

RICHARD M. BISSELL JR. PAPERS
FORD FOUNDATION SERIES
1951 – 1977; Box 1

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Richard Bissell joined the staff of the Ford Foundation in January 1952 after leaving the Economic Cooperation Administration (later the Mutual Security Agency). After a brief tenure he resigned in 1954. Document formats in this series include notes, correspondence, lists, reports, and drafts. Folders are arranged alphabetically with their contents in reverse chronological order.

Bissell's involvement with the Ford Foundation is discussed in depth in this series, particularly in the three "Inter-University Study of Labor Problems in Economic Development" folders. James L. Cochrane, associate professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and economic historian, wrote Bissell in 1976 to request his remembrances of his involvement in approving the Ford Foundation grant to the Inter-University Study of Labor Problems in Economic Development, later known as the Inter-University Study of Human Resources in Economic Development. Cochrane, with the support of the Ford Foundation, was at the time authoring a history of the study. Bissell responded with an October 18, 1976 letter detailing his activities at the Ford Foundation. Using Bissell's response and the records of the Ford Foundation, Cochrane authored drafts of two chapters (three and four) concerning the study and Bissell's involvement with both it specifically and the Ford Foundation in general. Both chapter drafts are included in this series.

During his time at the Ford Foundation, Bissell authored "Notes on U.S. Strategy" in 1952 and 1953 following the preparation of National Security Council paper (NSC-141) on the allocation of resources to U.S. security programs. In writing the NSC paper, Bissell worked in conjunction with Frank Nash and Paul Nitze under the direction of the Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett, and Director of Mutual Security William Averell Harriman. Bissell described it as, "the Truman administration's last will and testament on issues of national security." Using what he had learned from authoring NSC-141, Bissell wrote "Notes on U.S. Strategy" which dealt with the international military, political, and economic policy of the United States in the atomic age. In Bissell's own words from his autobiography entitled *Reflections of a Cold Warrior*:

"[I]t outlined what I believed to be to be the weakness of America's defense posture; namely, the U.S. strategy was ill-adapted to deal with the most threatening contingency in the struggle between the Soviet bloc and the Western coalition, which was not a deliberately planned overt invasion of Western Europe or Japan but a Communist-led internal revolution in the weaker states of Asia, Africa, and Latin America."

In addition, the document discusses the military strategy and position of the United States, the strengths and weaknesses of the military strategy of retaliation and possible alternatives, the components of the political and economic strategy of the United States and potential modifications. Both "Notes on U.S. Strategy" and supporting documentation are located in this

series.

George F. Kennan's *Notes for Essays, 1951 – 1952* is also located in this series. It is a conglomeration of works written by Kennan while he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey. They were created for a project undertaken by the Ford Foundation. Divided into parts, Part I is entitled "Reflections on the Element of Purpose in the Conduct of External Relations," Part II is entitled "Utopian Tendencies in United States Foreign Policy," Part III is entitled "The Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government for the Conduct of Foreign Affairs," and Part IV is entitled "Lectures, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense College, Paris (1951)."

The final folder in this series primarily contains financial and logistical information regarding Richard M. Bissell & Associates, an office which was supported by the Ford Foundation and financed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Contents include a list of papers written from October 1952 to November 1953 "during Bissell Project" and a progress report on the "Project on the International Position of the United States."

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

- 1 Ford Foundation "Inter-University Study of Labor Problems in Economic Development" Contact: James L. Cochrane (1) – (3)
- Ford Foundation "Notes on U.S. Strategy" (1952 – 1953) [1960 correspondence also present]
- [*Notes for Essays, 1951 – 1952* by George F. Kennan]
- Richard M. Bissell & Associates

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