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Noel W. Baker papers

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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Finding Aid of

NOEL W. BAKER PAPERS

1974-2003

NEAD 026

Archives & Special Collections
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Dean B. Ellis Library
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Summary Information

Compiled By: Matthew Mayton, February 2023

Creator: Noel W. Baker

Date: 1974-2003; Bulk, 1974-1979

Physical Description: 1.33 linear feet. The collection consists of 53 in 3 document boxes.

Language: English

Abstract

Noel W. Baker was a farmer and businessman from Northeast Arkansas who lobbied congress to pass new federal rice legislation for farmers. This collection documents activities which led to amending federal rice legislation including materials related to congressional committees, the USDA, and activism from rice farmers.

Acquisition

Materials in this collection were originally donated by Martha Baker of Alicia, Arkansas on May 18, 2004. Additional materials were donated by Larry and Loretta Corbett of Alicia, Arkansas and Darrell Smith of Sedwick, Arkansas. Further additions to this collection are not expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Matthew Mayton and completed in February 2023.

Conditions Governing Access

This manuscript collection consists of physical materials. This collection has not been digitized. This collection is open for research use only in the Reading Room. It is not available for request through Interlibrary Loan. Please contact the archive via email (archives@astate.edu) at least a week in advance of your arrival to ensure the availability of the material.

Rights Statement

Copyright has been transferred to Archives & Special Collection. Standard copyright laws (U. S. Title 17) still apply.

Preferred Citation

Noel W. Baker Papers, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.

Biographical Note

Noel W. Baker (December 13, 1936-August 17, 2002) was a farmer and businessman from Northeast Arkansas. He graduated Swifton High School in 1955 and received his American Farmer degree at the National Convention of Future Farmers of America in 1956 in Kansas City, Missouri. During the 1970s, Baker and other Northeast Arkansas farmers campaigned congress for rice legislation reform to lift

restrictions on the growth and production of rice in the United States. He contacted several congressmen, traveled to Washington D.C. sixteen (16) times to lobby congress, and was appointed to the National Rice Advisory Committee by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1975. Baker's efforts helped pass legislation lifting the restrictions on rice production.

Scope and Content Note

The Noel Baker Papers primarily consists of materials documenting the activities taken by Noel Baker, legislators, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other farmers to change federal rice legislation in the 1970s. These actions include statements made by Noel Baker, Larry Corbett, Bill Alexander, Dale Bumper and other farmers to congressional committees on agriculture; correspondence to legislators; and actions taken by the USDA and National Rice Advisory Committee. This collection also contains published documents from congress congressional bills and reports from representatives along with studies conducted by the USDA. There are also six scrapbooks with various articles, correspondence, and photographs covering Baker's activities compiled by his family in appreciation and support for his work.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in seven series:

Series 1: Congress. The "Congress" series contains materials pertaining to Noel Baker and other farmer's efforts to lobby Congress for new rice legislation. It is divided into three subseries. Subseries 1.1 focuses on statements made to congressional committees by Baker, Larry Corbett, Bill Alexander, Dale Bumpers, and other farmers in support of new rice legislation and is arranged chronologically. Subseries 1.2 focuses on correspondence with legislators requesting support for new rice legislation and is arranged alphabetically. Subseries 1.3 focuses on published congressional documents including congressional bills, news releases, and analysis of proposed laws. This subseries is arranged chronologically with small single publications at the end.

Series 2: U.S. Department of Agriculture. The "U.S. Department of Agriculture" series contains materials related to the activities conducted by the Department of Agriculture including administrative documents, data collected by the organization, and published documents by the organization. This series is divided into two subseries, "Documents," and "Publications."

Series 3: National Rice Advisory Committee. The "National Rice Advisory Committee" series contains materials related to the activities taken by the organization including administration documents, correspondence, and a survey conducted by the organization. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Series 4: Farmers' Organizations. The "Farmers' Organizations" series contains materials related to activities, protests, statements, and correspondence of farmers' organization. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Series 5: Publications. The "Publications" series contains clippings and periodicals pertaining to rice legislation, farmers' protests, marketing of agricultural products, and other agricultural matters. This series is arranged with newspaper clippings first followed by periodicals.

Series 6: Activities. The "Activities" series contains materials pertaining to Baker's state senatorial campaign, artifacts he collected from some of his trips, and notes and drafts he took for said trips. This series is arranged with the state senatorial campaign first followed by the notes and artifacts.

Series 7: Scrapbooks. The "Scrapbooks" series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs covering Baker's activities arranged into scrapbooks and albums by his family. This series has been left in its original order.

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following resource in Archives & Special Collections holding:

- Larry Corbett Collection: A collection documenting efforts made by Larry Corbett to reform federal agricultural legislation including rice legislation.

Other materials in Archives & Special Collections holdings may relate to this topic. Please contact Archives & Special Collections at archives@astate.edu for further research assistance.

Subjects

- Agricultural laws and legislation
- Bills, Legislative
- Correspondence
- Family Farms
- Family farms--United States
- Government publications
- Legislative hearings--United States
- Legislators
- Legislators--United States
- Legislators--United States--Correspondence
- Publications
- Rice
- Rice--Arkansas
- Rice--laws and legislation
- Rice--United States
- Scrapbooks
- Speeches, addresses, etc.
- Witnesses

Names

- United States. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- United States. Congress. House
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture. Subcommittee on Rice
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture. Subcommittee on Oilseeds and Rice

- United States. Congress. Senate
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Subcommittee on Agricultural Production, Marketing, and Stabilization of Prices
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Subcommittee on Rice Programs
- United States. Department of Agriculture
- United States. Department of Agriculture. National Rice Advisory Committee
- Lawrence County (Ark.)
- Washington (D.C.)
- Alexander, Bill, 1934-
- Baker, Noel W.
- Bayh, Birch, 1928-2019
- Bergland, Bob, 1928-2018
- Bumpers, Dale
- Clinton, Bill, 1946-
- Corbett, Larry

Collection Inventory

Series 1: U. S. Congress

Subseries 1.1: Congressional Committees on Agriculture

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
1	Senate Committee on Agriculture & Forestry on Rice Legislation	1975-1978
2	Statement of Noel Baker and Larry Corbett	1975-1979, undated
3	Remarks by Representative Bill Alexander	1975, 1978
4	Statement of Senator Dale Bumpers	1975 November 14
5	Statement of Senator Birch Bayh on Farm Policy and Rural Development	1975 December
6	House Committee on Agriculture Schedule of Hearings	1977-1979
7	Statement of Other Farmers	1978
8	Statement of Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland	1979 February 7
9	Statement of Mr. Sherman Webb and Mr. Chester Sentell	undated

Subseries 1.2: Correspondence

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
10	Bill Alexander	1976-1982, undated
11	Correspondence with Representatives and Senators	1977-1980
12	Correspondence Requesting Support of Rice Legislation	1976-1978, undated

Subseries 1.3: Published Congressional Documents

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
13	Congressional Record	1974-1979, undated
14	Congressional Bills	1975-1977
15	Congressional Bills	1978-1979
16	Foreign Agricultural Service Operations	1977 March 11
17	House Committee on Agriculture News Release	1977-1978
18	Committee of Appropriation Reports from Bill Alexander	1977-1978
19	Senator Dale Bumpers Report from Washington	1978 February
20	An Analysis of H.R. 11262, Entitled the Consumer and Agricultural Act of 1978	1978 May 25

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
21	Speech Prepared by Bill Alexander	Circa 1970s
22	Bill Alexander Reports from Washington: Producer Report	Circa 1970s
23	<i>Food Security Act of 1985</i>	1985 December 17
24	Additional Publications	1978-1979, undated

Series 2: United States Department of Agriculture

Subseries 2.1: Documents

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
25	Administrative Documents	1973, 1977-1981, undated
26	Agricultural Data	1974-1979, undated
27	Testimony by Gov. Bill Clinton before Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland	1980 April 29

Subseries 2.2: Publications

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
28	Estimated Cost and Returns Per Acre of Rice in Major Producing Areas, 1975 Season	1975
29	<i>Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates</i>	1976
30	1977 Agricultural Statistics for Arkansas	1978 July
31	<i>Structure Issues of American Agriculture</i>	1979 November
32	ASCS Committee Members Coursebook for County Committee Members	Circa 1980
33	Additional Publications	1975-1978, undated

Series 3: National Rice Advisory Committee

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
34	Administration Documents	1976-1977, undated
35	Correspondence	1976-1977

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
36	"Set Aside for Rice?" Survey	undated

Series 4: Farmers' Organizations

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
37	American Agriculture Movement	undated
38	Other Farmers' Organization	1975-1981, undated

Series 5: Publications

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
39	<i>Arkansas Gazette</i> Clippings	1976-1979, undated
40	<i>Delta Farm Press</i> Clippings	1976-1980
41	Clippings About Rice and Agriculture	1976-1978, undated
42	<i>Washington Riceletter</i>	1976, 1982
43	Periodicals on Rice and Agriculture	1975-1979, 2003, undated
44	State of Arkansas Legislation	1979

Series 6: Activities

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
45	Noel Baker's State Senatorial Campaign	1978, undated
46	Notes and Drafts	undated
47	Artifacts and Photographs	undated

Series 7: Scrapbooks

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
48	Volume One	1975-1986, 1999, undated
49	Volume Two	1977-1979, undated
50	Volume Three	1974-1976, undated
51	Volume Four	1975-1980, undated

52	Volume Five	1975-1977, undated
53	Volume Six	1975-1979, 1999, undated