

## Howard Fields High Crimes and Misdemeanors Papers

1973-1977 (bulk 1973-1974) & Undated

### Abstract

Howard Fields, a reporter with United Press International, covered the Watergate scandal in 1972, the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974, and intervening events. Using this material and subsequent research and interviews, he wrote and published *High Crimes and Misdemeanors* : “*Whereas Richard M. Nixon . . . warrants impeachment*” : *the dramatic story of the Rodino Committee* in 1978. Fields donated this research, including audio tape cassettes of the interviews, to the Goodson Law Library in 2011.

### Descriptive Summary

Note: Access to digital copies of the interview recordings are available for researchers at the Goodson Law Library. Please consult library staff.

Repository: J. Michael Goodson Law Library, Duke University

Creator: Fields, Howard

Title: Howard Fields High Crimes and Misdemeanors Papers 1973-1977 (bulk 1973-1974) & undated

Language of Material: English

Extent: 5.6 Linear Feet, Approximately 4500 items

Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

### Collection Overview

Fields was born in 1938 in Jenkins, Kentucky. He was raised and educated in Peoria, Illinois. He attended Bradley University and earned a BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a major in journalism. He was a reporter for the Peoria Journal Star before joining UPI in Minneapolis in 1964. He worked in their Detroit and Chicago bureaus before transferring to the Washington office in 1969. He left UPI in 1976 to concentrate on High Crimes and became a freelance reporter and writer. His work has been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Publishers' Weekly and Washingtonian magazines.

Fields' own notes on the accumulated papers divide them into five groups: Rodino biographical material, book material, impeachment background material, the chronological folders covering April 1973 – late 1974, and the interviews.

Peter Rodino was a Congressman from New Jersey who became chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. This group oversaw the impeachment of Richard Nixon. Rodino is a central figure in Fields' book. The biographical material consists of handwritten and typescript

notes, several drafts of articles about Rodino, newspaper clippings, and a sample entry from a Congressional reference book that describes Rodino.

The Book Material contains handwritten notes, typescript drafts, newspaper clippings, critiques of other books about the Nixon impeachment, proposed table of contents and organization of Fields' book. The Acknowledgements – Appendix folder includes some roll calls of the Committee on the Judiciary from their meetings in July 1974. The Background Material primarily consists of historic content such as information on Andrew Johnson and excerpts from the Constitution and the writings of Jefferson on impeachment.

The Milk Fund folder contains some notes, a draft of a newspaper article and a lengthy report on the manipulation of milk prices to generate campaign contributions for Nixon.

The View series of folders contain material describing the impeachment from several different perspectives, including the Committee on the Judiciary, the House Minority which was not in favor of impeachment, and the Justice Department.

The Undated Material consists of handwritten and typescript notes, drafts, newspaper clippings and documents lacking dates.

The chronological files dated April-May 1973 through post-August 1974 contain handwritten and typescript notes and drafts, newspaper clippings, press releases, government publications, speeches and statements of Congressmen, and correspondence.

The Various Committee Documents are reports on the confirmation hearings of Richard Kleindienst, nominated by Nixon to be Attorney General, the use of government funds to improve Nixon's private residences, tax deductions Nixon claimed for the donation of some of his papers, additional abuses of presidential powers, and other matters.

The Summary of Information is a report produced by the Committee on the Judiciary in July 1974 describing the results of their investigation of Nixon.

The Interviews material is primarily undated handwritten and typescript notes. In some cases other material concerning the subject is included, such as newspaper clippings, newsletters, or correspondence.

The individuals interviewed in the tape recordings are:

**Jerome "Jerry" Zeifman** (1925-2010). He served as counsel (1961-73) and general counsel (1973-74) to the Judiciary Committee. He was general counsel during the Watergate scandal, the threatened impeachment of Richard Nixon, and the confirmations of Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller. He retired from the committee staff in 1974 to teach law at the University of Santa Clara.

**Peter Rodino** (1909-2005) D NJ. Rodino rose to prominence as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, where he oversaw the impeachment hearings that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

**Richard Cates** (1925-2011) Cates served as one of the lawyers on the House Judiciary Committee concerning the impeachment of President Richard Nixon because of the Watergate scandal. 3 tapes

**Robert McClory** (1908-1988) R IL McClory worked on the US House Judicial Committee during the Watergate Scandal.

**Francis O'Brien** was chief of staff for Peter Rodino.

**Raymond Hoyt "Ray" Thornton** (b. 1928) D AR He served as a member of the Judiciary Committee considering Articles of Impeachment against President Richard Nixon, and was included in the group of three southern Democrats and four moderate Republicans who drafted the articles adopted by the Committee.

**James D. St. Clair** (1920-2001) was Richard Nixon's counsel, most notably before the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Nixon*, where he said, "The President wants me to argue that he is as powerful a monarch as Louis XIV, only four years at a time, and is not subject to the processes of any court in the land except the court of impeachment." He also represented Nixon before the House Judiciary Committee as they considered impeachment charges against the president.

The recordings also include news conferences, a committee debate, one of David Frost's 1977 interviews of Nixon, and two interviews with Fields himself to promote his book.

### **Contents of the Collection**

#### Box 1

Peter Rodino Biographical Material (1 folder)

Book Material (3 folders)

Chapter XI – Aftermath, 404-433 (1 folder)

Conclusions 434-445 (1 folder)

Acknowledgements – Appendix (1 folder)

Background Material (1 folder)

Milk Fund (1 folder)

#### Box 2

Impeachment : Committee Views (1 folder)

Impeachment : Final Minority Views (1 folder)

Impeachment : Justice Department Views (2 folders)

Impeachment : Other Views (1 folder)

Impeachment : Miscellaneous Material (2 folders)

Impeachment : St. Clair et al. Views (1 folder)

Box 3

Impeachment : Undated material (1 folder)  
April-May 1973 (1 folder)  
June-July 1973 (1 folder)  
August-September 1973 (1 folder)  
October 1973 (1 folder)  
November 1973 (1 folder)  
December 1973 (1 folder)

Box 4

January 1974 (2 folders)  
February 1974 (2 folders)  
March 1-15, 1974 (2 folders)  
July 26-31, 1974 (2 folders)

Box 5

July 26-31, 1974 (2<sup>nd</sup> folder)  
Comparison of Transcripts of Recordings, July 9, 1974 (1 folder)  
Draft Articles of Impeachment, July 19, 1974 (1 folder)  
Supreme Court Ruling US vs. Nixon, July 24, 1974 (1 folder)  
August 1974 (2 folders)  
Post-August 1974 (1 folder)  
Various Committee Documents, May 9, 1974, bulk undated (1 folder)

Box 6

Committee on the Judiciary's Summary of Information, July 19, 1974 (1 folder)  
Jerry Zeifman Interviews (1 folder)  
Ray Thornton Interviews (1 folder)  
James St. Clair Interviews (1 folder)  
Peter Rodino Interviews (1 folder)  
Francis O'Brien Interviews (1 folder)  
Robert McClory Interviews (1 folder)  
Richard Cates Interviews (1 folder)

Box 7

**Books**

Judiciary Committee Government Printing Office publications

Impeachment : selected materials on procedure  
Impeachment Inquiry, Hearings, Books I & II  
Testimony of witnesses, Hearings, Books I-III  
Statement of Information : background memorandum, Hearings  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book I, Events Prior to the Watergate Break-In  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book III, Part 2, Events Following the Watergate Break-In

Box 8

Statement of Information, Hearings, Book IV, Parts 1-3, Events Following the Watergate Break-In  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book V, Part 1, Department of Justice/ITT Litigation – Richard Kleindienst Nomination Hearings

Box 9

Statement of Information, Hearings, Book V, Part 2, Department of Justice/ITT Litigation – Richard Kleindienst Nomination Hearings  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book VI, Parts 1 & 2, Political Contributions by Milk Producers Cooperatives: The 1971 Milk Price Support Decision  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book VII, Part 1, White House Surveillance Activities and Campaign Activities

Box 10

Statement of Information, Hearings, Book VII, Parts 2-4, White House Surveillance Activities and Campaign Activities  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book VIII, Internal Revenue Service

Box 11

Statement of Information, Hearings, Book IX, Parts 1 & 2, Watergate Special Prosecutors Judiciary Committee's Impeachment Inquiry  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book X, Tax Deduction for Gift of Papers  
Statement of Information, Hearings, Book XI, Bombing of Cambodia

Box 12

Statement of Information, Hearings, Book XII, Impoundment of Funds Government Expenditures on President Nixon's Private Properties at San Clemente and Key Biscayne

Statement of Information, Hearings, Appendix I-IV, Presidential Statements on the Watergate Break-In/Papers in Criminal Cases Initiated by the Watergate Special Prosecution Force/Supplementary Documents/Political Matters Memoranda  
 Statement of Information Submitted on Behalf of President Nixon, Hearings, Books I-IV,  
 Events Following the Watergate Break-In/Department of Justice – ITT  
 Litigation/Political Contributions by Milk Producers Cooperatives/ White House  
 Surveillance Activities

Box 13

Debate on articles of impeachment, Hearings  
 Summary of Information, Hearings  
 Brief on behalf of the President of the United States, Hearings  
 Minority Memorandum on Facts and Law, Hearings  
 Impeachment, selected materials  
 Transcript of eight recorded presidential conversations, Hearings  
 Errata, Hearings

Fields, Howard. *High Crimes and Misdemeanors: "Wherefore Richard M. Nixon . . . Warrants Impeachment": The Dramatic Story of the Rodino Committee*. New York, W. W. Norton, 1978. First edition.

Box 14

**Recordings**

25 cassette tapes total

Note: Originals closed to use. Access to digital copies of the interview recordings are available for researchers at the Goodson Law Library. Please consult library staff.

Jerry Zeifman, 9 tapes, July 27-28, 1977, August 24, 1977, Sept. 15, 1977, & undated

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Jerry Zeifman	120 min., Atlas Films, Inc., green label	hft001001001	1	1:00:25
#10 Jerry Zeifman 7/28/77	60 min., Scotch, orange label	hft001001002	2	0:34:03, 0:26:40
#VII/#VIII Jerry Zeifman	120 min., TDK, purple label	hft001001003	2	1:03:04, 1:03:04
#1/#2 Jerry Zeifman 7/27/77	120 min., Sony, blue/white label	hft001001004	2	1:09:37, 1:09:20

#1A/#2A Jerry Zeifman 7/27/77	120 min., Sony, blue/white label	hft001001005	2	1:02:53, 0:56:29
Jerry Zeifman by phone	60 min., Scotch, orange label	hft001001006	1	0:34:05
Zeifman 7/27/77 III/IV	120 min., Sony, blue/white label	hft001001007	2	1:02:56, 1:02:57
Jerry Zeifman (phone) 8/24/77 / III Robert McClory #III 10/21/77 / 10/14/77	120 min., Sony, glad/white label	hft001001008	2	1:07:09, 1:10:49
#1 Jerry Zeifman foner 9/15/77 / #2 Jerry Zeifman foner 9/15/77	60 min., orange label, "USA components assembled in Mexico"	hft001001009	2	0:04:04, 0:30:18

Peter Rodino, 3 tapes, July 15, 1975, Sept. 13, 1977, Oct. 19 & 24, 1977

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Peter Rodino 7/15/75	120 min., Sony, blue/white label	hft001001010	1	1:09:42
#1 Peter Rodino 9/13/77 / #2 Peter Rodino 9/13/77	90 min., Scotch, silver label	hft001001011	2	0:46:27, 0:33:31
Rodino #5 10/19/77 McClory #4 10/21/77 / McClory #5 10/24/77	120 min., Scotch, white label	hft001001012	2	1:05:04, 1:05:01

Richard Cates, 3 tapes, Oct. 3, 1977

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
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Richard Cates 10/3/77 #I / Richard Cates 10/3/77 #II	120 min., Maxell, yellow label	hft001001013	2	1:02:48, 1:02:48
#V Richard Cates 10/3/77 / #VI Richard Cates 10/3/77	120 min., TDK, purple label	hft001001014	2	1:07:38, 1:08:05
Richard Cates 10/3/77 #III / Richard Cates 10/3/77 #IV	120 min., Maxell, yellow label	hft001001015	2	1:02:48, 1:02:48

Robert McClory, 2 tapes, Oct. 6 & 21, 1977, & undated

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Robt. McClory/John Doar, G van Thomas Sr./Bert Jenner / Frank Polk/ Kleindinst Secretary	120 min., Scotch, white label	hft001001016	2	1:03:10, 0:40:34
#I Robt. McClory 10/6/77 (near end)	120 min., Compact Cassette, blue label	hft001001017	1	0:02:20

Francis O'Brien, 1 tape, August 1, 1977

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Francis O'Brien 8/1/77 NX / Francis O'Brien 8/1/77 NX	120 min., Scotch, white label	hft001001018	2	1:04:15, 1:04:47

Box 15

Ray Thornton, 1 tape, Sept. 30, 1977



<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Ray Thornton 9/30/77 / Ray Thornton 9/30/77	120 min., Sony, blue/white label	hft001001019	2	1:02:30, 0:54:41

James St. Clair, 1 tape, August 8, 1977

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
James St.. Clair BH 8/8/77 / James St. Clair BH 8/8/77	120 min., Scotch, white label	hft001001020	2	1:05:10, 1:05:42

Rodino, St. Clair news conferences, 1 tape, undated

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Peter Rodino news confernece / James St. Clair news conference	Length not listed, Common problems in family medicine, yellow label	hft001001021	2	0:26:28, 0:26:32

Committee impeachment debate, 1 tape, July 27, 1974

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Impeachment debate (Article I) 7/27/74	120 min., Sony, gold label	hft001001022	2	1:05:15, 1:08:21

Frost interview of Nixon, 1 tape, April 4, 1977

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Frost vs. Nixon 5/4/77 / (cont'd) Frost vs. Nixon 5/4/77	120 min., Sony, white/blue label	hft001001023	2	1:07:35, 0:46:49

Book interview, Bob Grant Show, 1 tape, August 9, 1978

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Bob Grant Show phone interview 8/9/78	120 min., Sony, gold/white label	hft001001024	2	1:02:58, 1:02:54

Book interview, Fred Fiske Show, 1 tape, undated

<b>Tape Subject (from label)</b>	<b>Tape Description</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>File Count</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Fred Fiske Show WAMU Book Interview	120 min., Scotch, black label	hft001001025	2	0:59:27, 1:06:18