

**FRED BURNETT RHODES, JR.  
COLLECTION**

**AR 570**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated August, 2012

# **Fred Burnett Rhodes, Jr. Collection**

## **AR 570**

### **Summary**

Main Entry: Fred Burnett Rhodes, Jr. Collection

Date Span: 1960 – 1980

Abstract: Fred Rhodes career included service in the military the United States government, the Republican Party and to the Baptist denomination. The collection includes correspondence, reports, committee files, newsletters, and other materials related to separation of church and state and Rhodes's leadership activities in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: 4 linear ft. (4 boxes)

Collection #: AR 570

### **Biographical Sketch**

Fred Burnett Rhodes, Jr. was born in Washington, D. C., December 17, 1913, the son of Fred Burnett and Florence (Shuffle) Rhodes. He received an undergraduate degree from Colgate University, in 1936, and a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1941. Rhodes worked as a claims adjuster for Maryland Casualty Company from 1936 – 1941.

In 1941, Rhodes entered the U. S. Army, attained the rank of Major, and was involved in the Manhattan (Atomic Bomb) project. He served as executive director of the Joint Commission on Atomic Energy, from 1947 – 1949; liaison officer for the CIA, 1949 – 1950; and chief counsel for the armed services committee of the U. S. Senate, 1953 – 1955. He was in a private law practice in Washington from 1955 to 1960, and, from 1960 – 1964, Rhodes served as general counsel for the Veterans Administration and minority counsel for the appropriations committee for the U. S. Senate. He was staff director for the Republican policy committee from 1964 – 1969 and was appointed by Richard Nixon to serve as deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration. He remained in that position until 1976.

An active Southern Baptist, Rhodes was vice-president of the D. C. Baptist Convention, 1962 – 1964, and president, 1964 – 1965. He served on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1964 – 1965, and was elected vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1970. From 1975 to 1980, he served on the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection is four linear feet of correspondence, reports, committee files, and other material concerning Rhodes's leadership activities in the Southern Baptist denomination and cover the years 1960 to 1980.

The papers were received from the Hoover Library at Stanford University, where the political papers of Rhodes are located. Rhodes was active in Republican Party politics.

The collection is divided into two series: one deals with his position on the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance (1975 –1980), and the other deals with his Baptist work at other levels. The later series deals primarily with his work with the D. C. Baptist Convention, his service on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and his leadership role in the President's Prayer breakfast and holding church services in the White House.

Both series are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Significant subject areas covered in the papers include: Church/State Relations, the Baptist World Alliance, the North American Baptist Fellowship, the D. C. Baptist Convention, and the Layman Hour radio program. The papers include a telegram from Richard Nixon, stating his view on church and state in the 1960 presidential campaign, and other material relating to Nixon. One folder of correspondence with the members of the staff of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association illustrated their political viewpoint during the 1968 presidential campaign.

The collection is open to researchers.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

### **Provenance**

Papers received from the Hoover Library at Stanford University, where his political records are located.

### **Preferred Citation**

Fred Burnett Rhodes, Jr. Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Hatfield, Mark O., 1922, Correspondence  
 Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913, Correspondence  
 District of Columbia Baptist Convention  
 Baptist World Alliance  
 Southern Baptist Convention

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association  
 Laity – Washington, DC  
 Laity – Baptists  
 Church and state – United States  
 Church and state – Baptists  
 Evangelicalism – United States  
 Baptists  
 Baptists – Washington, DC  
 Washington, DC – Churches and religious affairs – Baptist  
 Newsletters

## **Related Materials**

Fred Burnett Rhodes Collection, Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford, California.  
<http://findingaids.stanford.edu/xtf/view?docId=ead/hoover/81132.xml;query=;brand=default>

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- 1.2 Baptist Data, 1966 – 1968
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- 1.4 Baptist Layman Work, 1960 – 1961
- 1.5 Baptist Layman Work, 1961
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- 1.9 Committees – Southern Baptist Convention, 1964 – 1969
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- 1.13 Correspondence – Baptist Activities, 1967 – 1969
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- 1.15 D. C. Baptist Convention, 1964
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- 1.17 D. C. Baptist Convention – Capitol Baptist, 1961 – 1964
- 1.18 D. C. Baptist Convention – Education Committee
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- 2.21 D. C. Baptist Convention – Reports, 1904
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## II. Baptist World Alliance

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