

Sigurd Anderson Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 13

Title: Sigurd Anderson Papers

Dates: 1951-1964

Extent: 0.42 linear feet (1 document case)

Creator: Anderson, Sigurd, 1904-1990

Language: English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 13, box number, folder number, Sigurd Anderson Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

This collection contains addresses, speeches, reports, and related materials documenting the public career of Sigurd Anderson, Governor of South Dakota from 1951 to 1955 and Federal Trade Commissioner from 1957 to 1964. The materials include gubernatorial speeches such as his inaugural address to the 33rd session of the South Dakota Legislature, addresses delivered before national organizations on federal regulatory and economic issues, and reports and proceedings related to mid-20th-century state and regional development, including Missouri River Basin planning and Corps of Engineers projects. Appropriations records from Anderson's gubernatorial administration provide evidence of state budgeting and fiscal policy during the early 1950s. Also included is a biographical narrative outlining Anderson's background and career. Together, the collection provides insight into Anderson's

role in state governance and federal economic regulation during a period of significant policy development.

Biography

Sigurd Anderson, the 19th governor of South Dakota, was born on January 22, 1904, on an island near Arendal, Norway. His parents, Karl and Bertha Anderson, immigrated to the United States in 1908, settling on a farm southwest of Canton in Lincoln County. Anderson attended Pleasant Ridge School and graduated high school in 1925, the year his family moved near Bancroft in Kingsbury County.

He enrolled at South Dakota State College in 1925, engaging in public speaking, literary, and journalistic activities. After contracting scarlet fever, he took a year off to work as a farmhand and teach in rural schools. In 1928, he transferred to the University of South Dakota, graduating cum laude in 1931. He taught high school history in Rapid City and Webster before returning to USD for law school, earning his degree in 1937. During this time, he married Vivian Walz of Vermillion; they had one daughter, Kristin.

Anderson established a law practice in Webster in 1937 and was twice elected Day County state's attorney. In 1950, he won the Republican nomination for governor and was elected, setting a record in 1952 as the only South Dakota gubernatorial candidate to receive over 200,000 votes. His administration established the Legislative Research Council and achieved debt-free status for the state for the first time in 40 years.

After two terms, Anderson was appointed to the Federal Trade Commission by President Eisenhower and reappointed in 1958. He resigned in 1964 to return to Webster and run again for governor but lost the Republican primary to Nils Boe, who later appointed him circuit judge, a position he held until 1975.

Anderson received numerous professional and political honors and was active in various organizations. He died on December 21, 1990.

Scope and Content

This collection contains addresses delivered by Sigurd Anderson during his service as Federal Trade Commissioner from 1957 to 1964, as well as speeches and related materials from his tenure as Governor of South Dakota between 1951 and 1955. The addresses,

presented before national organizations, reflect Anderson's involvement in federal regulatory and economic matters. Included is his inaugural address to the 33rd session of the South Dakota Legislature, which outlines his gubernatorial policies and priorities.

The collection also includes mid-20th-century speeches and reports on state and regional development issues, such as the Corps of Engineers' contributions to South Dakota (1954), proceedings from the Missouri Basin Survey Commission (1952), and records from various conventions and public policy discussions. Appropriations records from 1951 to 1955 document South Dakota's budgetary decisions during Anderson's administration. A biographical piece titled *Sigurd Anderson – From Immigrant Boy to Governor of South Dakota* provides background on his personal and professional life.

The collection documents Sigurd Anderson's contributions to state and federal governance, particularly in areas of economic policy, public administration, and regional development during the mid-twentieth century. It provides primary source material illustrating the relationship between South Dakota's state leadership and national regulatory initiatives.

Access Points

Subjects

- Politics and government

Names

- Anderson, Sigurd, 1904-1990
- South Dakota. Governor
- United States, Federal Trade Commission

Places

- South Dakota

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1957
1	2	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1958
1	3	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1960
1	4	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1961
1	5	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1962
1	6	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1963
1	7	Federal Trade Commissioner addresses	1964
1	8	Inaugural address and message to the 33rd session of the South Dakota Legislature	undated
1	9	Address by Colonel Thomas J. Hayes, III: District Engineer, Omaha District	1954
1	10	Contributions of the Corps of Engineers Program to the future of South Dakota: Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee meeting	1954
1	11	International Association of Public Employment Services: Proceedings of the 38th Annual Convention	1951
1	12	National Milk Producers Federation 40th Annual Convention	1956
1	13	State of Val Kuksa, Agricultural Development Agent: Missouri Basin Survey Commission	1952
1	14	Appropriations	1951-1955
1	15	Sigurd Anderson - From Immigrant Boy to Governor of South Dakota (1 photocopy - 1 original)	undated