

CHARLTON H. LYONS PAPERS

Mss. 3075

Inventory

Compiled By
Wendy Cole

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2014

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SUMMARY

Size.	5 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Baton Rouge, LA
Inclusive dates.	1942 – 1976
Bulk dates.	1960 - 1964
Language.	English
Summary.	Charlton Lyons was a lawyer and independent petroleum producer who became a Louisiana Republican Party leader. The collection contains correspondence, scrapbooks, and photo albums relating to the oil industry and Lyons' areas of interest and activities in the political arena. The collection also includes speeches made by Lyons, along with many notes and clippings that provided background information for those speeches. Biographical and autobiographical information is also included.
Restrictions on access.	Original correspondence with Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, and Lyndon Johnson is housed in the Vault. Facsimiles were created and are housed with the correspondence in Box 1.
Copyright.	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation.	Charlton H. Lyons Papers, Mss. 3075, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	7:22-28; Vault:13; Vault:21; AA:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Charlton Havard Lyons was born on September 3, 1894, in Abbeville, Louisiana. Lyons lived most of his adult life in Shreveport, Louisiana. Lyons began his post-secondary education at Louisiana State University. He remained a student there for two and a half years. He then moved to New Orleans and became a student at Tulane, where he received his B.A. and L.L.B. degrees. Lyons became a lawyer, but later gave up his law practice to become an independent petroleum producer and eventually the owner of Lyons Petroleum. Lyons served as President of the General Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association. He was later named the President of the Independent Petroleum Association of America. He was very involved in the oil industry and began getting interested in political issues surrounding the oil industry and petroleum imports. His interest and involvement in politics later expanded into other areas.

Politically, Lyons was originally identified as a Democrat, but in 1960 he made a definitive break with the Democratic Party when he wrote a full page article about his resignation in the *Shreveport Times*. He continued to be involved in politics as a Republican and became a leader in the Louisiana Republican Party. Lyons ran for his first public office at the age of 67 when he became a candidate for Congress from the 4th Congressional District. He later ran for Governor of Louisiana in 1964. Although Lyons was defeated in both elections, he felt he had made great headway in creating a two-party system in the previously Democratic Louisiana. Lyons also became involved in politics on a national level; especially in his role during the Goldwater Campaign.

In addition to his contributions to the oil industry and the political arena Lyons maintained a relationship with his alma mater, Tulane, where he was appointed to the Tulane University Board of Visitors. He was also a guest speaker at several different high schools in Louisiana and was active in working with Centenary College, where he served as a member of the Board of Trustees. Lyons was also a member of both the Shreveport and United States Chambers of Commerce.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes correspondence and speeches, along with the notes and clippings about specific topics that were used as research for the speeches. It also includes information written about Mr. Lyons himself. The early correspondence relates to his prominent position in the oil industry, while the later correspondence deals with his political stance and involvement. A large part of the collection deals with his research and speeches while running for governor of Louisiana in 1963-1964 and his involvement in national campaigns.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence

Series II. Speeches/Research Notes and Clippings

Sub-Series A. Speeches

Sub-Series B. Research Notes and Clippings on Specific Topics

Series III. Biographical Information

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence both to and from Mr. Lyons. Early correspondence deals with oil. Mr. Lyons was the president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). As president, he corresponded with others in the field about oil-related topics. As the correspondence continues Mr. Lyons began having more interactions involving political stands on oil-related legislation and then on other political issues of the day. These issues include racial issues, the desire to prevent communism, and the importance of considering the constitution when making political decisions. Mr. Lyons left the Democratic Party to become a Republican and this series includes correspondence as to his reasons. Mr. Lyons was also involved in politics at the national level, and as a result, the collection includes correspondence to and from Ronald Reagan (1963-1976), Richard and Mrs. Nixon (1960-1973), Barry Goldwater (1960-1969), and Lyndon B. Johnson (June – December 1958). This series also includes the contents of a scrapbook called “Goldwater Campaign 1964,” which includes correspondence from citizens concerning the Goldwater campaign.

Series II. Speeches/Research Notes and Clippings

Subseries A. Speeches

This sub-series contains speeches given by Mr. Lyons on topics that were politically relevant. His earlier speeches were given in his capacity as president of IPAA and were relevant to the oil industry. He also spoke about “the responsibilities of citizenship.” Over time, his speeches became more political and some were given as campaign speeches when he ran for Congress and Governor. A CD-ROM of a “debate” held between Charlton Lyons and Joe Waggoner on Nov. 16, 1961 is also in this series.

Subseries B. Research Notes and Clippings on Specific Topics

This sub-series includes research notes and clippings related to the speeches Mr. Lyons gave. These materials appear to be background material for his speeches. This sub-series also includes notebooks that contain information on specific topics. Three volumes of notebooks are in the collection, including two on oil and one on politics.

Series III. Biographical Information

This series includes information about Lyons himself. It includes articles published about him or his stance on particular topics. It also includes two photo albums. One covers his personal career (Lyons for Governor Campaign 1963-1964), and the other includes photos of Lyons and others, including Ronald Reagan, at the 1964 Republican Convention (Republican Convention 1964).

INDEX TERMS

Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006
Agnew, Spiro T., 1918-1996
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994
Nixon, Pat, 1912-1993
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973
Reagan, Ronald
Goldwater, Barry M. (Barry Morris), 1909-1998
Lyons, Charlton Havard, 1894-1973
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Republican Party (La.)
Democratic Party (La.)
Petroleum industry and trade--Louisiana
Petroleum law and legislation--United States
Louisiana--Politics and government--20th century
Louisiana--Economic conditions--20th century
Shreveport (La.)--Politics and government--20th century
United States--Politics and government--1945-
Speeches
Photographic prints
Theses
Scrapbooks
Notebooks
Lawyers--Louisiana. lchsh

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
Series I. Correspondence			
7:22-28	1	1-16	Correspondence relating to the oil industry and the end of Lyons' law career 1942-August 1960
		17-38	Correspondence with Johnson (folder 10) Correspondence relating to politics Facsimiles of correspondence with: Goldwater (folder 18) Nixons (folder 20) Reagan (folder 26)
Vault: 13	1		Originals of correspondence with Goldwater, Nixons, and Reagan (facsimiles in Box 1, Folders 18, 20, and 26 respectively)
Series II. Speeches/Research Notes and Clippings			
Subseries 1. Speeches			
7:22-28	2	2-8	Speeches, 1950 - 1969
		9-11	Speeches, undated
Subseries 2. Papers, Research Notes and Clippings on Specific Topics			
		12	Newspaper clippings from the Wall Street Journal, 1957-1959, 1962, undated
		13	Newspaper clipping about Lyons leaving the Democratic party, 1960
		14	Writings and clippings about the Shreveport Charter, 1970
		15-45	Notes and Newspaper Clippings, arranged alphabetically by subject
	3	6	Report of Sub-Committee on Chapters 11 and 12
		8-10	"A History of the Republican Party in Louisiana: 1950-1952"
		11-15	Notebook on Oil, Volume 1
		16-18	Notebook on Oil, Volume 2
		19-23	Notebook on Politics, Volume 3
	Vol. 2		Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings-Gubernatorial Campaign: 1963-1964
AA:	CD		"Debate" held on KSLA TV on Nov. 16, 1961 between Charlton H. Lyons, Sr. and Joe D. Waggoner

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
				Series III. Biographical Information
	7:22-28	2	1	Obituaries, memorials, and autobiographical items, 1973, undated
		3	1	Certificates and Awards, 1964-1973, undated
	Vault:21		1	Certificate signed by Nixon (facsimile in Box 3, folder 1)
	7:22-28		2-4	Printed items, 1953-1972, undated Includes Christmas cards from the Reagans and the Nixons (folder 3) and an invitation to the Inaugural events for President Nixon (folder 4).
			5	Photographs, 1953-1972, undated
			7	A Thesis written about the Impact of Charlton H. Lyons, Sr.
			24-29	File on Charlton H. Lyons, 1951-1954, undated
	4		1-10	Newspaper clippings 1931, 1951-1954, 1955-1970, undated
	Vol. 1			Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings – Political 1961-1963
	Vol. 3			Photo Album of the Lyons for Governor Campaign: 1963-1964
		5	1-16	Goldwater Campaign Scrapbook, 1964
		6		Scrapbook of the Lyons for Governor Campaign: Iberia Parish 1964
	Vol. 4			Scrapbook/Photo Album of the Republican Convention: 1964