Guide to the Ernest Warren Lefever Papers

MS 953

compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1983

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 953

CREATOR: Lefever, Ernest W.

TITLE: Ernest Warren Lefever papers

DATES: 1947–1948

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Research materials collected largely in connection with the preparation of Ernest Warren Lefever’s Ph.D. dissertation at Yale University, 1956. The bulk of the papers consist of memoirs, reports, and articles about German prisoners of war who had returned from Russia. These were collected in Bremen in 1948. The remainder of the papers contain correspondence and printed matter concerning the re-education of German youth after World War II as produced by the German Youth Activities Section of the Training and Education Branch of the United States Army.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0953

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0953.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ernest Warren Lefever was born on November 12, 1919, in York, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Elizabethtown College, where he graduated with an A.B. in 1942. In 1945, he received a B.D. from Yale University, where he continued to study, receiving a Ph.D. in 1956. Lefever has worked in international affairs for nearly his entire life, beginning in the years following World War II, when he was a field secretary in Europe for the World’s Alliance of YMCA’s. Over the course of the next two decades, Lefever worked in international affairs at the National Council of Churches (1952-1954), Johns Hopkins University (1955-1956, 1960-1961), the University of Maryland (1956-1957), the Library of Congress (1957-1959), and for Senator Hubert Humphrey (1959-1960). Between 1964 and 1976, he was a member of the senior staff of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institute. In 1976, he helped found and became president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center. He remained president until 1989, when he became a senior fellow. He has been an adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. Lefever has written, co-authored, or edited twenty books and has frequently written articles for many of America’s leading newspapers and magazines.

Scope and Contents
The Ernest Warren Lefever Papers are made up of research materials concerning the treatment of German civilians and prisoners of war after World War II. There is a small amount of material about the German Youth Activities (GYA) Section of the Training and Education Branch of the United States Army, established in 1945 to reorient German youth. Included are two items of correspondence with W. P. Shofstall of the GYA, notes, and statistics on United States Army assistance to German youth groups. Lefever was collecting this material for use in writing his Yale Ph.D. thesis, *Protestants and United States Foreign Policy, 1925-1954: A Study of the Response of National Protestant Leaders to the Issues and Directions of the United States Foreign Policy and of the Theoretical Assumptions Which Underlay That Response* (1956).

The bulk of the papers consists of materials on the treatment of German prisoners of war in Russia, which Lefever collected in Bremen, Germany, in 1948. These include first-hand histories of returning prisoners of war, reports and articles about prisoners of war, and notes and printed matter. Most of these papers are in German.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

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<td>Reports on prisoners of war in Russia</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Reports on prisoners of war in France, England, and Egypt</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Notes and printed matter</td>
<td>[ca. 1947–1948]</td>
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Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons,
Russian
Youth -- Germany (West)

Geographic Names
Europe
Germany -- History -- 1945-1955
Soviet Union

Names
Lefever, Ernest W.

Corporate Bodies
United States. Army
Yale University -- Students