
Descriptive Summary

Title: California State Curriculum Commission Papers

Dates: 1965-1971,

Date (bulk): bulk 1966-1968

Collection Number: "Consult repository."

Creator: California. Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission.

Extent: 6 boxes, [2.75 linear ft]

Repository: California State University Historical Archives California State University, Dominguez Hills

Archives & Special Collection University Library, Room G-1451000 E. Victoria Street Carson, California 90747 Phone: (310) 243-3013 URL: <http://archives.csudh.edu/>

Abstract: Records of the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission, commonly called the California State Curriculum Commission (CC), relating to textbook purchasing for California elementary, middle and high schools in the mid 1960's. Included in the collection are meeting agendas, meeting minutes, memorandums, correspondence, letters, newspaper and magazine articles, and critiques of the proposed eighth grade textbook "Land of the Free". Five editions of "Land of the Free" and one teacher's manual are also included in the collection.

Language: Collection material is in English

Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Title of item], CALIFORNIA STATE CURRICULUM COMMISSION PAPERS, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Acquisition Information

Acquisition information is not available.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and the finding aid written, in February, 2009.

History

The Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission, previously known as the California State Curriculum Commission and commonly known as the Curriculum Commission (CC), advises the California State Board of Education (SBE) on issues pertaining to programs of study and choice of instructional materials for California schools. Members are appointed by the state board or by a member of state government, such as the governor, a senator, or an assembly member, and the term of appointment is limited. Members include teachers, retirees, principals, and directors of educational based organizations. There are fifteen members on the Curriculum Commission as of January 2009.

Curriculum Commission members meet quarterly to discuss such agenda items as bids and proposals for textbooks, textbook adoption dates, budget concerns, distribution of textbooks to students, and textbook content. Members also form committees to complete assignments pertaining to the choice of instructional materials for a specific subject matter, such as Mathematics or Visual and Performing Arts. Committees work to uphold standards and guidelines pertaining to curriculum and learning materials as dictated by the commission in their yearly goals.

The Curriculum Commission reviews proposed textbooks for content. Prior to the 1960's, grade school textbooks lacked concrete portrayals of the historical experience of minority citizens in the United States. The 1960's were an era of transition in which educators and publishers

strived to create learning materials that reflected the historical experience of all citizens.

In 1965, "Land of the Free" was submitted by Franklin Publications, Inc. as a proposed history textbook for use in eighth grade classes throughout California. Written by three professors, John Walton Caughey, John Hope Franklin, and Ernest R. May, the textbook was admonished by some, such as the then Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Max Rafferty, and praised by others. The content of the textbook brought about discussion about how the depiction of African American people and their history in the United States should be characterized in grade school textbooks. The book was also accused of being a form of "propaganda" and having communist leanings at a time of great changes in the education of California students. It was eventually adopted as an approved textbook for California schools.

Scope and Content

The collection of the California State Curriculum Commission (CC), contains materials from 1965 to 1971. The bulk of the material stems from 1966 to 1968, and is related to textbook purchasing for California elementary, middle and high schools in the mid 1960's. Included in the collection are meeting agendas, meeting minutes, memorandums, and correspondence. Also contained are adoption periods for textbooks, schedules for future textbook adoptions, letters, newspaper and magazine articles, correspondence regarding the textbook "Stories California Indians Told", and critiques of the proposed eighth grade textbook "Land of the Free", as well as five editions of "Land of the Free", with the 1966 edition containing a teacher's manual. The collection also includes correspondence and memoranda received by Dr. Donald A. Bird, Dean of Graduate Studies at California State University (nee College) in Los Angeles. The correspondence and memoranda pertain to "Land of the Free", and are from various parties including the California State Curriculum Commission, the California Curriculum Commission Subcommittee for Receiving "Land of the Free", the California Department of Education, the California Legislature, Franklin Publications, Inc., concerned citizens, teachers, and others.

Subjects

Textbook bias
Textbooks for students
Textbooks—publishing
Textbooks—California—Evaluation

Personal Names

Bird, Donald A.
Caughey, John Walton, 1902-1995
Franklin, John Hope, 1915 –
May, Ernest R.
Rafferty, Max Lewis, 1917 -

Corporate Names

California. Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission.

Titles

Land of the free, a history of the United States

Related Material

The following work was used in the creation of this finding aid: [Curriculum Development & Supplemental Materials Commission.](#)

Container list **Land of the Free materials, 1965-1971**

Physical Description: 6 boxes, [2.75 boxes]

Scope and Content Note

Includes meeting agendas, meeting minutes, memorandums, correspondence, letters, newspaper and magazine articles, and critiques of the proposed eighth grade textbook "Land of the Free". Five editions of "Land of the Free" and one teacher's manual are also included in the collection

- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting Minutes - Palm Springs, 1965, November 17,18,19**
15913
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Agenda; List of Committees Carrying Out**
15914 **Assignments, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Adoption Periods of State Textbooks; Schedule for**
15915 **Future Textbook Adoptions; Recommended Adoptions; School Enrollment, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Rating Sheets, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: List of Proposed Textbooks; List of Publishers; "Land**
15917 **of the Free" proposed, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Change of Date for Submission of Bids; Schedule of**
15918 **Adoption Activities, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Memorandums, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Draft of Policy Statement, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Memorandums, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Suggested Criteria for Evaluating Music Materials,**
15922 **1965, November 17, 18, 19**
- Box CC001, Folder **Meeting of State Curriculum Commission - Palm Springs: Minutes, 1965, November 17, 18, 19**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Agenda - San Francisco: Meeting Minutes; Correspondence, 1966, January 24,25**
15924
- Box CC001, Folder **Agenda - Newport Beach: Meeting Minutes; Correspondence re: "Stories California Indians Told 1966, March 30,**
15925 **31 and April 1**
- Box CC001, Folder **Agenda - Sacramento: Meeting Minutes, 1966, April 14 and 15**
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- Box CC001, Folder **Agenda - Los Angeles: Meeting Minutes; Letter comparing "America's Story" with "Land of the Free", 1966, May**
15927 **12,13,14**
- Box CC001, Folder **Criticisms of "Land of the Free" [California State Department of Education], 1966, July 25**
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- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Palo Alto; Meeting Minutes, 1966, August 17,18,19**
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- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Berkeley: Meeting Minutes; Correspondence re: "Land of the Free," 1966, November 16,17,18**
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- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Newport Beach: Meeting Minutes; Agenda mentions "Land of the Free," 1967; January 18,19,20**
15931
- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Los Angeles Airport: Meeting Minutes; Assembly Bills, 1967, March 29,30,31**
15932
- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Los Angeles: Meeting Minutes, 1967, April 13,14**
15933
- Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - Carmel: Meeting Minutes; Assembly Bills, 1967, August 16,17,18**
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- Box CC002, Folder **Report of "Land of the Free" - "Land of the Free and Its Critics" [Southern California Social Science**
15935 **Association], 1967, August 25**
- Box CC002, Folder **"Land of the Free and Its Critics" [California Teachers Association], 1967, October**
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Box CC002, Folder **Agenda - San Francisco Airport, 1967, October 19 and 20**
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Box CC003, Folder **Agenda - Los Angeles, 1967, November 15,16,17**
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Box CC003, Folder **Correspondence and memoranda received by Dr. Donald A. Bird re: "Land of the Free" 1 of 2, 1966-1967**
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Box CC003, Folder **Correspondence and memoranda received by Dr. Donald A. Bird re: "Land of the Free" 2 of 2, 1966-1967**
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Box CC003, Folder **Newspaper and magazine clippings; articles and news releases re: "Land of the Free", 1966-1968**
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Box CC003, Folder **"California State Textbooks: Elementary School Textbooks Adopted by the State Board of Education for Use in California During 1968-1969" [California State Department of Education], 1968**
15942

Box CC003, Folder **Reviews of Fifth and Eighth Grade Textbooks in History, Geography and Related Social Studies; includes reviews of "Land of the Free", 1966-1968?**
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Box CC003, Folder **Critical Appraisal of "Land of the Free" [Land-of-the-Free Committee], 1966-1968?**
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Box CC004, Folder **Land of the Free, 1965 Text Edition, 1965**
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Box CC004, Folder **Land of the Free, Revision of 1965 Text Edition with paste-ins showing proposed changes and additions, 1965**
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Box CC005, Folder **Land of the Free, 1966 Text Edition and teacher's manual, 1966**
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Box CC005, Folder **Land of the Free, 1967 Text Edition, 1967**
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Box CC006, Folder **Land of the Free, 1971 teacher's annotated text edition, 1971**
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