W. R. "Bob" Poage Texas Development papers.  
Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library  
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Summary Information

Creator  

Extent (quantity/size)  
31 document boxes and 1 oversized box.

Language  
English

Abstract  
This collection contains reports, pamphlets, articles, and other literary productions accumulated by U.S. Representative Bob Poage. The materials relate to the development of Texas, particularly in the areas of agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, immigration, transportation, and water resources.

Subjects  

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access and Use  
All requests for copying of materials must be submitted to the W. R. Poage Legislative Library in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet. Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator (s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation  
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

W. R. "Bob" Poage Texas Development papers, Accession #1D, Box #, Folder #, The Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Processing Information  
Described by Thomas DeShong and released on 2019-06-14.

Scope and Content  
The chronology of this collection extends from 1913 to 1979, although the vast majority of materials fall within the years Bob Poage served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1937-1978). These materials represent secondary research and reports accumulated by Poage. Both series pertain to the development of Texas's infrastructure and natural resources.
Series I. General covers a wide range of topics not specifically related to Texas's water resources. Some of the most well-represented subjects include agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, and transportation. The folders in this series are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Series II. Water Resources, the largest series in the collection, relates solely to Texas's waterways including its rivers, tidelands, and basins. Issues such as water conversation, the construction of dams, desalinization, wastewater, and ownership of submerged lands are covered thoroughly in this series. These folders are arranged alphabetically by the individual or organization who created the materials.

Biographical History
William Robert “Bob” Poage, the son of William Allen Poage and Helen Wheeler Conger, was born on December 28, 1899 in Waco, Texas. The Poage family moved to Throckmorton County shortly thereafter where William A. Poage worked as a rancher and cattlemen. The Poages eventually returned to Waco in 1913. Five years later, in 1918, Poage graduated from Waco High School and joined the U.S. Navy as an apprentice seaman during the waning months of World War I.

After the war, Poage briefly attended classes at the University of Texas and the University of Colorado at Boulder before enrolling at Baylor University. In 1921, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in geology. Poage taught geology from 1922 to 1924, while simultaneously working on his law degree. In 1924, he earned his law degree from Baylor University and gained admittance to the Texas Bar.

In that same year, Poage ran for political office, winning a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. He served in the Texas House from 1925 to 1929, all while practicing law in Waco and teaching at Baylor Law School. In 1928, Poage attempted but lost a bid for a seat in the Texas Senate and briefly returned to civilian life. In 1931, Poage sought to fill a Senate seat vacated by Edgar Witt. He won the special election this time, ultimately serving in the Texas Senate from 1931 to 1937.

Striving to increase his political influence, Poage tried to unseat U.S. Representative O. H. Cross of the 11th Congressional District of Texas. Poage lost in 1934 but succeeded in defeating Cross in 1936. It was to be the start of a long-tenured career for the Texas Democrat. On February 14, 1938, amidst his political successes, Poage married Frances Lenoir Cotton.

Poage served in the U.S. House from 1937 until his retirement in 1978, often running unopposed in the biennial elections. Drawing from his childhood experiences and education, Poage championed life in rural America, seeking improvements such as water and telephone services and helping to establish the Rural Electrification Administration. Often referred to as “Mr. Agriculture”, Poage was a key member of the House Agriculture Committee from 1941 to 1978, chairing the committee from 1967 to 1974. Upon his retirement from the House in 1978, Poage was succeeded by Democrat Marvin Leath.

The W. R. Poage Legislative Library was opened in September 1979 in honor of Representative Poage and serves as the repository for his personal and congressional papers. Poage wrote five books during his lifetime including three in retirement: After the Pioneers (1969), Politics-Texas Style (1974), How We Lived (1980), McLennan County Before 1980 (1981), and his autobiography, My First 85 Years (1985).

Poage passed away during open-heart surgery in Temple, Texas, on January 3, 1987, and is buried in Waco’s Oakwood Cemetery.

Related Resources
Related records in other Archive collections
William Robert "Bob" Poage Papers
Related citations

Archival Arrangement
The W. R. "Bob" Poage papers have been processed previously, most notably in 1995. Detailed finding aids and folder listings existed prior to this latest round of processing.

Due to the large size of the collection, the W. R. "Bob" Poage papers are being divided into six new collections based on the existing series outline. The materials in the Texas Development papers were originally housed in Boxes #1090-1129. Some loose materials have also been integrated with these files. The collection is now arranged into two series: I. General and II. Water Resources.

**Series 1: General. 1927-1979, undated**

**Administrative**
Series I. General primarily consists of booklets, reports, and other literary productions pertaining to the development of Texas's infrastructure. These documents, in contrast to those found in Series II, do not relate to the state's water resources. Most of the materials are secondary in nature. Representative Poage did not contribute to them directly, rather, he would have used them for research.

The folders in this series are arranged alphabetically according to subject matter then chronologically within each topic. Agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, and transportation are a few of the more prominent issues addressed. Overall, the series is in good condition.

Box 1. Folder 3. Agriculture, Annual Progress Report, Natural Fibers and Food Protein Commission of Texas, 1974-1975
Box 1. Folder 4. Agriculture, Annual Report, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 1977
Box 1. Folder 5. Agriculture, Annual Report, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 1978
Box 1. Folder 7. Air Transportation, Publications, Dallas-Fort Worth as Major Trading Center (1 of 2), 1977-1978, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Air Transportation, Publications, Dallas-Fort Worth as Major Trading Center (2 of 2), 1977-1978, undated
Box 2. Folder 1. Books, Publisher Catalogs (1 of 2), 1970-1972, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. Books, Publisher Catalogs (2 of 2), 1970-1972, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. Childhood, Book, *78 Things You Need to Know About Texas Children*, 1978
Box 12. Folder 1. Recreation, Reports, “Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan” (Volumes 1 and 2), 1975
Box 12. Folder 5. Science, Proposal, Resource Center in Science and Engineering for South Central Texas (1 of 7), 1978
Box 12. Folder 7. Science, Proposal, Resource Center in Science and Engineering for South Central Texas (3 of 7), 1978
Box 13. Folder 4. State Government, Fact Sheet, Texas Capitol, undated

Series 2: Water Resources. 1913-1978, undated

Administrative
Series II. Water Resources, the largest series in the collection, contains reports, surveys, legal documents, and other literary productions pertaining to the development of Texas’s water resources, both fresh and salt-water. Most of the materials are secondary in nature. Representative Poage did not contribute to them directly, rather, he would have used them for
research purposes.

The folders within this series are arranged alphabetically according to the creator of the materials, then chronologically under each creator. Publications from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Texas Water Development Board, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Soil Conservation Service are prominently featured. The series also includes several legal documents produced during a U.S. Supreme Court case, *U.S.A. v. State of Texas*, which debated ownership of the Texas tidelands and the oil resources therein. Overall, the series is in good condition.

**Item List**

Box 15. Folder 4. General, Scrapbook, “Brazos River Flood of December 1913, Angleton, Texas” (1 of 2), 1913-1944
Box 15. Folder 5. General, Scrapbook, “Brazos River Flood of December 1913, Angleton, Texas” (2 of 2), 1913-1944
Box 15. Folder 8. General, Brief, “The Title to Texas Tide Lands”, 1949
Box 15. Folder 10. General, Brief, “Every State has Submerged Lands”, 1951
Box 15. Folder 11. General, Clippings, Tidelands Fight, 1952 February
Box 17. Folder 1. Governor’s Committee on Water Conservation, Report, 1953 January 2
Box 17. Folder 2. John W. Simmons, Address, “The Texas Water Problem”, 1957 March 1
Box 17. Folder 8. Natural Resources Division, Research Committee, Houston Chamber of Commerce, Report, “Texas Natural Resources”, 1959 June
Box 17. Folder 15. Senate Interim Committee on Tidelands, Report, 1953
Box 18. Folder 8. Texas A&M University, Speeches on “Water for Texas”, 1955 September
Box 19. Folder 1. Texas A&M University, Annual Report, Water Resources Institute, 1969 July
Box 19. Folder 4. Texas A&M University, Newsletter, Texas Water Resources, 1978 December
Box 19. Folder 5. Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Report, “Flood Plain Management”, 1976 November
Box 22. Folder 3. Tidelands, Article, “The Tidelands Case”, Oil Newsmagazine, 1949 December
Box 23. Folder 4. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas”, Volume 1, 1947 August 15
Box 32 O VZ. Folder 2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas”, Volume 2, 1947 August 15
Box 23. Folder 5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas”, Volume 3 (1 of 2), 1947 August 15
Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 3 (2 of 2), 1947 August 15
Box 23. Folder 7. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 4 (1 of 2), 1947 August 15
Box 23. Folder 8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 4 (2 of 2), 1947 August 15
Box 23. Folder 9. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 5, 1947 August 15
Box 24. Folder 1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 6, 1947 August 15
Box 24. Folder 2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Report on Survey of Brazos River and Tributaries, Texas, Oyster Creek, Texas, Jones Creek, Texas", Volume 7, 1947 August 15
Box 24. Folder 6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, House Document #535, "Brazos River and Tributaries, Oyster Creek, and Jones Creek, Texas", 1954
Box 26. Folder 5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Report, "Wastewater Management Plan: Colorado River and Tributaries,
Box 30. Folder 6. U.S. Supreme Court, Motion of the State of Texas to Dismiss the Complaint of the United States, *U.S.A. v. State of Texas*, 1948 October
Box 30. Folder 7. U.S. Supreme Court, Motion for Bill of Particulars, *U.S.A. v. State of Texas*, 1948 October
Box 31. Folder 9. U.S. Supreme Court, Defendant’s Petition for Rehearing Directed to the Court’s Amended Opinion”, *U.S.A. v. State of Texas*, 1950 October