Birch Society. This series contains correspondence about the right wing and research material about their activities. All of Box 15 contains clippings about the radical right.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
14/1	Right Wing Correspondence; "Smear" groups Right Wing Correspondence, 1948-1950; "Smear" groups	1948-1950
14/2	Right Wing Correspondence	1962
14/3	Right Wing Correspondence	1963
14/4	Right Wing Correspondence	1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/5	Right Wing Correspondence	1965
14/6	Right Wing Articles and Publications	1962
14/7	Right Wing Articles and Publications	1963
14/8	Right Wing Articles and Publications	1964
14/9	Right Wing Articles and Publications	1965
14/10	Right Wing Articles and Publications	1966
14/11	Right Wing Against Organized Labor	1966
14/12	Right Wing, American Legion	1947-1952
14/13	Right Wing John Birch Society	1959 to April 1961
14/14	Right Wing John Birch Society	May 1961 to 1963
14/15	Right Wing Notes about Montana Power, Cattlemen Association, Attack on Dr. Borden at MSU in Missoula	1964
14/16	Right Wing Sidney Anti-Communist Movement Correspondence	1959-1966
14/17	Right Wing Sidney Anti-Communist Movement Clippings	1948-1964
14/18	Right Wing Background Material Clippings	
15/1	Right Wing Clippings	1950; 1960
15/2	Right Wing Clippings ( <i>The People's Voice</i> response) Right Wing Clippings, 1961 ( <i>The People's Voice</i> response, 1963)	1961; 1963
15/3	Right Wing Clippings (used again) Right Wing Clippings, 1961 (used again in 1964)	1961; 1964
15/4	Right Wing Clippings	January to April 1961

Container(s)	Description	Dates
15/5	Right Wing Clippings	May to December 1961
15/6	Right Wing Clippings	January to February 1962
15/7	Right Wing Clippings	March to December 1962
15/8	Right Wing Clippings	1963
15/9	Right Wing Clippings	1964
15/10	Right Wing Clippings	1965
15/11	Right Wing Clippings	1966
15/12	Right Wing Clippings	1967-1968

## Series 7: Group Research, Incorporated, 1961-1967

This series contains the directory compiled by Group Research, Incorporated. The directory was designed to provide journalists, organization leaders, public officials, and others with reference information on radical groups and individuals. It is divided into four sections: Organizations, Individuals, Publications, and Special Reports.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
16/1	Group Research Directory Information, Organizations List	
16/2	Group Research Organizations, A to American Good Government	
16/3	Group Research Organizations, American Opinion to Association	
16/4	Group Research Organizations, B to Commission	
16/5	Group Research Organizations, Committee to D	
16/6	Group Research Organizations, F	



Container(s)	Description	Dates
16/7	Group Research Organizations, H-I	
16/8	Group Research Organizations, John Birch Society	
16/9	Group Research Organizations, John Birch Society Clippings	1961-1965
16/10	Group Research Organizations, L	
16/11	Group Research Organizations, M-N	
16/12	Group Research Organizations, O-Y	
16/13	Group Research Individuals, Index	
16/14	Group Research Individuals, A-C	
16/15	Group Research Individuals, D-G	
16/16	Group Research Individuals, H-J	
16/17	Group Research Individuals, K-M	
16/18	Group Research Individuals, N-P	
16/19	Group Research Individuals, R-S	
16/20	Group Research Individuals, T-Z	
17/1	Group Research Publications, Bibliography to G	
17/2	Group Research Publications, H-L	
17/3	Group Research Publications, M-W	
17/4	Group Research Special Reports, #1-6	
17/5	Group Research Special Reports, #7-11	
17/6	Group Research Special Reports, #12-13	
17/7	Group Research Special Reports, #16-17, 19	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
17/8	Group Research Reports	1962
17/9	Group Research Reports	1963
17/10	Group Research Reports	1964-1965
17/11	Group Research Reports	1966
17/12	Group Research Reports	1967-1968

## Series 8: Photographs and Audio Recordings, 1948-1974

This series contains photographs and audio recording collected by the Billings. The bulk of the photographs were printed in *The People's Voice*, but the people and events are unidentified here. Most of the audio recordings are speeches Harry and Gretchen made in conjunction with *The People's Voice* and speeches made by Henry A. Wallace during his presidential candidacy in 1948.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box/Folder</a>		
18/1	Photographs, #1-10	
	#1-2 unidentified charter presentation	
	#3-4 unidentified conference	
	#5-10 unidentified people	
18/2	Photographs, #11-20	
	#11-17 unidentified people	
	#18-20 Gretchen Billings	
18/3	Photographs, #21-29	
	#21 Gordon Twedt and Gretchen Billings	
	#22 James Umber, Joyce Hrovda, Joe Crosswhite in front of Montana AFL-CIO building	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	#23 Friends of Jerome G. Locke	
	#24 oil well	circa 1925
	#25 aerial view of city	
	#26 billboard to impeach Earl Warren	
	#27 close-up of billboard to impeach Earl Warren	
	#28 Farmer's Union Insurance road sign with communist hammer and sickle spray painted on it, outside of Sidney, Montana	
	#29 Farmer's Union Insurance road sign with communist hammer and sickle spray painted on it, outside of Sidney, Montana	
18/4	Audio Recordings, Legislative Broadcast, Gretchen Billings	January 26, 1957; February 10, 1957
18/5	Audio Recordings, Final Legislative Broadcast, Gretchen Billings	March 2-3, 1957
18/6	Audio Recordings, Legislative Broadcast, Gretchen Billings	undated
18/7	Audio Recordings, <i>The People's Voice</i> Comment; Comments Concerning <i>The People's Voice</i> , R. E. Davis	
18/8	Audio Recordings, Mort Borden, MSC (2 tapes)	March 1963
18/9	Audio Recordings, Lyman Brewster; John F. Kennedy: Highlights of Speeches	
19/1	Audio Recordings, Montana Looks to the Future: Indians of Montana, Sister Providencia; Plains	December 28, 1963
19/2	Audio Recordings, Harry L. and Gretchen Billings: Interview with Steve Kelly (tapes 1-3)	November 18-19, 1974

Container(s)	Description	Dates
19/3	Audio Recordings, Harry L. and Gretchen Billings: Interview with Steve Kelly (tapes 4-6)	November 18-19, 1974
19/4	Audio Recordings, KMON and KCAP Radio	1961-1962
19/5-6	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Speeches	1948
19/7	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 1-2	
19/8	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 3-4	
19/9	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 5-6	
19/10	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 7-8	
19/11	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 9-10	
19/12	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 11-12	
19/13	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 13-14	
19/14	Audio Recordings, Henry A. Wallace Convention, 15-20	
<b>Folder</b>		
Oversized	This folder contains information from series 5, certificates of Jerome G. Locke, including his appointed certificated signed by President Taft. It also contains a map out of series 4 of the Columbia River Basin.	

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976-Montana

Labor journalism-Montana-Helena

Labor unions-Montana

Labor unions-Political activity-Montana

Newspaper editors-Montana-Helena

People's voice (Helena, Mont.)

Political activists-Montana-Helena

Press, Labor-Montana-Helena

Right-wing extremists-Montana

Sales tax-Montana  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975-Protest movements-Montana  
Women newspaper editors-Montana-Helena  
Women political activists-Montana-Helena

**Personal Names :**

Bonner, John W. (John Woodrow), 1902-1970-Correspondence  
Ford, Sam C. (Sam Clarence), 1882-1961-Correspondence  
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978-Correspondence  
Judge, Thomas L. -Correspondence  
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963-Correspondence  
Mansfield, Mike, 1903-2001-Correspondence  
Melcher, John, 1924--Correspondence  
Metcalf, Lee, 1911-1978-Correspondence  
Murray, James E. -Correspondence  
Rankin, Jeannette, 1880-1973-Correspondence  
Schwinden, Ted-Correspondence  
Wheeler, Burton K. (Burton Kendall), 1882-1975-Correspondence

**Corporate Names :**

John Birch Society  
Montana State AFL-CIO  
Republican Party (Mont.)

**Geographical Names :**

Helena (Mont.)-Newspapers  
Montana-Politics and government-20th century

**Other Creators :**

**Personal Names :**

Billings, Gretchen  
(creator)  
Billings, Harry L., 1913-1990  
(creator)  
Locke, Jerome G. (Jerome George), b. 1882  
(creator)  
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930  
(creator)

**Corporate Names :**

Group Research, Inc  
(creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009