

Wilson

Box 44

Folder 12

National Defense: Civil Defense

1960-61

A collection of letters, news clippings & congressional excerpts. **Examples are:** letters & editorial from the *El Cajon Valley News* (19/60-2/61) re/ County Civil Defense Director L. J. Wadsworth praises Si Casady's editorial, "Are Bomb Shelters Here To Stay?" and also discusses Lakeside School Districts' approved shelter; letters & office note (Mar.-Apr. 1961) re/ the Director of the County Civil Defense responds to a dissatisfied Republican constituent; letters (Apr.-May 1961) re/ response to a complaint from a Del Mar constituent about Civil Defense; a letter (5/15/61) from Congressman R. Walter Riehlman (35th Dist. N.Y.) & attached copies of *H. Con. Res. 295* & *Congressional Record* reprint (5/4/61) re/ Congressman Riehlman's plea that "Civil Defense Should be the Responsibility of Defense Department;" a letter (7/25/61) from constituent Milton H. Ivens (M.D.) & Wilson's reply 8/9/61) re/ comment about most fall-out shelters are being built in wealthy areas, such as La Jolla; letters & news clipping (8/61) more on placing Civil Defense under the Defense Dept.; letters (Aug.-Sept. 1961) re/ responses to a constituent suggestion that compulsory civil defense training be initiated by Congress; letters (July-Aug. 1961) re/ a Post Office employee's suggestion that they participate in the nation's Civil Defense program is received with approval; a letter (9/14/61) from Governor Edmund G. Brown to Wilson favoring the President's request "for funds to defray the cost of a nationwide distribution of food grains, drugs and medicines and other 'survival items' essential to civil defense" be acted upon by Congress; letters (9/27 & 10/19/61) re/ a Hilltop High School Civics Student notes that since highway evacuation in event of a national disaster is inadequate the plan to have residents of Coronado, Chula Vista and South Bay cross into Mexico at Tijuana and then reenter the U.S. at Mexicali also remains doubtful, since the Mexican State Department has not agreed – Wilson remained hopeful that an agreement would be worked out; a letter (9/13/61) from constituent Miss Marjorie G. Nelson & Wilson's reply (9/19/61) re/ Miss Nelson's 4- page commentary on "Emergency Survival" programs; letters & office note (Sept.-Oct. 1961) re/ a Chula Vista resident questions the focus on congested city survival of a nuclear attack while neglecting families at home. Congressman Wilson noted that "it is a matter for individual citizens, not the federal government. Our only real safety is in maintaining an overwhelmingly strong military posture, which I support completely; letters (Aug.-Oct. 1961) re/ comments by Asst. Sec. of Defense for Civil Defense on "Minute Memo from Mr. C. G. Bixel, of the Division of Buildings and Safety, Riverside County" as to Fallout Shelters; letters & postal card (Sept.-Oct. 1961) re/ discussion on taxation of fallout shelters; letters (Sept.-Nov. 1961) re/ responses to constituent suggestions about selling K rations (now obsolete) to civilians & a copy of "Firms Marketing Survival Foods and Food Kits" (revised 8-24-61); letters (Aug.-Oct. 1961) re/ a conservative constituent speaks bluntly about the threats posed by Russia and Communist China, the need for each family to have a fall out shelters and other topics. The Office of Civil Defense noted that "The limited Federal funds voted by Congress in 1960 and 1961 have been entirely committed . . .;" a letter (12/2/61) from the Surgeon General of the United States (HEW) to Congressman Wilson & attached map of "Civil Defense Emergency Hospitals (12/1/61)

& a list of "Locations of Civil Defense Medical Stockpile Depots Holding Open Houses" on December 7, 1961.