

BROOKS HAYS PAPERS

AR 97



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

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Brooks Hays Papers

AR 97

Summary

Main Entry: Brooks Hays Papers

Date Span: 1950 – 1959

Abstract: Brooks Hays was a Baptist lawyer and congressman from Arkansas. The Brooks Hays Papers consists of his personal Baptist related files during his tenure as a trustee of the Christian Life Commission (1955 – 1960) and his service as Vice-President and President of the Southern Baptist Convention. The collection includes correspondence, publications, news releases, biographical information, reports, subject files, minutes of SBC agencies, addresses made by Hays, photographs, and articles.

Size: 4 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 97

Biographical Sketch

Brooks Hays was born August 9, 1898, in London, Arkansas, the only child of Adelbert Steele Hays and Sallie Butler Hays. He was baptized in 1909, a member of the Russellville Baptist Church in Russellville, Arkansas. In 1919, Hays graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and, in 1922, from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He also attended College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas and Salem College, Salem, West Virginia and received honorary LLD degrees from Mercer University and William Jewel College.

Hays was employed in the United States Treasury Department from 1919 – 1922. He married Marian Prather February 2, 1922, and the couple had two children, Betty and Marion. Hays was admitted to the Arkansas Bar Association in 1922, worked as a lawyer, and was also elected secretary of the State Democratic Convention. From 1925 to 1927, Hays was the Assistant Attorney General of Arkansas, and, in 1928, he ran for governor of the state.

While working as an attorney, Hays was a civic and church leader. He served as a member of the 78th – 85th Congress from Arkansas from 1943 to 1959, working on several important committees, including the Foreign Affairs Committee. In 1947, Hays addressed the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, and, in 1950, he was elected second Vice President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Hays worked as Chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the SBC from 1955 to 1957, and from 1957 to 1958, he served as President of the SBC. Hays served as special assistant to President John F. Kennedy, 1961 – 1966, and continued under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1962, Hays had audience with Pope John 23, and from 1965 to 1974, he was Director of the Ecumenical Institute at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. His

published works include This World: Christian's Workshop, A Southern Moderate Speaks, relating to the Little Rock crisis in race relations and Politics is my Parish, his autobiography.

Brooks Hays died in his home in Washington, D.C. October 12, 1981 at the age of 83.

Scope and Content Note

The Brooks Hays Papers, numbering approximately 4900 items, is primarily connected with his term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Also included in this collection are papers from his vice-presidency of the SBC in 1950 and his work with the Christian Life Commission. Mr. Hays was a member of the Christian Life Commission, from 1955 to 1960, and chairman of it in 1955 – 1956. Race relations and civil rights was a major issue during these years.

Some of the main subjects in the Brooks Hays Papers are: (1) American and Southern Baptists relations, (2) Church-State relations, (3) Ecumenicity, (4) Jubilee Advance, (5) Layman's Activities (6) his Moscow Trip, (7) Old Point Comfort Conferences, (8) Peace, (9) Race Relations, (10) Scouting, (11) Southern Seminary dismissal of 13 professors, (12) Sunday Voting, and (13) Survey Committee to study the total Southern Baptist Program.

Included among Hays correspondents are: Theodore F. Adams, Clifton J. Allen, Glenn L. Archer, O.K. Armstrong, Henlee H. Barnette, J. N. Barnette, Guy Bellamy, Walter Pope Binns, Howard Bramlette, Douglas Branch, Hugh A. Brimm, Claude Broach, Archie Brown, Qyril E. Bryant, Joe W. Burton, Paul M. Butler, Doak S. Campbell, Emanuel C. Carlson, Joe C. Carrington, Paul Caudill, B. J. Cauthen, Carr P. Collins, Dale Cowling, Norman W. Cox, Clarence Cranford, Edwin Dahlberg, Robt. S. Denny, J. P. Edmunds, Forrest C. Feezor, William Fulbright, Paul Geren, Victor T. Glass, Billy Graham, Wilbur E. Hammaker, Ethalee Hamric, Gabriel Hauge, Clyde Hickerson, H. H. Hobbs, Luther Holcomb, J. Edgar Hoover, W. L. Howse, Hubert H. Humphrey, Alma Hunt, John Jeter Hurt, E. S. James, Maxey Jarman, L. Howard Jenkins, C. Oscar Johnson, Alexander Karev, G. Kearnie Keegan, Estes Kefauver, Tom Law, Jr., Roland Q. Leavell, Avery Lee, E. E. Lee, Robert G. Lee, Homer G. Lindsay, Charles Malik, Orba Lee Malone, T. B. Maston, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, A. C. Miller, A. J. Moncrief, Lewis A. Myers, Duke McCall, Robert L. McCan, Albert McClellan, Dotson Nelson, Louie D. Newton, Franklin Owen, Daniel A. Poling, J. Manning Potts, Bruce Price, Edward H. Pruden, John G. Ram say, Courts Redford, William J. Reynolds, Porter Routh, Geo. W. Sadler, Leonard Sanderson, Geo. W. Schroeder, L. S. Sedberry, W. Hines Sims, E. D. Solomon, John Sparkman, Paul M. Stevens, J. W. Storer, James L. Sullivan, Monroe F. Swilley, L. H. Tapscott, Luther Joe Thompson, Harry Truman, Bryce Twitty, Foy Valentine, W. O. Vaught, Jr., C. C. Warren, J. B. Weatherspoon, James P. Wesberry, Hermond Westmoreland, John Williams, J. Howard Williams, Walter Williams, S. R. Woodson, Kyle M. Yates, and Jakov Zhidkov.

The papers of Brooks Hays (1898 – 1981), most of which were gathered while he was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from May 1957 to May 1959, were turned over to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission by Mr. Hays. They are arranged chronologically within subject headings and include 4 linear ft. of material.

Arrangement

Chronologically within subject headings and alphabetically by folder title

Provenance

Donated to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission (SBHLA) by Brooks Hays

Preferred Citation

Brooks Hays Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

Open

Subject Terms

Southern Baptist Convention – Christian Life Commission

Southern Baptist Convention – Presidents

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – History

Race relations – Religious aspects

Church and state

Related Materials

Brooks Hays Papers, University of Arkansas,

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/hays/hays.asp>

Brooks Hays Papers, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library,

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/BHPP.aspx>

Brooks Hays Papers, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University

<http://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/xmlui/handle/10339/27794>

Hays, Brooks. *A southern moderate speaks*, 1959

Oral memoir of Lawrence Brooks Hays, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Hays, Brooks. *Politics is my parish: an autobiography*, 1981

Container List**Box 1**

- 1.1 American Baptist Convention Letters, booklets, clippings, ABC Programs, 1957 (Golden Anniversary), 1958.
- 1.2 American Baptists and Southern Baptists relations – a letter and compilation of information about understanding between these groups.
- 1.3 Baptist Press – Hays 6th layman chosen SBC president. Hays renews devotion to Baptist principles. Report of his trip to Moscow. List of Baptist state papers with editor's names and addresses, 1958. Committee to study world peace authorized

- 1.4 Baptist World Alliance – Miscellaneous items, 1951 – 1958, including Toronto Youth Conference, 1958, Jubilee Advance, 1960 Budget proposal.
- 1.5 Baptists Concerning Little Rock – Correspondence and clippings.
- 1.6 Biographical Sketch.
- 1.7 Books and Magazine articles –“A Southern Moderate Speaks”, articles from Look and Christian Herald.
- 1.8 Brotherhood Commission – Correspondence and booklet. Statement to SBC survey committee – change of Commission status to a Board.
- 1.9 Canada – SBC relations. BWA meeting in Hamilton, Aug. 26 – 29, 1957.
- 1.10 Catholic-Baptist relations – Misc. correspondence about the Pope's statement on Christian unity in 1959.
- 1.11 Chicago Convention, 1951. Misc. correspondence. Minutes of Executive Committee of SBC.
- 1.12 Christian Life Commission Report of 1953 meeting, 1953 budget information, By-laws, committees for study and research. 1956 budget information. Correspondence – Fund for the Republic. (For other correspondence about Fund for the Republic, see Race Relations Folder). Statement of function and work of Christian Life Commission – Suggest having unofficial representative at the U.N.
- 1.13 Christian Life Commission – Statement of policies and procedures. 1957 list of members items on death penalty.
- 1.14 Christian Life Commission Agenda of annual business meeting, 1958
- 1.15 Christian Life Commission – Alcoholism – Statement to the senate and house interstate and foreign commerce commission – Clippings, letters.

Box 2

- 2.1 Christian Life Commission – Church in Community Action Correspondence on Industrial relations.
- 2.2 Christian Life Commission – Obscene Literature – Correspondence and clippings
- 2.3 Christian Life Commission – Obscene Literature Booklets – speeches given at Glorieta Conference, 1957, on this subject.
- 2.4 Christian Life Commission – Race relations Paper – Suggestions regarding a prospective program in race relations for SBC, Apr., 1954. Material on the Ford Fund for the Republic.
- 2.5 Christian Life Commission – Race relations – Fund for the Republic – booklets, financial report, June – Dec., 1956 – List of directors.
- 2.6 Christian Life Commission – Correspondence – Commission’s report to the 1957 SBC. Clippings, resolutions from associations and churches. Copy of United Press story by Louis Cassels.
- 2.7 Christian Life Commission – Race relations – Correspondence, clippings, resolutions from churches and associations.
- 2.8 Christian Life Commission – Race relations – Correspondence, clippings and resolutions from churches and associations. Copy of “Freedom – the Christian Concept,” a statement adopted by the 97th general assembly of the Presbyterian church south. A statement from Brook Hays upon being defeated in his 1958 congressional race.

Box 3

- 3.1 Christian Life Commission – Race relations – Memphis Conference, Feb. 12 – 13, 1958. Plans for a larger conference in New Orleans, May 13 – 14, 1958.
- 3.2 Christian Life Commission – tracts – List and sample. Some from Carver School of Missions.
- 3.3 Church-State relations – Copy of “The Ramparts We Watch,” by Glenn L. Archer. Correspondence and booklets. Material on J. M. Dawson Studies.
- 3.4 Church-State relations – Correspondence and pamphlets – Summary of debate on “Religion and the Presidency.” Conference on Religious Liberty, Sept. 1958. Material about Princeton meeting.
- 3.5 Clergy Research Project – Reports – adequate salary etc.
- 3.6 Congratulations on the Presidency of the SBC – Correspondence.
- 3.7 Congratulations on the Presidency of SBC – Correspondence. Copy of the “Crusader” with a picture of Brooks Hays and Dr. Clarence Cranford.
- 3.8 Congratulations on the Presidency of the SBC – Correspondence Letter from C. C. Warren, previous SBC President
- 3.9 Congratulations on the Presidency of the SBC Correspondence
- 3.10 Congratulations on the Presidency of the SBC Correspondence

Box 4

- 4.1 Crackpot Letters
- 4.2 D.C. Convention – Book of reports 81st annual session, 1957
- 4.3 Ecumenical Matters – Brooks Hays relationship to Calvary Baptist Church, Washington D.C. Clippings, press releases, correspondence.
- 4.4 Education Commission – Letter with general information –Commission Correspondence
- 4.5 Executive Committee – Correspondence, by-laws, history, meeting agendas, minutes of June, 1951 meeting. 1958 stewardship posters and tracts.
- 4.6 Executive Committee – Correspondence about tax ruling for ministers. Reorganization of committee. Minutes of Dec., 1958 meeting.
- 4.7 Expense Account.
- 4.8 Foreign Mission Board Minutes, June, 1951, Jan., 1958, and May, 1958 – Correspondence. Agenda of April, 1958 meeting.
- 4.9 Foreign Mission Board – Correspondence – List of standing committees. Agenda of June, 1958 meeting at Ridgecrest. 1951 Mission work report by architect Ralph Buffington. Agenda and minutes, Oct., 1958. Minutes Feb., 1959 – Administrative committee recommendations
- 4.10 Foundations of the SBC, 1951 – List of foundations and executive officers.
- 4.11 General – Correspondence, clippings. Requests for articles for Southern Baptist periodicals. Materials about U.S. Mission to the UN.

Box 5

- 5.1 General – Correspondence, clippings, Post card from Henlee Barnette tells of 2½ hr. conference with Krushchev in Kremlin. Aug. 12, 1951 letter – continuing Ridgecrest post office. Newspaper picture of Rep. and Mrs. Brook Hays and Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Cranford.

- 5.2 General – Correspondence – requests for articles for south wide publications. Sept. 20, 1951 letter – Brook Hays, a member of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. Letter from Ex-President Harry S. Truman, Sept. 24, 1951.
- 5.3 General – Correspondence, clippings Papers on Pope estate – Picture of Brook Hays laying wreath on George W. Truett’s grave.
- 5.4 Home Mission Board – Correspondence – Posters with maps and pictures – “Statements of Policy Home Mission Board,” Feb., 1959 – copy of “Report From the Capital”
- 5.5 Houston Convention – Correspondence – program of SBC and Pastor's Conference. Report of Public Affairs Committee Correspondence and tracts on the 30,000 movement. Program of 1958 Pastors’ Conference – Cain reception list – Prayer at the dedication of missionaries Survey of 1958 SBC messengers
- 5.6 Houston Convention – President's Convention Address – Correspondence praising the fine presiding, address, and reelection as president.
- 5.7 Individuals – Paul Caudill Correspondence, extra fine letters, June 7, 1957 and July 8, 1957.
- 5.8 Individuals – Luther Holcomb, correspondence, including a letter from Sam Rayburn.
- 5.9 Individuals – Bruce Price, Correspondence. Bruce is an Arkansas boyhood friend of Hays.
- 5.10 Individuals – Porter Routh, Correspondence.
- 5.11 Individuals – James P. Wesberry. Correspondence, clippings. Copy of the prayers he offered while acting chaplain of the House of Representatives, Jul. 27 – Aug. 25, 1949.

Box 6

- 6.1 Invitations Completed Correspondence Univ. of Richmond focus week Feb. 9 – 13, 1959
- 6.2 Invitations declined Correspondence
- 6.3 Joint Public Affairs Committee Correspondence, minutes of Sept., 1958 meeting. Report of Religious Liberty Commission meeting of BWA in Ruschlikon Aug., 1958. Executive director's report Feb. 18, 1959. Organization progress report.
- 6.4 Jubilee Correspondence, list of committees Pamphlet “What is it?” Minutes of Oct., 1957 meeting Preliminary state survey.
- 6.5 Laymen's Activities List of men interested in lay work Pamphlet “Faith and Daily Work” Brochure of Third Layman's Leadership Institute.
- 6.6 Louisville Convention Correspondence – arrangements for program procedures for annual sessions of SBC List of tellers for 1959 SBC Notes of the SBC President's address.
- 6.7 Moscow trip Picture of Brooks Hays and the Clarence Cranfords. See picture file. Mementos of the trip, correspondence, clippings, notes. Invitation to luncheon from Ambassador and Mrs. Thompson Soviet statements on religion Report of visit of Russian churchmen to U.S.
- 6.8 Moscow trip Correspondence and clippings Statement – visit to Moscow Baptist Church on Sunday, April 20, 1958. Itinerary and travel arrangements. List of important Baptist men in Russia. Picture of Americans in Moscow Baptist Church. (See picture file). Handwritten notes – Russia. Typewritten diary of Moscow stay Picture postcards.

Box 7

- 7.1 Nations – China, Columbia, Cuba. 1957 Hong Kong Baptist Seminary bulletin Articles and letters – religious persecution in Colombia. Telegram and letter – Batista in Cuba.

- 7.2 Nations – Great Britain, Hawaii, and Korea trip. Brochure of Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle. Letters – church work in Hawaii Correspondence – trip to Korea. Hays didn't go. Prospectus of Mission tour to Mexico.
- 7.3 Nations – Nigeria, Russia, Spain Correspondence – establishing a Baptist University in Nigeria. Two reports on visits to Russia Letters and clipping – work in Spain.
- 7.4 Nomination for presidency of SBC Correspondence.
- 7.5 Old Point Comfort Oct. 4, 1957, Sept. 18 – 19, 1958 Notes – the conferences. List of topics to be discussed. Summary of the discussions.
- 7.6 Peace Committee Brochure “Statements on World Peace” by the SBC. Copy of address “Our National Leaders Can Lead the World in Outlawing War.” Article “Southern Baptists and World Peace.” Correspondence and clippings.
- 7.7 Peace Committee Minutes of Peace Committee June, 1958. Speech “A New Dimension in Defense.”
- 7.8 Penney Farms Financial report, clippings Correspondence – transferring this property to Florida Baptists.
- 7.9 Personal – Religious Misc. Correspondence, some of it giving his religious viewpoints. Misc. clippings, most on religious subjects. Assorted sketches by Brooks Hays. Brochure “Churches of the Presidents.” Paper “The Christian Stewardship of the Land.”
- 7.10 Personal – Religious Misc. Booklet, “What's Your Trouble,” by N. V. Peale. Articles, clippings, correspondence on religious matters. Letter on “Why I Am a Baptist,” by Hays, Nov. 6, 1956 to Louie D. Newton. Article “One Great Hour of Sharing.” Devotional “The Law of Love.” “My Dad” by Hays.
- 7.11 Prisons
- 7.12 Ridgecrest
- 7.13 Rural Churches Notes from a speech, correspondence, and clippings.

Box 8

- 8.1 Scouting Correspondence with Joe C. Carrington, Chrm. of Association of Southern Baptists scouting. Mainly requests for letters to be written and medals to be given to scouts receiving God and Country Awards. Brooks Hays certificate of membership. Minutes of a Dec. 1, 1957 meeting.
- 8.2 Scouting Letters to scouts receiving God and Country Award
- 8.3 Scouting. More letters to scouts. List of Feb., MHY, 1959 engagements for HHYs with Feb. 10, 1959 letter.
- 8.4 Seminaries – General correspondence. Copy of charter of Mid-Western Seminary. “A Survey of Ministerial Attitudes” by Leonard Magruder.
- 8.5 Seminaries – Southern Correspondence, clippings – dismissal of 13 faculty members. Calendar of centennial events. Minutes of meeting of SBTS Presidents Article “The Beginning of our Trouble at Southern Seminary,” by James H. Hubbard.
- 8.6 Seminaries – Southern Booklet of materials submitted to committee on accreditation of the Seminary by McCall. Booklet of correspondence – American Association of Theological Schools com. visit. Article “What Kind of Seminary?” by McCall. Copy of Charter of SBTS. Thermofax copies of articles from Louisville Courier-Journal and Western Recorder – SBTS controversy.
- 8.7 Bulletin 23 – June, 1958 of the American Association of Theological Schools.

- 8.8 Social Service Commission Correspondence – possible change of headquarters, race relations, Roman Catholic plans and works. These materials cover 1949 – 1952.

Box 9

- 9.1 South American Trip International plane schedules, May – June, 1951. Copy of magazine “Bolivia.” Trip information. Correspondence. Clippings – religious persecution in Colombia. Materials related to CARE
- 9.2 Sunday Voting. Correspondence, clippings. Resolution from Merigold Baptist Church in Mississippi.
- 9.3 Survey Committee to study Southern Baptist Program – Douglas Branch, chrm. Correspondence Brochure from Ernst & Ernst Proposal for survey program by Booz, Allen & Hamilton. (See Key News May – June, 1965).
- 9.4 Survey Committee Correspondence. Clippings. Report of sub-committee of the SBC survey committee interviewing agencies in Nashville. Other reports.
- 9.5 Survey Committee Correspondence. Clippings. Schedule of meetings, reports of studies. List of committees
- 9.6 Survey Committee. Correspondence. Clippings. Baptist Press, Mar. I, 1958 – partial report of this committee. Recommendations for some of the agencies studied. Minutes of Dec. 18, 1958 meeting in Nashville.
- 9.7 Vice-President of SBC, 1950 Correspondence – congratulations on election Participation in 1951 convention
- 9.8 Work With Negroes Papers given Jan., 1957 at the meeting of the Joint Committee on the Baptist Ministry. Annual report Nov. I, 1956 – Oct. 31, 1957 of the Department of work with Negroes. 1958 and 1959 progress reports. Agenda and minutes of Feb. 23 – 24, 1959 meeting. Survey of Negro Baptist work in 2 District Associations in Arkansas.
- 9.9 Preliminary Inventory of Brooks Hays Papers in John F. Kennedy Library
- 9.10 Article about J. J. Doyme Statement before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry May 27, 1969.

Oversized item – Scrapbook on Hays “Christianity, Politics and how they mix.”