

**A GUIDE TO THE
DEAN W. COSTON PAPERS**

National Public Broadcasting Archives
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Mike Mashon, November 1993 Karen King
Revised by: Karen King, Revised March 1994
4.00 linear feet

BIOGRAPHY

Dean W. Coston was born in New York in July 1923. He attended University of Michigan, where he got both an A.B. and a M.A. degree.

Coston taught high school in Michigan, and was on the radio-television staff at the University of Michigan in 1948. He also worked as chief engineer at WUOM, Ann Arbor. While in Michigan, he held many public office positions including City Councilman, Ann Arbor; County Supervisor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; and Chairman, County Building Code Commission.

He joined the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1961 as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary (Legislation). In 1963, Coston became Deputy Assistant Secretary. By January 1966, he was Deputy Under-Secretary. His chief concern was the development, implementation and administration of legislation in areas including education. His responsibilities included inter-agency communications, extensive dealings with Congress, and Federal-state-local relationships. Among the legislative enactments that he was concerned with were: The Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendments of 1962; the Drug Abuse Control Act; The Clean Air Act (1963, 1965, 1967) and the Public Broadcasting Act (1962-1967). In fact, Coston helped advance the cause of educational radio by including it in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, which he helped write. Finally, he served as a representative of DHEW to many commissions and councils, including the Consumer Advisory Council and the Water Resources Council. He also belonged to the President's Task Force on Communications Policy.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Dean W. Coston Papers cover the dates April 1965 to January 1969, with the bulk of the collection from 1967 to 1969, and contains some undated material. The collection documents Coston's involvement with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Task Force on Educational Television and the passage of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. Types of documents include correspondence, memoranda, reports, newsletters, House and Senate Committee prints of legislation, and transcripts of congressional testimony.

The collection consists of six series:

- Series 1: The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967
- Series 2: Educational Television
- Series 3: Educational Television Facilities Act
- Series 4: DHEW Legislation 1967-1969
- Series 5: Federal Communications Commission
- Series 6: Corporation for Public Broadcasting

PROVENANCE

The Dean W. Coston Papers were given to the National Public Broadcasting Archives, University of Maryland Libraries by Dean W. Coston in April 1993.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1: The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, 1966-1967 (3.50 linear feet)

This series documents the evolution of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, including materials related to both the House (H.R. 6736) and Senate (S.1160) versions. Other materials include the House and Senate factbooks, both of which contain summaries, public testimony, and fact sheets pertaining to the legislation. In addition, this series contains various committee and DHEW versions of the legislation, plus miscellaneous correspondence relating to the Public Broadcasting Act. The documents are arranged into the House and Senate versions, and chronologically within that division.

Series 2: Educational Television, 1965-1967 (0.50 linear feet)

This series contains early drafts and proposals that eventually led to the Public Broadcasting Act as well as correspondence from the Office of Education and the Carnegie Commission. A subseries is devoted to plans for financing public broadcasting, and includes the work of the Task Force on Financing Public Broadcasting and reports from the Carnegie Commission, the Treasury Department, and the President's Council of Economic Advisors. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Series 3: Educational Television Facilities Act, 1966-1968 (3 folders)

This series consists of documents and correspondence related to the proposed extension of the Educational Television Facilities Act for fiscal year 1967.

Series 4: DHEW Legislation, 1967-1969 and undated (3 folders)

This series is devoted to proposed legislation from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW) for fiscal years 1968 and 1969, for both public broadcasting in particular and DHEW legislative strategy in general. Most of the correspondence originates in the Department's Legislative Division.

Series 5: Federal Communications Commission, 1965-1968 (4 folders)

This series contains materials related to FCC proposed rule-making on domestic satellites and other communications issues that impacted on public broadcasting. Included are comments from the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT), the National Association of Educational Broadcasters, and the Ford Foundation. Notable correspondents include Leonard Goldenson, President of the American Broadcasting Company.

Series 6: Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 1967-1968 (2 folders)

This series documents the nomination of various individuals for the CPB Board. It contains the resumes of Warren Bush, Henry Morgenthau III, George Probst and others. Notable correspondents include Walter Mondale, Vance Hartke, and Morris Udall.

BOX INVENTORY

SERIES 1: THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT OF 1967

Box	Folder	
1	1-2	House Factbook (2f)
	3	H.R. 6736 [March-August 1967]
	4-5	Senate Factbook (2f)
		S.1160
	6	[March 1967]
	7-8	[April 1967] (2f)
	9-10	[May 1967] (2f)
	11	[June 1967-February 1968]
		Title III
	12	[February 1967]
	13	[April-November 1967]
	14	Comparisons and Summaries [April-June 1967]
		[Comparative Committee Print in oversize box 4]

SERIES 2: EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Box	Folder	
		Task Force on Educational Television
2	1	[April 1965-October 1966]
	2	[October 1966-March 1967]
		Miscellaneous Correspondence
	3	[May 1966-January 1967]
	4	[February-July 1967]
	5-7	Task Force on Financing Public Broadcasting [September-October 1967] (3f)
		Miscellaneous Financial Correspondence
	8	[October 1966-March 1967]
	9	[August-September 1967]
	10	[n.d.]

SERIES 3: EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION FACILITIES ACT

Box	Folder	
2	11	FY1967 Extension [March-November 1966]
3	1-2	FY1969 Factbook (2f)

SERIES 4: DHEW LEGISLATION

3	Public Broadcasting Act [November 1967-May 1968] DHEW Legislative Program
4	[November 1968-January 1969]
5	[n.d.]

SERIES 5: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

6	[December 1965-August 1966]
7	[December 1966-September 1968]
8-9	[October 1968] (2f)

SERIES 6: CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

10	[August-November 1967]
11	[December 1967-April 1968]

[SERIES 1: PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT OF 1967]

4	<u>Comparative Committee Print. S.1160, 90th Congress, 1st Session. September 28, 1967. Public Broadcasting Act of 1967</u> Photograph: Coston shaking hands with President Lyndon B. Johnson Pen used by President Lyndon B. Johnson in signing the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967
---	--