

C Ruffin, James Edward, (1893-1977), Papers, 1929-1965  
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#### INTRODUCTION

The papers contain correspondence and legal papers of a Democratic congressman-at-large, 1933-1935; lawyer; and special assistant to the attorney general, 1935-1953.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by James E. Ruffin on 21 April 1966 (Accession No. 3659).

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Edward Ruffin was born July 24, 1893, near Covington, Tipton County, Tennessee. He was educated in rural schools and attended Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, graduating in 1916. He then went to Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, receiving a L.L.B. in 1920. Ruffin served in France during World War I, commanding M Company with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Infantry. He practiced law in Springfield, Missouri, from 1920 to 1935 and was assistant city attorney of Springfield from 1926 to 1928. Ruffin became a congressman in 1933 and served one term.

#### FOLDER LIST

f. 1	Miscellaneous material including legal briefs concerning Un-American activities; approved definitions of insanity; Speech "The: Present Day Challenge to Youth;" List of Missouri Democratic party leaders with addresses. Newspaper clipping about Harry Truman. Broad sides of James Ruffin's political campaigns. Includes covers of original filing order.
f. 2	Political correspondence and speeches concern Ruffin's candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Congress from the Seventh Congressional District. Correspondence with southwest Missouri Democrats soliciting support and campaign organization information.
f. 3-4	Political correspondence with Ralph E. Truman and southwest Missouri Democrats and minutes concerning formal organization of Southwest Missouri Democratic Club's "Truman-For-Governor" Club and endorsement of Hawes for U.S . Senate.
f. 5-6	Political correspondence with Harry S. Truman, Ralph E. Truman and southwest Missouri Democrats, concerns organizing opening meeting of "Truman-For-Governor" candidacy drive, Houston, June, 1931 and organizing county clubs and rallies. Correspondence with Carl L. Ristine and Peter O'Brien concerning candidacy of Truman, Francis Wilson and Kansas City Pendergast support. Correspondence between

	Ruffin and Harry S. Truman concerns evaluation of Democratic and Republican party in southwest Missouri and Republican gubernatorial candidate.
f. 7	Political correspondence concerns Truman support in Lafayette and Henry counties, organization in southwest Missouri, proposed meeting with Truman at State Fair in Sedalia and Democratic victories in 7th district. Newspaper clippings and correspondence concern organization of "Reed-For-President" club, Springfield, James Ruffin, president. Correspondence of Vance C. Criss soliciting support for Ruffin and requesting con tact with Kansas City Pendergast organization to support Ruffin for Democratic nomination for Congress at large.
f. 8	Correspondence and campaign literature concerns Ruffin's candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Congress at large. Correspondence with Harry S. Truman concerns contacts made with Kansas City political organization in order to solicit support for Ruffin's campaign. Correspondence with Harry S. Truman concerning political contacts in St. Louis recommended by Jim Pendergast and comments on differences in St .Louis and Kansas City politics.
f. 9-10	Correspondence concerns Ruffin's candidacy for Democratic nomination for Congress at large, primary victory, August, 1932, and General Election victory, November 1932. Includes correspondence with Lloyd C. Stark, Harry S. Truman, Milton A. Romjue, Bennett Champ Clark, James A. Parley.
f. 11	Political correspondence and speeches concern Seventy-third U.S. Congress and House Judiciary Committee, Congressional appointments for Missouri, political recommendations and endorsements. Correspondence with Harry S. Truman requesting information on Jackson County post offices, West Point appointment for nephew, postmaster at Odessa, Missouri. Correspondence with Thomas Joseph Pendergast concerns recommendation of C.W. Greenwade to Postmaster, Springfield and Ruffin's reasons for not supporting this recommendation. Correspondence with Bennett C. Clark concerns Missouri postmaster appointments.
f. 12-13	Correspondence and speeches concern Seventy- third U .S. Congress and House Judiciary Committee, political recommendation and endorsements, Congressional appointments and patronage. Correspondence with Harry S. Truman seeking support for legislation concerning toll bridge between Kansas and Platte City, Missouri, and West Point appointment for Truman's nephew. Reprints of speeches by Ruffin concerning tariff legislation, Fraudulent and Excessive Claims Act, and racketeering. Correspondence with Vance C. Criss and Bennett Champ Clark concerning Missouri postmaster appointments.
f. 14-16	Correspondence and speeches concerning Seventy-third U.S. Congress and House Judiciary Committee, political recommendations, congressional appointments, Ruffin's unsuccessful campaign for Democratic nomination for reelection to U.S. Congress.

	Correspondence with Bennett Champ Clark, Ed Villmoare and Missouri Democrats concern Ruffin's investigation and recommendations for postmaster appointments in southwest Missouri
f. 17-19	Copies of legal briefs and opinions compiled and submitted by Ruffin, special assistant to the Attorney General, Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. Legal briefs concern (A) Stub Relief Fraud, (B) transportation of kidnapping ransom money, (C) compensation of patented appliances, (D) fraudulent loan companies. Correspondence with members of Democratic National Committee, Speaker's Bureau including James A. Farley, E .J. MacMillan, Sam Rayburn, Paul C. Aiken requesting Ruffin's service as speaker during 1936 Democratic campaigns. Includes comment on Democratic platform and Missouri politics.
f. 20-23	Copies of legal briefs and opinions submitted by Ruffin, special assistant to the Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. Legal briefs concern (A) jurisdiction of Federal Courts with reference to issuance of injunctions (B) Marble claims against T.V. A., (C): Federal jurisdiction in right to work case, (D) recommendation of prosecution National Boston Montana Mines Corporation. Includes list of cases handled by Ruffin during fiscal year, 1937-1938.
f. 24-26	Copies of legal briefs and opinions compiled and submitted by Ruffin, special assistant to the Attorney General, Department of Justice. Concerns (A) Search warrants, (B) Associated Gas and Electric Company Systems and Eastern Utilities Investing Corporation, (C) registration of agents of foreign principal, (D) Congressional immunity, (B) Criminal prosecution against Procter & Gamble, (F) National Worker s' League and violation of Sedition Statute, (G) Conspiracy Statute. Includes critique by Ruffin of proposed Rules of Criminal Procedure.
f. 27-29	Legal papers and critique by Ruffin, Alexander Holtzoff, and federal judges concern reform of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Also resume of principal matters handled by Ruffin 1935- 1944 with Department of Justice.
f. 30-33	Legal brief and opinions submitted by Ruffin, special assistant to Attorney General concerning (A) Juvenile Delinquency Act, (B) Extradition from Mexico and Canada, (C) Racial disturbances, Columbia, Tennessee, 1946, (D) Bernard P. Day, fraud against U. S. Government, (E) Senator Joe McCarthy and Congressional franking privilege. Copy of speech by Ruffin, "Presentation of Cases to a Grand Jury." Correspondence with Missourians requesting information about federal procedures. Clippings from Missouri publications concerning Ruffin.

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