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George E.C. Hayes Papers
Collection 150-1 to 150-4

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MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Scope Note

George Edward Chalmers Hayes (1894-1968), civil rights attorney and University Counsel for Howard University, was an individual whose accomplishments were often labeled as "firsts". He was the first Black man to serve as chairman of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission; the first Black elected to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Board of Trade; and the first Black lawyer to hold office in the District of Columbia Bar Association when he was elected to its Board of Directors. He served on the Howard University Board of Trustees for more than eighteen years, as the University Counsel for more than thirty-five years, and as adjunct professor at the Howard University Law School.

The George E.C. Hayes Papers were donated to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center by his grand-daughter, Ms. Shirley Ganao, in 1987. They span the years 1911-1968 and measure two linear feet. The collection is comprised of a few personal papers which include programs in which he participated; biographical data; documents pertaining to his organizational affiliations; awards and tributes; and professional and personal correspondence. Among the correspondents are former Vice-Presidents Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey; and former Howard University Presidents Mordecai Johnson and James Nabrit.

The collection contains photographs of George E.C. Hayes at various professional and social gatherings, including the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Conclaves, 1948-1950. There are also materials pertaining to the planning, organization, and successful outcome of the M Street High School Class of 1911 Reunion held in 1951.

Biographical Data

George Edward Chalmers Hayes

- 1894 Born in Richmond, Virginia, the son of a prominent attorney, James H. Hayes.
- 1911 Graduated M St. High School, Washington, D.C.
- 1915 Graduated (undergraduate degree) Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 1918 Received L.L.B. degree, Howard University Law School, Washington, D.C.
- 1924-1936 Appointed Faculty Member, Howard University Law School.
- 1945-1949 Member of the District of Columbia School Board, Washington, D.C.
- 1954 Successfully argued school desegregation cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1955 Appointed by the Eisenhower administration to serve on the capital's Public Utilities Commission.
- 1960 Named Board Member of the National Capital Housing Authority.
- 1962 Elected to the Board of Directors of the D.C. Bar Association.
- 1963 Named the D.C. Bar Association Lawyer of the Year.
- 1966 Elected to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade.
- 1967 Elected co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, National Capital Area.
- 1968 Died of pneumonia at the Washington Hospital Center.

Source: George E.C. Hayes Papers, Box 150-1, Folder 1, "Biographical Sketches", MSRC, Howard University.

Series Description

- Series A** **Personal Papers**
Box 150-1 Contains biographical data, and various programs in which George E.C. Hayes participated.
- Series B** **Correspondence**
Box 150-1 Consists of correspondence received and sent by George E.C. Hayes. Some of the correspondence relates to his activities as Chairman of the D.C. Public Utilities Commission. There are also letters from family relations and friends.
- Series C** **M St. High School Class of 1911 Reunion**
Box 150-1 Comprised of correspondence, notes, and programs related to the planning and organization of the M Street High School Reunion held in 1951.
- Series D** **Organizational Affiliation**
Box 150-1 Includes programs and pamphlets regarding organizations in which George E.C. Hayes was a member. Also included is a history of the Happy Men Club.
- Series E** **Awards and Tributes**
Box 150-2 Consists of awards and citations presented to George E.C. Hayes. Included are the Annual Alumni Award by the Trustees of Howard University, 1947; A Resolution of the District of Columbia City Council, 1974; and a certificate of appointment as Member, Board of Appeals, Panel #3, by the President of the United States in 1956.
- Series F** **Photographs**
Box 150-3 Contains group photographs George E.C. Hayes at professional and social gatherings.
- Series G** **Oversize Photographs**
Box 150-4 Consists of four oversize photographs. Among them are photos of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Conclaves of 1948-1950.

Container List

Series A

Personal Papers

Box

Folder

150-1

- 1 Biographical Sketches.
- 2 Engraving block, "Louise and George Hayes".
- 3 Obituaries.
- 4 Programs.
- 5 Supreme Court of The United States Decisions, *Bolling vs. Board of Education*, 1914 May 17.
- 6 Supreme Court of The United States Decisions, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, 1954 May 17.

Series B

Correspondence

- 7 A-C
- 8 H-K
- 9 M-W
- 10 Partial and unsigned names.
- 11 Greeting cards.
- 12 Invitations.

Series C

M St. High School Class of 1911 Reunion

- 13 Correspondence, A-L
- 14 Correspondence, M-Z
- 15 Correspondence, Envelopes.
- 16 Bills and statements.
- 17 Class members facts sheets.
- 18 Names and addresses.
- 19 Name tag.
- 20 Newsclippings re various class members.
- 21 Planning Committee notes.
- 22 Programs.
- 23 Teachers of the Class of 1911.

Series D

Organizational Affiliation

- 24 The Happy Men Club of America.
- 25 International Christian Leadership, Inc.
- 26 Peoples Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.
- 27 Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Series E

Awards and Tributes

150-2

- 1 Annual Alumni Award, Howard University, 1947 March 2.

Container List

Series E Awards and Tributes continued

Box Folder

- 150-2
- 2 A Panorama of the World's Legal Systems, a monograph presented by The Howard University Club of New York City, 1956 March 11.
 - 3 Appointment as Member, Board of Appeals, Panel #3, D.C. 1956 September 14.
 - 4 The Inaugural Committee invitation to the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957 Jan 21.
 - 5 The Great Lakes Mutual Life Insurance Company Resolution, 1968 March 28.
 - 6 Howard University President's Club, 1968 June 5.
 - 7 Resolution of The District of Columbia City Council, 1974 May 21.

Series F Photographs

150-3

- 1 The Bar Association of The District of Columbia, 1962-1963.
- 2 The Happy Men Club.
- 3 Hayes, George E. C.
- 4 Hayes, George E.C., Brown University.
- 5 Hayes, George E.C. (as chairman of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission.
- 6 Hayes, George E.C. and colleagues of the International Prayer Breakfast Group.
- 7 Hayes, George E.C. as Lawyer of the Year, 1963.
- 8 Hayes, George E.C. and others.
- 9 Hayes, George E.C. and unidentified group.
- 10 Hayes, George E.C. and unidentified group.
- 11 Hayes, George E.C. and unidentified group.
- 12 Hayes, George E.C. and unidentified group.
- 13 Hayes, George E.C. and an unidentified group, at lunch.
- 14 Houston, Charles H.
- 15 The United States Army Field Band, (Soldiers Chorus).
- 16 West Berlin, Check Point Charlie.
- 17 Unidentified building (color slide).

Series G Oversize Photographs

150-4

- 1 38th Grand Chapter Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Detroit, Michigan, 1948 December 27- December 30.
- 2 39th Annual Conclave, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Nashville, Tennessee, 1949 December 27-December 30.
- 3 Kappa Alpha Psi Conclave, Kansas City, 1950 December 29.
- 4 Unidentified women's group.