JOSEPH WALKER BARR
LETTER, 16 FEBRUARY 1959

Collection Information

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION DATES: 16 February 1969

PROVENANCE: Caroline Dunn, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1959

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.0209

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph Walker Barr was born on January 17, 1918, in Bicknell, Indiana. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePauw University in 1939 and a Master of Arts degree in Theoretical Economics from Harvard University in 1941. In May 1942 he entered the United States Navy and served on a submarine chaser until October 1945. During this time Barr was awarded a Bronze Star for sinking a German submarine off the coast of Italy at Anzio Beach. Following his discharge, Barr pursued various business ventures for the next fourteen years, including the administration of theaters, as well as real estate and publishing operations.

He was elected to the Eighty-sixth Congress in 1958 and served as a Democratic representative of Indiana’s 11th Congressional District from January 1959 to January 1961. Indiana’s 11th congressional District was later absorbed into another district following the 1980 census. As a representative he served as a member of the House Banking and Currency Committee. Barr also worked with Republican Senator Homer E. Capehart to prevent the sale of the segregated Lockefield Garden Apartments complex to private “real estate interests,” as well as appeared on the TV show “The Congressional Beat” to discuss foreign policy issues. He would lose his bid to serve in the Eighty-seventh Congress to the Republican candidate Donald C. Bruce.

In 1961 he became the appointed assistant to Douglas Dillon, Secretary of the Treasury. Two years later, in 1963, he became the appointed Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and served in this position from 1964 to 1965. From 1965 to 1968 he served as Under Secretary of the Treasury. President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the position of Secretary of the Treasury, which he held from December 1968 to January 1969. Between 1969 and 1981 Barr served as president and chairman of the American Security and Trust Company, as well as the chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. He died on February 23, 1996, while on vacation in Playa del Carman, Mexico.

Sources:

Materials in the collection


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of one letter from Joseph Barr, 11th District Indiana Representative (1959-1961), to his constituents dated February 16, 1959. In the letter, which is signed “Joe Barr,” the newly appointed Congressman invites Hoosiers to share their opinions and advice on voting issues like increasing the debt limit, gas tax and defense funding. Barr also offers to send federal publications upon request.
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Letter, 16 February 1959

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2941).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.