

Memorandum on Leffingwell Papers

TO: Mr. Allen Sproul
FROM: Mildred Adams
DATE: February 20, 1956

Now that Columbia has assured us that the Leffingwell papers are welcome there (reported to you in my letter of February 20th), you may want what information we have on those papers to serve as background for a letter to Mr. Leffingwell. The situation is as follows:

Mr. Leffingwell was one of the first "elder statesmen" visited. I saw him in January 1954, found him very hospitable, was assured that he "never kept diaries or black books of memoranda and that the papers with which he was concerned while he was in the Treasury have stayed with the Treasury." He offered to have a volume of speeches, articles, etc. bound for us, and kindly did so.

Two months later (March 22, 1954) I went to the Treasury, and in talking with one of the officials (Mr. William Heffelfinger), asked where the Leffingwell papers were. Mr. Heffelfinger replied that Mr. Leffingwell had taken with him 20 boxes (volumes?) of "press-copy boxes" when he left the Treasury. When I got back to New York I phoned Mr. Leffingwell to ask where this material was, and after a considerable silence Mr. Leffingwell replied, "Oh - I had forgotten about that. I guess they must be in the basement of my house."

In 1955 Mr. Woodward wrote Mr. Leffingwell along with a long list of "elder statesmen" asking about papers and got back a reply which, after referring to my earlier visit and his gift of the

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bound volume, went on to say, "I gave the best account I could of what happened and why in my published essays and addresses some of which were written in the earlier days after the events and while my memory was fresh. However, if there is anything I can do to help you or Miss Adams further I shall be glad to do so."

Against that background, I would hope that a request for a search which would turn up the boxes of "press-copy books" brought from the Treasury, and the deposit of them in Columbia where students can use them might be fruitful.

Kildred Adams