

Inventory of the

Dennis J. Collins

DeKalb, Illinois

Papers

In the

Regional History Center

RC 5

INTRODUCTION

The Collins Collection came to Regional History Collections of the Northern Illinois University in late 1974 following Senator Collins' death in September. The collection was donated to the University by Senator Collins in 1973 prior to his death. University Archivist J. Joseph Bauxar transferred the collections to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in June 1978.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

Linear Feet of Shelf Space: 16.25
Number of Containers: 17 boxes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 5

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in the collection partially document three areas of Collins' professional activities. The collection contains general correspondence concerning Collins' personal business dealings from 1931 to 1974, correspondence and topical literature related to Collins' duties as State Representative (1931-1943) and State Senator (1943-1973), and correspondence from Collins' legal practice with most materials involving specific legal cases.

This collection represents a modest portion of Collins' total professional records. The day-to-day activities of the Illinois State Legislature for some years are especially well documented, while other years are poorly represented or lacking totally.

The researcher should be aware that the legislative correspondence prior to 1953 is arranged chronologically, the year 1953 is ordered by place of origin, and later materials are filed by topic and by the House Bill or Senate Bill concerned.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Dennis J. Collins was born on November 21, 1900, in Gifford, Illinois. His family moved to DeKalb in 1910. He married Gertrude Kellman in 1944 and they had three children. Collins attended NIU and the University of Illinois and studied law at Northwestern. In 1928 he opened a law office in DeKalb and continued his practice until his death in 1974. He owned 480 acres of land in DeKalb County as well as business property in DeKalb.

Dennis J. Collins served a record forty-two years in the Illinois State Legislature with twelve spent as a Representative and thirty as a Senator. He stepped down in 1973 to a ten-minute standing ovation from his colleagues.

A conservative Republican, Collins was a long-term chairman of the Illinois Agriculture Committee in both the House and Senate and was chairman of the Municipalities Committee for twelve years. He championed veteran's legislation and benefits as well as better pensions for the aged and infirm. He introduced much of the legislation furthering the welfare of Northern Illinois University, but in the late nineteen sixties became a leading opponent of campus protests and student demonstrations. As a state senator Collins sponsored and was instrumental in the passing of tollway legislation. One of his last achievements was the establishment of Shabbona State Park.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture
Apportionment
Collins, Dennis J.
Discrimination
Dixon
East West Tollway
Education
General Assembly
Legislators
N.I.U.
Politics
Shabbona
Student Movements

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Biographical Data and Correspondence		
1	1	Biographical Data, 1942-1974
	2	Photographs, 1952-1974 (16)
	3	Speeches, Legislative Speech Record, 1947-?
	4-5	Salute to Senator Collins Recognition Dinner 1966
	6-28	General Correspondence, 1931-1941
2	1-32	General Correspondence, 1941 (T)- 1951 (O)
3	1-19	General Correspondence, 1951 (P)-1961
4	1-9	General Correspondence, 1962-1967
	10-21	General Correspondence, 1968-1973
	22	Legislative Correspondence, 1931
5	1-29	Legislative Correspondence, 1933-1943
6	1-27	Legislative Correspondence 1944-1953
7	1-38	Legislative Correspondence 1953-1957
8	1-42	Legislative Correspondence, 1957-1963
9	1-40	Legislative Correspondence, 1963-1968
10	1-50	Legislative Correspondence, 1968-1971
11	1-8	Legislative Correspondence, 1971-1972
Series II. Topical Correspondence		
	9	Advisory Board, Livestock Commission, 1967
	10	Commission on Aging, 1960-1967
	11	Agriculture, 1965-1971
	12	Air Pollution, 1969
	13	Appointments, Legislative, 1969-1971

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
11	14	Bank Lists, 1965-1966	
	15	Big Brother Steering Committee, 1970-1971	
	16	Bills to be Supported, 1967-1972	
	17	Bingo, 1971	
	18	Bonus, Illinois Veterans, 1947-1951	
	19	Brochures, Campaign, 1966	
	20	Campaign, 1952	
	21	Campus Disturbance, 1970-1971	
	22	Chamber of Commerce, DeKalb, 1963-1968	
	23	Committee Appointments, 1970-1971	
	24	Congratulations, 1966-1967	
	25	Conservation, 1971-1972	
	26	Constitutional Convention, 1967-1969	
	27	County Problems, 1966-1972	
	28	DeKalb City, 1962-1969	
	29	DeKalb Post Office, 1970-1971	
	30	Corrections, Illinois, 1971	
	31	Chicago Dixon Road, 1948	
	32	Eastern Illinois University, 1964	
	33	Education, 1964-1969	
	34	Elgin Airport, 1969	
	35	Endorsements, 1965	
	36	Export Advisory Commission, 1969	
	37	Family Study Commission, 1967-1968	
	38	General Assembly Retirement System, 1947-1951	
	39	Federal Drug Study Commission, 1965-1968	
	40	Highways, 1969-1971	
	41	Illinois Building Authority, 1972	
	42	Insurance, 1970-1971	
	43	Illinois Small Business Commission, 1945-1947	
	44	Illinois Veterans Commission, 1945-1947	
	45-54	Invitations, 1958-1971	
	12	1-2	Invitations, 1972-1974
		3	Junior Colleges, 1967
4		Kendall County, 1971	
5		Kishwaukee College, 1969-1971	
6		Lankton, William, 1953	
7		Meat Inspection, 1967-1968	
8		Mental Health, 1967-1970	
9		Misc. Political, 1969-1970	
10		Municipal Regate, 1969	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
12	11	News Releases - Boone County, 1965-1966	
	12	News Releases - DeKalb County, 1965-1966	
	13	News Releases - Kane County, 1965-1966	
	14	News Releases - Kendall County, 1965	
	15	News Releases - McHenry County, 1965-1966	
	16	News Releases - Winnebago County, 1965-1966	
	17	News Releases, 1965-1966	
	18-20	N.I.U., 1965-1971	
	21	N.I.U. and Illinois Assembly Scholarships, 1963-1972	
	22	Northwestern Railroad, 1970	
	23	Open Occupancy	
	24	Parochial Schools	
	25	Personal Property Tax, 1971	
	26	Petitions, 1962-1966	
	27	Pollution, 1970-1971	
	28	Public Instruction, Illinois, 1967	
	29-30	Publicity 1947-1963	
	31	Questionnaire 1966-1970	
	32	Racing Tickets, Requests, 1957-1962	
	33	Race Track Passes, 1966-1970	
	34	Racing Revenue, 1970	
	35	Recommendations for state jobs, 1955-1972	
	36	References, 1966-1972	
	37	Refund of Sales Tax, 1972	
	38	Republican Women, 1965	
	39	Sandwich Lake Project, 1946	
	40	Scholarships, 1970-1971	
	41	School Directories, 1965	
	42	Schrader, Barry, 1971	
	43	Senate Dinners, 1965	
	44	Sesquicentennial, 1968	
	45	Shabbona Lake State Park, 1970-1973	
	46	Speech Material, 1970	
	47	Springfield, 1972	
	48	Sycamore, 1967-1969	
	49	Tax Information, 1972	
	50-52	Thank You, 1965-1967	
	53	University of Illinois, 1964-1971	
	54	University of Illinois, Scholarships, 1964-1973	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series III. Topical Literature		
13	1	Urban Renewal, 1968
	2	Veterinarians, 1969-1970
	3	Viet Nam Bonus, 1966-1967
	4	Vocational Rehabilitation, 1969
	5	Water Resource Commission, 1966-1968
	6	White House Conference on Aging, 1971
	7	Winnebago County G.O.P. Plae Dae, 1967
	8	Workman's Compensation, 1967
	9	Wurlitzer, 1970
	10	Young Republican Club, 1965
	11	Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners
	12-13	Aging and Aged, Commission on
	14-17	Agriculture
	18-19	Agriculture Committees, 1963-1965
	20	Agriculture Grain
	21	Agriculture - Mailing Lists
	22	Agriculture, 1957
	23	Air Pollution
	24	Annie Glidden Extension, 1967
	25	Appointments
	26	Arrington Press Releases
	27	Bank lists
	28	Bills to be supported, 1967
	29-30	Bills, 1968-1973
	31	Brochure
	32	Campaigns, elections
	33	Campus disturbance
	34	Chamber of Commerce
	35	Circuit Court File
	36	Colleges
	37	Commission on state government
	38	Committee Appointments
	39	Committee of Elections
	40	Committees, Special
	41	Communism
	42	Conservation
	43-44	Constitutional Convention
	45	County Problems Commission, file 1
14	1	County Problems Commission, file 2

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
14	2	Criminal Punishment	
	3	DeKalb, City of	
	4	DeKalb Road and Bridges Commission	
	5	DeKalb Schools	
	6	Department of Children	
	7	Dissent	
	8	Driver's Exam	
	9	Drugs	
	10-11	Education	
	12	Eighteen Year-old vote	
	13	Election Results, 1966	
	14	Elgin Airport	
	15	Endorsements	
	16	Environmental Protection Agency	
	17	Ethics Bill	
	18	Fair Employment Practices	
	19	Family Study Commission	
	20	Fire Protection District	
	21	Flags	
	22-23	Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Pesticide Laws Study Commission	
	24	General Assembly Retirement System	
	25	Governor's Mansion	
	26	Governor Dwight Green	
	27	Highways	
	28	House Bill 3319	
	29	Illinois Budget Commission	
	30	Illinois Building Authority	
	31	Illinois Legislative Council	
	32	Illinois Small Business Commission	
	33	Illinois State Employment Insurance	
	34	Illinois State Federation of Labor	
	35	Illinois State News	
	36	Illinois State Scholarship Commission	
	37	Illinois Veterans Commission	
	38	Illinois Workmans Compensation Act	
	39	Implied Consent	
	40	Insurance	
	41	Judiciary Commission	
	42	Junior Colleges	
	43	Kishwaukee College	
	44	Mailing Lists	
	45	Meat Committee	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	8
14	46	Mental Health	
	47	Misc. Commissions - Meeting Notices	
	48	Misc. Political, 1969-1970	
	49	Municipal Rebate	
	50	National Society of State Legislators	
15	1	News Releases	
	2	N.I.U. Impact Legislation	
	3	Nixon File (President Richard M.)	
	4	No Fault Insurance	
	5	Northwestern Railroad	
	6	Nurses - Food Samaritan Law	
	7-8	Open Occupancy	
	9	Ogilvie, Richard B.	
	10	Orders	
	11	Personal Information sheet - DJC (Dennis J. Collins)	
	12	Personal property tax	
	13	Pollution	
	14	Primary Election, 1966	
	15	Public Aid	
	16	Public Health, Dept. of	
	17	Public Education	
	18-21	Publicity, 1947-1963	
	22	Political - Misc.	
	23	Politics, 1972	
	24	Questionnaires	
	25	Real Estate License Law Requirement	
	26-27	Reapportionment	
	28	Rent Control	
	29	Republican Filings, June 1966	
	30	Republican Legislative Bulletin	
	31	Republican Women	
	32	Resolutions by Dennis J. Collins	
	33	Revenue - Proposed Revenue Amendment, 1966	
	34	Revenue and Income Tax	
	35	Scenic River Bill	
	36	Scholarships	
	37	Scholarship Commission (Ill. State)	
	38	School Directories - 33rd District	
	39	School Prayer	
	40	School Problems Commission	
	41	Senate Dinner, July 29, 1965	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
15	42	Senate Hearing, Oct. 14, 1970
	43	Shabbona Lake
	44	Snow Mobiles
	45	Soil and Water Conservation
	46	State Candidates
	47	Special Education
	48-50	Speech Material, 1967-1970
	51	Speech File, 1971
Series IV. Legal Correspondence		
	52	Speeches, 1967-1970
16	1	Springfield
	2	Springfield Scenes
	3	Springfield File, 1972
	4	State Fair
	5	State Income Tax
	6	State of Illinois - Treasurer's Report
	7	State Senators - 1973 78th G.A.
	8-10	State Vouchers, 1970-1972
	11	Swine Disease Committee
	12	Sycamore, City of
	13	Tax Information
	14	Thirty-Third Senatorial District
	15	Traffic and Transportation Committee
	16	Transit - CTA
	17	Travel Vouchers, 1965
	18	United States Post Office
	19	University Civil Service System of Ill.
	20	University of Illinois
	21	Veterans Organizations
	22-23	Water Resource Management Commission
	24	White House Conference on Aging
	25	Workmen's Compensation
	26	Young Republicans
	27-38	Legal Correspondence, A-Z
	39	Legal Correspondence General Legal
	40	Legal Correspondence - Client's Name not given
17	1-4	Petitions from 1934, 1948, 1950 and 1958
	5	Petitions from 1961 plus letters related to petitions

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	10
17	6	Petitions, 1966	
	7	Parochial Schools	