

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE TERRITORIES

RECORD GROUP 126

On July 28, 1950, by Administration Order 2577, the Secretary of the Interior established an Office of Territories to carry out certain of his responsibilities for areas non-contiguous to the United States and under U.S. jurisdiction. The office, the successor to the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, was concerned with the development of the economic, social, and political life of the territories and with the coordination of territorial affairs with the defense and foreign policies of the United States. It was abolished July 1, 1971, by Secretary's Order 2942.

The Office and its predecessor entities had extensive connections with Federal activities in Alaska, the Alaska Railroad, Road Commission, and the Engineering Commission being three examples. However, the records described below encompass only a narrow aspect of the Office's responsibilities. On December 23, 1941, Congress appropriated (55 Stat. 856) \$15,000,000 as an emergency fund for the relief and civil defense of the populations of Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This fund, under the supervision of the Department of the Interior, was to be used for the lease or construction of warehousing and storage facilities and for the purchase, transportation, and sale of food, drugs, and hospital supplies. The Civilian Food Reserve Section had the responsibility for creating emergency food stockpiles throughout the war. On November 30, 1945, the government's sales of surplus food were taken over by private businesses or importers.

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

Dates: 1942-1944. Volume: 2 cu. ft.

These are records from the Seattle office of D. W. Hagerty, the Civilian Food Reserve representative for Alaska, 1942-1944. Included are administrative files consisting of charts, memoranda, vouchers, telegrams, publications, and monthly narrative and statistical reports arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

FINDING AIDS

Folder List

Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Office of Territories (1963) [PI-154]