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O'Brien, Leo W.; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Leo W. O'Brien Papers
ID:	apap267
Date [inclusive]:	1939-1966
Physical Description:	6.25 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Leo W. O' Brien Papers document O'Brien's service in the House of Representative where he served from 1952-1966 on behalf of Albany, NY. The collection includes subject files, correspondence and various communications materials from his Congressional tenure.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Leo W. O'Brien Papers, 1939-1966. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the O'Brien Papers).

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Biographical Sketch

Leo W. O'Brien was born in Buffalo, Erie County, New York on September 21, 1900. He graduated from Niagara University in Niagara, New York in 1922. He pursued a career in journalism and worked for The International News Service, *The Albany Knickerbocker Press*, the *Albany Times-Union* and other newspapers. He was a newsman and radio and television commentator in Albany for 30 years.

A Democrat, O'Brien was elected in 1952 in a special election to fill Representative William T. Byrne's seat after Byrne's death. O'Brien was subsequently elected for a full term and then returned to Congress for the next six terms, retiring in 1966. O'Brien first represented the 32nd Congressional District, and, after redistricting, the 30th and later the 29th.

O'Brien was a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and led the Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii movement. He sponsored legislation to create the Fire Island National Seashore and also supported plans to protect the Hudson River. O'Brien was later chair of the Albany County Planning Board and the Adirondack Study Commission.

O'Brien died at 81 years of age on May 4, 1982 and was survived by his wife, son, and eight grandchildren.

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Scope and Contents

The Leo W. O'Brien Papers document his service in the U.S. Congress representing Albany, New York. The O'Brien Papers consist of subject files, the largest series, correspondence, and communications containing newspaper clippings and speeches. Researchers should note the many materials focusing on O'Brien's interest in Alaska and Hawaii statehood and governance of U.S. territories, including Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Please note that O'Brien's predecessor Representative William T. Byrne created the earliest materials in this collection from 1939 and the early 1940s. O'Brien retained select papers of Byrne's, filed them and later added his own materials on the same subjects to the files.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1 - Subject Files, 1939-1966, Undated
- 2 Series 2 - Correspondence, 1940-1966, Undated
- 3 Series 3 - Communication, 1942-1966, Undated

All series are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Angela Perez 2011

Processing Information

Processed in 2012 by Angela Perez.

Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted with the exception of select files noted below which contain individual constituent information of a sensitive nature. Researchers seeking access to these materials should contact the head of Special Collections and Archives.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information

Leo W. O'Brien donated his papers to Syracuse University in a series of acquisitions between 1966-1969. In 2006 the papers were transferred to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Politics and Politicians
- Law--United States--Territories and possessions
- Statehood (American politics)

- Albany (N.Y.)
- New York (State)--Politics and government
- Hawaii--Politics and government
- Alaska--Politics and government
- United States--Territories and possessions
- Bills (legislative records)
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Files by subject
- Legislative Records
- Photographs
- O'Brien, Leo W., 1900-1982.
- Byrne, William Thomas, 1876-1952.
- United States. Congress. House.
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Possessions.
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Subcommittee on Pacific Affairs.
- United States. Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission

Collection Inventory

Subject Files, 1939-1966 Undated

Physical Description: 4 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains the general subject files of Representative O'Brien's office including: amendments, bills, legislative records, news clippings, pamphlets, photographs, speeches, statements, and constituent correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Abele, Karpis HR-1301, 1954-1955	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 1
Academy Appointments for Guam, V.I., etc. HR-84712,7805, 1957-1959	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 2
Alabama County Council Civil Defense HR-4917, 1960-1961	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 3

Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission, 1957-1960

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Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission HR-319, 1961	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 5
Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission extend HR-3874, 1959	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 6
Alaska Mental Health Act HR-6334, 4096, 1955-1956	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 7
Alaska-Provide Hospitalization/Care of the Mentally Ill HR-6376, 1956	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 8
Alaska-Statehood HR-7999,11664, 1956-1958	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 9
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American Samoa-Extend Application of Certain Laws HR-10062, 1962	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 15
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Antarctica-Study of Research HR-7486, 1961	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 20
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"B Company", 1954-1955	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 28
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Correspondence, 1940-1966 Undated

Physical Description: 1 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains letters from and to Representative O'Brien (or Byrne). Please note the significant amount of correspondence related to service academy appointments. Many of these files are restricted.

Title/Description	Instances
Air Force Academy-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1954-1955 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 5 (2- Correspondence) Folder 1
Air Force Academy-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1955-1956 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>	Box 5 (2- Correspondence) Folder 2

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Air Force Academy-Correspondence, 1957-1958	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 3
Air Force Academy '65-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1962-1965	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 4
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Air Force Academy-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1964-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 5
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Air Force Academy-Correspondence, 1965-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 6
Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1949-1950	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 7
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1950-1952	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 8
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1952-1953	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 9
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1953-1954	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 10
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
Annapolis-Correspondence, 1954-1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 11
Annapolis-Correspondence- [RESTRICTED], 1956-1957	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 12
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1964-1965

Box 5 (2- Folder 13
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Annapolis-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1964-1966

Box 5 (2- Folder 14
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Annapolis-Correspondence, 1966

Box 5 (2- Folder 15
Correspondence)

Bailey, Thomas-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1955-1956

Box 5 (2- Folder 16
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Breslin, Michael J.-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1957

Box 5 (2- Folder 17
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Burkhard, William E.-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED],
1954-1956

Box 5 (2- Folder 18
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Carlotto, Muninger-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED],
1940-1941

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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Carroll, Arthur Thomas-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED],
1954-1955

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Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Ceccucci, Randolph-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED],
1956-19571960

Box 5 (2- Folder 21
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Corscadden, Paul-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1952

Box 5 (2- Folder 22
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Correspondence, 1953-1954

Box 5 (2- Folder 23
Correspondence)

Correspondence, 1956-1957

Box 5 (2- Folder 24
Correspondence)

Correspondence, 1958-1964

Box 5 (2- Folder 25
Correspondence)

Correspondence, 1965-1966Undated

Box 5 (2- Folder 26
Correspondence)

Dunn, James Ward-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 19531957

Box 5 (2- Folder 27
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Ferony Walter-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1954-1955

Box 5 (2- Folder 28
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Floor Plans-Additional House Office Building, 1959

Box 5 (2- Folder 29
Correspondence)

French, James H.-Correspondence, 1957-19581960

Box 5 (2- Folder 30
Correspondence)

Hamilton, Robert Anthony-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED],
1955

Box 5 (2- Folder 31
Correspondence)

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Hearst, Ronald A.-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1954-1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 32
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Kampfer, John B.-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1957	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 33
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Kane, John Peter-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1950-1952	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 34
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

LaFond, John Allen-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 35
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Meary, John Patrick-Correspondence - [RESTRICTED], 1953-1954-1957	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 36
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Merchant Marine Academy-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1965-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 37
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Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Must consult archivist before viewing this material.

Merchant Marine-Correspondence, 1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 38
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Miscellaneous-Awards, Pictures, etc., 1957-1958-Undated	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 39
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Miscellaneous-Correspondence, 1964-1965		
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	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 40
Murphy, Robert Paul-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1955-1956	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 41
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
Must consult archivist before viewing this material.		
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 19531956-1962	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 42
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1954-19551959	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 43
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1956-19571959	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 44
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1962-1963	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 45
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1964	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 46
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1964-1965	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 47
O'Brien, Leo W.-Correspondence, 1965-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 48
Office-Correspondence, 1952	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 49
Office-Correspondence, 1952-1953	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 50
Office-Correspondence, 1955-1958	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 51
Office-Correspondence, 1958	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 52
Office-Correspondence, 1959	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 53
Office-Correspondence, 1960	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 54
Office-Correspondence, 1961	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 55
Office-Correspondence, 1962	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 56
Office-Correspondence, 1963	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 57
Office-Correspondence, 1964		

	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 58
Office-Correspondence, 1964-1965	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 59
Office-Correspondence, 1965-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 60
Robinson, Edward Charles-Correspondence, 1954-1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 61
Staff Appointments, etc.-Correspondence, 1965-1966	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 62
Tauhey, Robert J.-Correspondence, 1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 63
West Point-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1950-1952 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 64
West Point-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1952-1953 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 65
West Point-Correspondence, 1953-1955	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 66
West Point-Correspondence, 1955-1957	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 67
West Point-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1963-1966 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 68
West Point-Correspondence-[RESTRICTED], 1964-1966 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 5 (2- Correspondence)	Folder 69

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Communications, 1942-1966 Undated

Physical Description: 1.25 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains news clippings, official papers of Congress, press releases, office papers including cadet information, and remarks and speeches. There are several reel-to-reel tapes and 16mm films documenting Representative O'Brien's speeches or comments. In addition, there is supplemental correspondence in some files.

Title/Description	Instances
Admission Day Celebration Remarks, Hawaii, 1959	Reel 1
Capital Correspondent, Remote from Republican State Convention, 1950 September 06	Record 1
Clippings, 1953-19541957-195919631966	Box 6 (3- Folder 1 Communications)
Clippings, 1954-1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 2 Communications)
Clippings, 195419561959-196019631965-1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 3 Communications)
Clippings, 19541956195819621966	Box 6 (3- Folder 4 Communications)
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs "Tributes", 1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 5 Communications)
Congress Papers 77th Congress, 1942	Box 6 (3- Folder 6 Communications)
Congress Papers 83rd Congress, 1953-1954	Box 6 (3- Folder 7 Communications)
Congress Papers 84th Congress, 1955-1956	Box 6 (3- Folder 8 Communications)
Congress Papers 85th Congress, 1958-1959	Box 6 (3- Folder 9 Communications)
Congress Papers 86th Congress, 1959-1960	Box 6 (3- Folder 10-11 Communications)
Congress Papers-Miscellaneous, 1959-1961	Box 6 (3- Folder 12 Communications)
Congress Papers 87th Congress, 1961-1962	Box 6 (3- Folder 13 Communications)
Congress Papers 88th Congress, 1963-1964	Box 6 (3- Folder 14 Communications)
Congress Papers 89th Congress, 1965-1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 15 Communications)
Hagerty, Jim, Undated	Film 1

<i>News and You</i> , Serial #1, Played on Saturday, February 11, 1956	Film 2
<i>News and You</i> , Serial #2, Played on Saturday, February 25, ca. 1956	Film 3
<i>News and You</i> , Serial #3, Played on Saturday, March 18, ca. 1956	Film 4
<i>News and You</i> , Serial #4, Played on Sunday, March 25, ca. 1956	Film 5
Office Papers, 1950-19571964-1965	Box 6 (3- Folder 16 Communications)
Office Papers-Cadet Information, 1963-1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 17 Communications)
Office Papers-Cadet Information, 1953-19561966	Box 6 (3- Folder 18 Communications)
Office Papers-Miscellaneous, 19401965-1966	Box 6 (3- Folder 19 Communications)
Pamphlets on Alaska, 1959	Box 6 (3- Folder 20 Communications)
Press Releases, 19521954195819641966	Box 6 (3- Folder 21 Communications)
Report from Washington, 1965 May 09	Reel 2
Report from Washington, ca. 1965 June 6	Reel 3
Report from Washington, ca. 1965 August 1	Reel 4
Report from Washington, 1965 August 25	Reel 5
Report from Washington, Undated	Reel 6
Rep. O'Brien, 1960 March 10	Reel 7
Report from Washington, 1964	Reel 8
Speeches and Remarks, 1958Undated	Box 6 (3- Folder 22 Communications)
Speeches and Remarks, 1965Undated	Box 6 (3- Folder 23 Communications)

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