

## Harold L. Ickes Diary

### A Finding Aid

- Creator:** Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952
- Title:** Harold L. Ickes Diary
- Dates:** 1933-1939
- Abstract:** Typescript diary relating to Harold L. Ickes' time as Secretary of the Interior in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt cabinet, 1933-1939.
- Extent:** 5 boxes, 1.6 linear feet
- Language:** English
- Repository:** Drew University Library, Madison NJ

### Biographical Sketch

Harold LeClair Ickes (1874-1952) was an American administrator and politician. He served as the Secretary of the Interior in the cabinets of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, from 1933 to 1945, and President Harry S. Truman, from 1945 to 1946. Ickes was the longest tenured Secretary of the Interior in American history.

Ickes was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, but moved to Chicago after the death of his mother when he was 16 years old. He eventually attended the University of Chicago, graduating with a BA in 1897. He initially worked as a newspaper reporter for *The Chicago Record* and the *Chicago Tribune* before graduating from the University of Chicago Law School in 1907.

During the Roosevelt presidency, Ickes major responsibility was the creation and administration of the Public Works Administration, a massive New Deal construction program which led to the building of the Triborough Bridge in New York City, the Lincoln Tunnel, connecting New York and New Jersey, the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, and the Key West Highway in Florida, among other projects.

In the course of his duties as Secretary of the Interior, Ickes also contributed to many policy debates on different issues, and enjoyed a close relationship with President Roosevelt. Ickes resigned his post after a disagreement with President Harry S. Truman in 1946. Ickes used this time to edit and publish his diary and write a magazine column on American politics. Ickes died on February 3, 1952, aged 77, in Washington, D.C.

### Scope and Content Note

The Harold L. Ickes Diary contains a typescript of the secretary's diary during a significant portion of his time as Secretary of the Interior. The diary covers the period

from March 5, 1933 to December 31, 1939, spread over 29 volumes. Drew University Library holds all of the volumes except for those relating to the period December 25, 1937 to September 2, 1939. This diary portrays the professional, political, and personal aspects of Harold L. Ickes' life during his time as Secretary of the Interior for the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration within the time frame listed above. The diary contains edits to the typescript in pencil at various points. The diary was eventually published as a three volume set, *The Secret Diary of Harold L. Ickes*, during 1953-54.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

One photo copy may be made of each document for research purposes.

Permission to publish must be obtained from the Drew University Library.

Researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Volume number, page number]. Harold L. Ickes Diary. Drew University Library.

### **Processor**

Anthony Calandrillo, 2016

## **Index Terms**

### **People**

Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952 (lcnaf)

### **Subjects**

United States—Politics and government—1933-1953 (lcsh)

New Deal—1933-1939 (lcsh)

United States—History (lcsh)

Statesmen—United States—Biography (lcsh)

### **Document Types**

Typescripts (aat)

## **Container List**

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- Volume 1, 1933 March 5-June 8, p. 1-145
- Volume 2, 1933 June 13-September 30, p. 146-305
- Volume 3, 1933 October 2- December 16, p. 306-393
- Volume 4, 1934 January 2-April 30, p. 394-503
- Volume 5, 1934 May 4-August 29, p. 504-594
- Volume 6, 1934 September 5-December 29, p. 595-757
- Volume 7, 1935 January 5-March 30, p. 758-905

### **Box 2**

- Volume 8, 1935 April 1-June 27, p. 906-1040
- Volume 9, 1935 July 2-September 30, p. 1041-1199
- Volume 10, 1935 October 2-December 31, p. 1200-1323
- Volume 11, 1936 January 5-March 25, p. 1324-1451
- Volume 12, 1936 April 4-June 30, p. 1452-1534
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- Volume 16, 1937 March 6-May 22, p. 2019-2154
- Volume 17, 1937 June 17-August 18, p. 2155-2281
- Volume 18, 1937 August 25-October 31, p. 2282-2411
- Volume 19, 1937 November 4-December 25, p. 2412-2514
- Volume 28, 1939 September 2-November 11, p. 3674-3895

### **Box 4**

- Volume 29, 1939 November 19-December 31, p. 3896-4068