

Harley Martin Kilgore (1893-1956), Senator, Papers A&M 1108

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1933-1956



Title Statement

Harley Martin Kilgore (1893-1956), Senator, Papers A&M 1108

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 1108

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/4352

Unit Date

1933-1956

Language

English

Abstract

Papers of Harley M. Kilgore, U.S. Senator from West Virginia. This collection includes typescripts, manuscripts, correspondence, and printed material. The majority of the collection pertains to domestic affairs topics, including political campaigns, the Rosier-Martin contest for the Senate in 1941, bills introduced or sponsored by Kilgore, papers dealing with his activities as juvenile judge, and papers relating to various organizations and societies. Most of these papers relate to individuals, including John L. Lewis, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and others.

Creator

Kilgore, Harley Martin, 1893-1956

Extent

1.7 Linear Feet 1 ft. 8 in. (4 document cases, 5 in. each); (2 oversize folders, 1/4 in.)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Harley Martin Kilgore (1893-1956), Senator, Papers, A&M 1108, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Harley Martin Kilgore (January 11, 1893 - February 28, 1956) was born in Brown, West Virginia, to Quimby and Laura Martin Kilgore. He received his LL.B. from West Virginia University in 1914 and was admitted to the bar the same year.

He taught school in Hancock, West Virginia in 1914 and 1915. Also in 1915, he organized the first high school in Raleigh County, WV, and served as principal. He established his law practice in Beckley, WV in 1916. During World War I, he served in the infantry from 1917 and was discharged as a captain in 1920. Kilgore married Lois Elaine Lilly in Huntington, WV on May 10, 1921. That same year, he helped organize the West Virginia National Guard, and was promoted to major and appointed commander of 2nd Battalion the following year. He also served as Beckley city recorder in 1922. His son, Robert Martin Kilgore, was born in 1924. His daughter, Elinor Stuart Kilgore, was born in 1926.

In 1932, Kilgore was assigned to the state headquarters of the National Guard. He was elected judge of the Raleigh County criminal court from 1933 to 1940 on the Democratic ticket. In 1940, he was elected to the

U.S. Senate with support from the Neely faction of the Democratic Party, and won reelection in 1946 and 1952. Also in 1940, he was placed on active military duty as judge advocate for West Virginia's Selective Service system until he entered the Senate. A member of the U.S. Senate from 1941 until his death, Kilgore served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program. In October 1942, he became chair of the Subcommittee on War Mobilization of the Military Affairs Committee (also known as the Kilgore Committee).

In 1948, Kilgore served as a delegate at the Democratic National Convention, where he was an outspoken supporter of Harry S. Truman. He retired from the West Virginia National Guard as a lieutenant colonel in 1953. He died in 1956 at age 63 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

Papers of Harley M. Kilgore, U.S. Senator from West Virginia. This collection includes typescripts, manuscripts, correspondence, and printed material. The majority of the collection pertains to domestic affairs topics, including political campaigns, the Rosier-Martin contest for the Senate in 1941, bills introduced or sponsored by Kilgore, papers dealing with his activities as juvenile judge, and papers relating to various organizations and societies. Most of these papers relate to individuals, including John L. Lewis, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and others.

Separated Materials

Memoirs of Raleigh County: Historical and Biographical, compiled by Charles B. Hedrick. Beckley, W.Va.: Wood Printing Co., 1932.

Related A&M Collections

491, 967, 1068, 1108, 1500, 3143, 3335

Keywords

Judges -- West Virginia
Political campaigns
Politics and government.
Politicians -- United States
West Virginia - Politics and government.
United States -- Politics and government
Politicians
United States. Civil Aeronautics Administration
United States. Congress. Senate
Kilgore, Harley Martin, 1893-1956
Lewis, John L. (John Llewellyn), 1880-1969
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972

Description of Subordinate Components

Kilgore Work as Juvenile Judge, Beckley, WV (two ledger pages moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136959

Unit Date ca. 1938

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Correspondence -- Rosier-Martin Contest of the Senate Seat Formerly Held by M.M. Neely

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136960

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Dr. Joseph Rosier Contest for U.S. Senate Won by Harvey Kilgore (multiple clippings and voting records moved to OS folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136961

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Neely's Successor (clipping moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136962

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Kilgore Certificate for U.S. Senate Campaign Speeches

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136963

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Kilgore Speeches

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136964

Unit Date 1944-1950

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Campaign Speeches of Harvey M. Kilgore -- Candidate for U.S. Senate

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136965

Unit Date ca. 1938-1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Campaign Speeches of Harvey M. Kilgore -- Candidate for U.S. Senate

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136966

Unit Date ca. 1938-1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Campaign (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136967

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Campaign Speeches, etc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136968

Unit Date 1952

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Campaign (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136969

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Bills)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136970

Unit Date 1941-1942

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Senator Kilgore's Bills)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136971

Unit Date 1939-1944

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Bills)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136972

Unit Date 1941-1944

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Bills)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136973

Unit Date 1945-1947

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Private Bills -- Copies -- Kilgore; three plat maps moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136974

Unit Date 1935-1946

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Kilgore's Personal Bills; clipping moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136975

Unit Date 1947-1952

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Politics; clipping moved to oversize folder 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136976

Unit Date 1952-1954

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Bills Introduced or Sponsored by Kilgore, and Related Papers (original title: Bills)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136977

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

John L. Lewis' Speeches (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136978

Unit Date 1941-1947

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

John L. Lewis (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136979

Unit Date 1941-1950

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

John L. Lewis (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136980

Unit Date 1939-1947

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 3a (Folder)

John L. Lewis (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136981

Unit Date 1939-1947

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 3b (Folder)

Franklin D. Roosevelt (primarily letters to the President) (clipping moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136982

Unit Date 1941-1950

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt (primarily letters to her; multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136983

Unit Date 1944-1946

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Harry S. Truman (both letters to and from Truman, including his signature)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136984

Unit Date 1949-1950

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Major S.C. Rothman (relating to employment of disabled veterans; multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136985

Unit Date 1942-1946

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Dewey Anderson (dealing with national and California politics)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136986

Unit Date 1949-1954

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

David Rosenstein (printed speeches on displaced Jews in Germany)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136987

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Kilgore Speeches on Mine Safety from the Congressional Record

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136988

Unit Date 1946-1952

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Professor Langdon P. Marvin, Jr. (relating to the Civil Aeronautics Administration)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136989

Unit Date 1951-1955

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Civil Aeronautics Administration

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136990

Unit Date 1949-1950

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

American Cancer Society Inc. and its West Virginia Affiliates

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136991

Unit Date 1951-1953

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

National Council of Churches

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136992

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Newsboys & Working Boys of America, Inc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136993

Unit Date 1956

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Service Star Legion

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136994

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Kilgore Speech -- "Democracy Begins At Home" (speech to B'nai B'rith; multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136995

Unit Date 1944-1945

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

U.S.S. West Virginia

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136996

Unit Date 1943-1947

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Labor's Daily Newspaper, Charleston, WV (clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136997

Unit Date 1952-1955

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

This Week Article (clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136998

Unit Date 1955

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Trials in Nuremberg

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/136999

Unit Date 1948

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

H.M. Kilgore -- Little, Brown & Company (contract regarding book on anti-monopoly)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137000

Unit Date 1946-1947

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Democratic Party -- Miscellaneous Speeches (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137001

Unit Date 1937-1941

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Kilgore and World Affairs (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137002

Unit Date 1951, 1955

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Coal, and Kilgore Speech on Science and the Government (multiple clippings moved to oversize folder 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137003

Unit Date 1945, 1950, 1954

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

News Clippings and Other Oversize Material from Boxes 1 and 2 (original folder noted on each item)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137004

Unit Date ca. 1933-1952

Mixed Materials Oversize (Folder)

Container 1 (Folder)

Clippings from boxes 3 and 4 (original folder noted on each clipping; also includes Hungarian newspaper with article Regarding John L. Lewis)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/137005

Unit Date ca. 1940s

Mixed Materials Oversize (Folder)

Container 2 (Folder)