

HERBERS, JOHN.

John Herbers papers, 1950-1996

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Herbers, John.
Title: John Herbers papers, 1950-1996
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 806
Extent: 7.5 linear feet (13 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Personal and professional papers of *New York Times* journalist John Herbers including business and family correspondence, subject files, and writings.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Gift, 1998.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], John Herbers papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

John Herbers (1923-) graduated from Emory University in 1949 with a B.A. in journalism. While at Emory, he worked for the *Phoenix* and the *Wheel*. He began his journalism career with the Greenwood, Mississippi *Morning Star* where he worked for eighteen months. Herbers then worked for the Jackson, Mississippi *Daily News*. In 1952, he joined the United Press International, eventually becoming the Jackson Bureau manager. Herbers began his career

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with the *New York Times* in 1964 and worked there until his retirement in 1987. Herbers also published several books including *The Lost Priority*, *No Thank You Mr. President*, and *The New Heartland*.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of John Herbers from 1950-1996. Series 1 includes Herbers' *New York Times* correspondence and family correspondence. Series 2 consists of subject files primarily covering Herbers' years at the *New York Times* Washington Bureau, the civil rights movement, and the Nixon presidency. Series 3 consists of correspondence and reviews concerning his books, as well as a collection of all his bylines from the *New York Times*.

Arrangement Note

Organized into three series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Subject files, and (3) Writings.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Correspondence, 1959-1996](#)

[Series 2: Subject files, 1964-1974](#)

[Series 3: Writings, 1950-1992](#)

[Subseries 3.1: Newspaper and magazine articles](#)

[Subseries 3.2: Book-length writings](#)

[Subseries 3.3: Bylines](#)

Series 1
Correspondence, 1959-1996
Boxes 1- 2

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of correspondence relating to Herbers' work at United Press International from 1959-1960, the *New York Times* from 1972-1986 and personal correspondence from 1964-1996. The *New York Times* correspondence includes many letters that reveal the inner workings of the *New York Times*, how news stories originate, reactions to articles Herbers wrote, and criticism from *New York Times* editors, including A.M. Rosenthal. Particularly interesting is the critical correspondence and writings by Herbers and other reporters concerning A.M. Rosenthal's tenure as editor of the *New York Times* and why Herbers chose to take an early retirement from the *New York Times*. The personal correspondence consists primarily of friends and acquaintances responding or congratulating Herbers on articles he wrote, some family correspondence including letters concerning the illness and death of his son-in-law Chad Farris, and writings concerning the Church of the Pilgrims in Washington D.C. where Herbers was actively involved, particularly in helping the homeless.

United Press International correspondence

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | 1959-1960 |

***New York Times* Washington Bureau correspondence**

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 1975-1976 |
| 1 | 3 | 1977-1978 |

***New York Times* correspondence**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 4 | 1972-1976 |
| 1 | 5 | 1978 |
| 1 | 6 | 1979 |
| 1 | 7 | 1980 |
| 1 | 8 | 1980-1986 (correspondence and writings concerning Herbers' frustration with <i>New York Times</i> and A.M. Rosenthal.) |
| 1 | 9 | n.d. |

Personal correspondence

| | | |
|---|----|-----------|
| 1 | 10 | 1964-1972 |
| 1 | 11 | 1973 |
| 1 | 12 | 1976 |
| 1 | 13 | 1977-79 |
| 2 | 1 | 1980-1981 |
| 2 | 2 | 1982 |
| 2 | 3 | 1983-1984 |

| | | |
|---|----|-----------|
| 2 | 4 | 1985 |
| 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| 2 | 6 | 1987 |
| 2 | 7 | 1988 |
| 2 | 8 | 1989 |
| 2 | 9 | 1990 |
| 2 | 10 | 1991 |
| 2 | 11 | 1992 |
| 2 | 12 | 1993 |
| 2 | 13 | 1994 |
| 2 | 14 | 1995-1996 |
| 2 | 15 | n.d. |

Series 2
Subject files, 1964-1974
Boxes 3-8 (folder 1)

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of subject files relating to Herbers' work at the *New York Times* from 1964-1974. The subjects include civil rights, the Nieman Fellowship, suburban growth, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign in 1968, Nixon's presidency, and Ford's presidency. The civil rights material includes Herbers' research and drafts for articles concerning the 1965 Civil Rights Act, housing and discrimination, civil rights conferences, voting issues particularly in Mississippi, school desegregation, the displacement of black teachers, and left wing movement's relations to civil rights.

The civil rights material provides an interesting and journalistic view of civil rights and race relations in the United States during the 1960's. Materials include statements from the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and those of John Lewis. Also included is a report by the Southern Regional Council on southern school desegregation, a report by Hubert Humphrey on the coordination of civil rights activities in the federal government (1965), guidelines for enforcing the 15th Amendment by the Attorney General's Office (1965), and a memorandum supporting the challenge by African Americans to the seating of Mississippi congressman (1965).

The Nieman Fellowship material includes congratulatory letters upon Herbers' winning a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard, as well as materials he submitted in his application. The suburban growth section consists of three folders of impressions and notes Herbers took while touring cities and suburban areas in 1969 and the early 1970's sponsored by the National Urban League. The material includes information on the history of suburban development in the United States.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) material contains Herbers' research concerning the power and changing nature of the Office of Management and Budget during the years of Nixon's presidency. The material contains evidence supporting Herbers' thesis that the OMB ran the government during the Watergate years. It primarily consists of White House press releases, pool reports, and newspaper articles, particularly concerning Ford's travels to Asia and Siberia.

The Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) campaign section includes many speeches of Robert F. Kennedy, press releases during the 1968 presidential campaign and drafts of articles by Herbers. The Nixon presidency material primarily consists of draft articles by Herbers on Nixon, as well as many speeches, press releases, and pool reports following Nixon's presidency. Some of the material includes a report published by the Indochina Peace Campaign on a conspiracy to suppress dissent at the President's public appearances, Watergate Special Prosecution force status report in 1974, many press releases and pool reports on Nixon's 1974 Middle East trip, and research on the growing power of the presidency. The Ford section pr

Civil rights

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 3 | 1 | Civil Rights Act of 1965 and enforcement, 1964-1966 |

- 3 2 Civil Rights Symposium, University of Texas, 1973
- 3 3 Community Relations Service, 1965
- 3 4 Hospitals and Civil Rights Act of 1965
- 3 5 Housing and Civil Rights Act of 1965, 1965
- 3 6 Housing and Civil Rights Act of 1965, 1971-1973
- 3 7 King, Martin Luther Jr., 1965-1966
- 3 8 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, 1965
- 3 9 Left Wing and civil rights, 1965
- 3 10 Mississippi politics, 1965
- 3 11 School desegregation, 1967-1969
- 3 12 Teachers and civil rights, 1965
- 3 13 Voting rights, 1966

Nieman Fellowship

- 4 1 Nieman Fellowship materials, 1960

Suburban growth

- 4 2 Tour of Cities, 1969
- 4 3 Notes of *New York Times* reporters on a tour of suburban growth, 1971
- 4 4 Herbers' notebook on travels, undated and hard to read

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 4 5 Working paper on Office of Management and Budget for the *New York Times Magazine*, 1970-1974
- 4 6 Office of Management and Budget research, 1970-1974

Robert F. Kennedy 1968 presidential campaign

- 5 1-5 Materials and articles, 1967-1968

Nixon presidency

- 6 1-4 Research and materials on power of Nixon's presidency, 1970-1974
- 6 5 Correspondence to Herbers praising, responding, and criticizing Herbers' Nixon articles, 1973
- 6 6 Materials on the appointment of Alexander Haig to assistant to the president
- 6 7 Press releases, 1970-1972
- 6 8 Press releases, 1973
- 6 9 Press releases, 1974 January-March
- 6 10 Press releases, 1974 April-December
- 7 1 Pool reports trip to Europe and Russia, 1974
- 7 2 Middle East trip, 1974
- 7 3 Pool reports Middle East trip, 1974 June 10-13

- 7 4 Pool reports Middle East trip, 1974 June 14-15
- 7 5 Pool reports Middle East trip, 1974 June 16-18
- 7 6 Middle East trip, Herbers' drafts of articles and other information
- 7 7 Nixon's trip to Belgium and Russia, 1974 June and July
- 7 8 Nixon political cartoon poster; Herbers' reporter's notebook

Ford presidency

- 7 9 Press releases, 1974 August-October
- 7 10 Press releases, 1974 November
- 7 11 Press releases, 1974-1975 December
- 8 1 Ford's Asia and Siberia trip 1974
- 8 2 Ford's travels in Asia 1974

Series 3
Writings, 1950-1992
Box 8 (folder 3) Box 13

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of Herbers' writings throughout his career. Subseries 1 includes his writings for *Governing* magazine, *Nieman Reports*, and articles in various newspapers. Many of the articles are reprints from *Governing* magazine. Subseries 2 includes correspondence, drafts, reviews, and royalty statements concerning his books *The Lost Priority*, *No Thank You Mr. President*, and *The New Heartland*. The correspondence consists primarily of letters to and from his editors, including Evan Thomas and Jonathan Segal. Included are drafts and copies of proofs of Herbers' books. Also included are papers from three conferences on urban and suburban growth Herbers attended to promote *The New Heartland*. Subseries 3 includes all of his bylines from the *New York Times* from 1964-1987, and some of his Mississippi United Press International bylines from 1950-1962.

Arrangement Note

Organized into three subseries: (3.1) Newspaper and magazine articles, (3.2) Book-length writings, and (3.3) Bylines.

Subseries 3.1

Newspaper and magazine articles

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 8 | 3 | <i>Nieman Reports</i> , 1962, 1991-1992 |
| Box | Folder | Content |
| 8 | 4 | <i>Governing</i> magazine, 1988-1991 |
| Box | Folder | Content |
| 8 | 5-6 | Other articles and editorials, 1980-1992 |

Subseries 3.2**Book- length writings***The Lost Priority*

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 9 | 1 | Correspondence, primarily from publishers, 1967-1976 |
| 9 | 2 | Manuscript, typed Chapters 1-7 |
| 9 | 3 | Manuscript, typed Chapters 8-end |
| 9 | 4 | Reviews |
| 9 | 5 | Royalty statements, 1970-1971 |

No Thank You Mr. President

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 9 | 6 | Correspondence, 1973-1974 |
| 9 | 7 | Correspondence, 1975-1976 |
| 9 | 8 | Correspondence, 1977-1979 |
| 9 | 9 | Manuscript, master set, 1st pass (two copies) |
| 9 | 10 | Manuscript, master set, 2nd pass |
| 9 | 11 | Manuscript, typed draft, first half |
| 9 | 12 | Manuscript, typed draft, second half |
| 10 | 1 | Manuscript, first half, with some editing suggestions |
| 10 | 2 | Manuscript, second half, with some editing suggestions |
| 10 | 3 | Manuscript, Galley proofs |
| 10 | 4-5 | Reviews and press releases, 1976 |
| 10 | 6 | Undated writings |

New Heartland

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| 11 | 1 | Correspondence, 1986 |
| 11 | 2 | Correspondence, 1987 |
| 11 | 3 | Correspondence, 1988 |
| 11 | 4 | Correspondence, 1989 |
| 11 | 5 | Manuscript, Uncorrected proof, 1986 |
| 11 | 6 | Reviews and articles, 1986 |
| 11 | 7 | Reviews and writings promoting the book, 1986 |
| 11 | 8 | Reviews and writings promoting the book, 1987 |
| 11 | 9 | Conferences at MIT and San Luis Obispo, 1987 |
| 11 | 10 | UNCC conference Carolina Issues Academy, 1988 |

Subseries 3.3**Bylines**

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 11 | 11 | United Press International bylines, ca.1952-1963 |
| 11 | 12 | United Press International teletypes, ca.1952-1963 |
| 12 | | <i>New York Times</i> bylines, 1964-1973 |
| 13 | | <i>New York Times</i> bylines, 1974-1987 |
| OP1 | 1 | Selected <i>New York Times</i> bylines, 1964-1987 (originals) |
| OP1 | 1 | Selected <i>New York Times</i> bylines, 1964-1987 (photocopies) |
