

Inventory of the

**Dennis J. Collins**

DeKalb, Illinois

Papers

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 5**

## INTRODUCTION

The Collins Collection came to Regional History Collections of the Northern Illinois University in late 1974 following Senator Collins' death in September. The collection was donated to the University by Senator Collins in 1973 prior to his death. University Archivist J. Joseph Bauxar transferred the collections to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in June 1978.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

Linear Feet of Shelf Space: 17.25  
Number of Containers: 18 boxes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 5

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The materials in the collection partially document three areas of Collins' professional activities. Boxes one through five contain general correspondence concerning Collin's personal business dealings from 1931 to 1974. Boxes five through seventeen contain correspondence and topical literature related to Collins' duties as State Representative (1931-1943) and State Senator (1943-1973). Box seventeen also contain correspondence from Collins' legal practice with most materials involving specific legal cases.

This collection represents a modest portion of Collins' total professional records. The day-to-day activities of the Illinois State Legislature for some years are especially well documented, while other years are poorly represented or lacking totally.

The researcher should be aware that the legislative correspondence prior to 1953 is arranged chronologically, the year 1953 is ordered by place of origin, and later materials are filed by topic and by the House Bill or Senate Bill concerned.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Dennis J. Collins was born on November 21, 1900, in Gifford, Illinois. His family moved to DeKalb in 1910. He married Gertrude Kellman in 1944 and they had three children. Collins attended NIU and the University of Illinois and studied law at Northwestern. In 1928 he opened a law office in DeKalb and continued his practice until his death in 1974. He owned 480 acres of land in DeKalb County as well as business property in DeKalb.

Dennis J. Collins served a record forty-two years in the Illinois State Legislature with twelve spent as a Representative and thirty as a Senator. He stepped down in 1973 to a ten-minute standing ovation from his colleagues.

A conservative Republican, Collins was a long-term chairman of the Illinois Agriculture Committee in both the House and Senate and was chairman of the Municipalities Committee for twelve years. He championed veteran's legislation and benefits as well as better pensions for the aged and infirm. He introduced much of the legislation furthering the welfare of Northern Illinois University, but in the late nineteen sixties became a leading opponent of campus protests and student demonstrations. As a state senator Collins sponsored and was instrumental in the passing of tollway legislation. One of his last achievements was the establishment of Shabbona State Park.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture  
Apportionment  
Collins, Dennis J.  
Discrimination  
Dixon  
East West Tollway  
Education  
General Assembly  
Legislators  
N.I.U.  
Politics  
Shabbona  
Student Movements

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Biographical Data and Correspondence		
1	1	Biographical Data, 1942-1974
	2	Photographs, 1952-1974 (16)
	3	Speeches, Legislative Speech Record, 1947-?
	4-5	Salute to Senator Collins Recognition Dinner 1966
	6-23	General Correspondence, 1931-1940
2	1-24	General Correspondence, 1941-1946 (F)
3	1-24	General Correspondence, 1946 (H)-1957
4	1-17	General Correspondence, 1958-1967
5	1-12	General Correspondence, 1968-1973
	13-24	Legislative Correspondence, 1931-1935
6	1-29	Legislative Correspondence 1936-1949
7	1-26	Legislative Correspondence 1949-1954
8	1-41	Legislative Correspondence, 1955-1959
9	1-37	Legislative Correspondence, 1961-1963
10	1-46	Legislative Correspondence, 1963-1969
11	1-40	Legislative Correspondence, 1969-1971
12	1-5	Legislative Correspondence, 1971-1972
Series II. Topical Correspondence		
	6	Advisory Board, Livestock Commission, 1967
	7	Commission on Aging, 1960-1967
	8	Agriculture, 1965-1971
	9	Air Pollution, 1969
	10	Appointments, Legislative, 1969-1971

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
12	11	Bank Lists, 1965-1966	
	12	Big Brother Steering Committee, 1970-1971	
	13	Bills to be Supported, 1967-1972	
	14	Bingo, 1971	
	15	Bonus, Illinois Veterans, 1947-1951	
	16	Brochures, Campaign, 1966	
	17	Campaign, 1952	
	18	Campus Disturbance, 1970-1971	
	19	Chamber of Commerce, DeKalb, 1963-1968	
	20	Committee Appointments, 1970-1971	
	21	Congratulations, 1966-1967	
	22	Conservation, 1971-1972	
	23	Constitutional Convention, 1967-1969	
	24	County Problems, 1966-1972	
	25	DeKalb City, 1962-1969	
	26	DeKalb Post Office, 1970-1971	
	27	Corrections, Illinois, 1971	
	28	Chicago Dixon Road, 1948	
	29	Eastern Illinois University, 1964	
	30	Education, 1964-1969	
	31	Elgin Airport, 1969	
	32	Endorsements, 1965	
	33	Export Advisory Commission, 1969	
	34	Family Study Commission, 1967-1968	
	35	General Assembly Retirement System, 1947-1951	
	36	Federal Drug Study Commission, 1965-1968	
	37	Highways, 1969-1971	
	38	Illinois Building Authority, 1972	
	39	Insurance, 1970-1971	
	40	Illinois Small Business Commission, 1945-1947	
	41	Illinois Veterans Commission, 1945-1947	
	42-51	Invitations, 1958-1971	
	13	1-2	Invitations, 1972-1974
		3	Junior Colleges, 1967
4		Kendall County, 1971	
5		Kishwaukee College, 1969-1971	
6		Lankton, William, 1953	
7		Meat Inspection, 1967-1968	
8		Mental Health, 1967-1970	
9		Misc. Political, 1969-1970	
10		Municipal Regate, 1969	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
13	11	News Releases - Boone County, 1965-1966	
	12	News Releases - DeKalb County, 1965-1966	
	13	News Releases - Kane County, 1965-1966	
	14	News Releases - Kendall County, 1965	
	15	News Releases - McHenry County, 1965-1966	
	16	News Releases - Winnebago County, 1965-1966	
	17	News Releases, 1965-1966	
	18-20	N.I.U., 1965-1971	
	21	N.I.U. and Illinois Assembly Scholarships, 1963-1972	
	22	Northwestern Railroad, 1970	
	23	Open Occupancy	
	24	Parochial Schools	
	25	Personal Property Tax, 1971	
	26	Petitions, 1962-1966	
	27	Pollution, 1970-1971	
	28	Public Instruction, Illinois, 1967	
	29-30	Publicity 1947-1963	
	31	Questionnaire 1966-1970	
	32	Racing Tickets, Requests, 1957-1962	
	33	Race Track Passes, 1966-1970	
	34	Racing Revenue, 1970	
	35	Recommendations for state jobs, 1955-1972	
	36	References, 1966-1972	
	37	Refund of Sales Tax, 1972	
	38	Republican Women, 1965	
	39	Sandwich Lake Project, 1946	
	40	Scholarships, 1970-1971	
	41	School Directories, 1965	
	42	Schrader, Barry, 1971	
	43	Senate Dinners, 1965	
	44	Sesquicentennial, 1968	
	45	Shabbona Lake State Park, 1970-1973	
	46	Speech Material, 1970	
	47	Springfield, 1972	
	48	Sycamore, 1967-1969	
	49	Tax Information, 1972	
	50-52	Thank You, 1965-1967	
	53	University of Illinois, 1964-1971	
	54	University of Illinois, Scholarships, 1964-1973	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series III. Topical Literature		
14	1	Urban Renewal, 1968
	2	Veterinarians, 1969-1970
	3	Viet Nam Bonus, 1966-1967
	4	Vocational Rehabilitation, 1969
	5	Water Resource Commission, 1966-1968
	6	White House Conference on Aging, 1971
	7	Winnebago County G.O.P. Plae Dae, 1967
	8	Workman's Compensation, 1967
	9	Wurlitzer, 1970
	10	Young Republican Club, 1965
	11	Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners
	12-13	Aging and Aged, Commission on
	14-15	Agriculture
	16-17	Agriculture Committees, 1963-1965
	18	Agriculture Grain
	19	Agriculture - Mailing Lists
	20	Agriculture, 1957
	21	Air Pollution
	22	Annie Glidden Extension, 1967
	23	Appointments
	24	Arrington Press Releases
	25	Bank lists
	26	Bills to be supported, 1967
	27-28	Bills, 1968-1973
	29	Brochure
	30	Campaigns, elections
	31	Campus disturbance
	32	Chamber of Commerce
	33	Circuit Court File
	34	Colleges
	35	Commission on state government
	36	Committee Appointments
	37	Committee of Elections
	38	Committees, Special
	39	Communism
	40	Conservation
	41-42	Constitutional Convention
15	1-2	County Problems Commission
	3	Criminal Punishment

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
15	4	DeKalb, City of	
	5	DeKalb Road and Bridges Commission	
	6	DeKalb Schools	
	7	Department of Children	
	8	Dissent	
	9	Driver's Exam	
	10	Drugs	
	11-12	Education	
	13	Eighteen Year-old vote	
	14	Election Results, 1966	
	15	Elgin Airport	
	16	Endorsements	
	17	Environmental Protection Agency	
	18	Ethics Bill	
	19	Fair Employment Practices	
	20	Family Study Commission	
	21	Fire Protection District	
	22	Flags	
	23-24	Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Pesticide Laws Study Commission	
	25	General Assembly Retirement System	
	26	Governor's Mansion	
	27	Governor Dwight Green	
	28	Highways	
	29	House Bill 3319	
	30	Illinois Budget Commission	
	31	Illinois Building Authority	
	32	Illinois Legislative Council	
	33	Illinois Small Business Commission	
	34	Illinois State Employment Insurance	
	35	Illinois State Federation of Labor	
	36	Illinois State News	
	37	Illinois State Scholarship Commission	
	38	Illinois Veterans Commission	
	39	Illinois Workmans Compensation Act	
	40	Implied Consent	
	41	Insurance	
	42	Judiciary Commission	
	43	Junior Colleges	
	44	Kishwaukee College	
	45	Mailing Lists	
	46	Meat Committee	
	47	Mental Health	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	8
16	1	Misc. Commissions - Meeting Notices	
	2	Misc. Political, 1969-1970	
	3	Municipal Rebate	
	4	National Society of State Legislators	
	5	News Releases	
	6	N.I.U. Impact Legislation	
	7	Nixon File (President Richard M.)	
	8	No Fault Insurance	
	9	Northwestern Railroad	
	10	Nurses - Food Samaritan Law	
	11-12	Open Occupancy	
	13	Ogilvie, Richard B.	
	14	Orders	
	15	Personal Information sheet - DJC (Dennis J. Collins)	
	16	Personal property tax	
	17	Pollution	
	18	Primary Election, 1966	
	19	Public Aid	
	20	Public Health, Dept. of	
	21	Public Education	
	22-25	Publicity, 1947-1963	
	26	Political - Misc.	
	27	Politics, 1972	
	28	Questionnaires	
	29	Real Estate License Law Requirement	
	30-31	Reapportionment	
	32	Rent Control	
	33	Republican Filings, June 1966	
	34	Republican Legislative Bulletin	
	35	Republican Women	
	36	Resolutions by Dennis J. Collins	
	37	Revenue - Proposed Revenue Amendment, 1966	
	38	Revenue and Income Tax	
	39	Scenic River Bill	
	40	Scholarships	
	41	Scholarship Commission (Ill. State)	
	42	School Directories - 33rd District	
	43	School Prayer	
	44	School Problems Commission	
	45	Senate Dinner, July 29, 1965	
	46	Senate Hearing, Oct. 14, 1970	
	47	Shabbona Lake	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
16	48	Snow Mobiles
	49	Soil and Water Conservation
	50	State Candidates
	51	Special Education
	52-54	Speech Material, 1967-1970
	55	Speech File, 1971

#### Series IV. Legal Correspondence

17	1	Speeches, 1967-1970
	2	Springfield
	3	Springfield Scenes
	4	Springfield File, 1972
	5	State Fair
	6	State Income Tax
	7	State of Illinois - Treasurer's Report
	8	State Senators - 1973 78th G.A.
	9-11	State Vouchers, 1970-1972
	12	Swine Disease Committee
	13	Sycamore, City of
	14	Tax Information
	15	Thirty-Third Senatorial District
	16	Traffic and Transportation Committee
	17	Transit - OTA
	18	Travel Vouchers, 1965
	19	United States Post Office
	20	University Civil Service System of Ill.
	21	University of Illinois
	22	Veterans Organizations
	23-24	Water R&source Management Commission
	25	White House Conference on Aging
	26	Workmen's Compensation
	27	Young Republicans
	28-39	Legal Correspondence, A-Z
	40	Legal Correspondence General Legal
	41	Legal Correspondence - Client's Name not given

#### Box 18 contains oversize materials

18	1-4	Petitions from 1934, 1948, 1950 and 1958
	5	Petitions from 1961 plus letters related to petitions
	6	Petitions, 1966
	7	Parochial Schools