GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Preliminary Inventory of the Records of The Committee on Fublic Information, 1917-19

(Record Group 63)

Compiled by Janet Weinert

on the Basis of a Classification Scheme Devised by

F. Hardee Allen

1962

Revised September 2021

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Introduction 1 Inventory 3 Executive Division 3 Reports 3 Executive Division 3 Reports 4 Inventories of files 5 Correspondence 6 Inventories of files 6 Correspondence 6 Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation 6 Correspondences 6 Division of News 6 News articles and releases 6 Division of News 7 News releases 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 News preleases 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 7 Propaganda records of speakers 7 Office of Films 7 Office of the Director 7 Publications 7 Correspondence 7 Publications 7 Office of the Director		Division of Advertising	Page
Inventory		Correspondence	-
Inventory s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.s.	Intro	duction	1
Executive Division		Hererence Mylaion	
Executive Division 3 Correspondence 3 Reports 4 Propaganda records 4 Inventories of files 4 Gard records of Americanization Activities 5 Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation 5 Correspondence 6 Publications 6 News articles and releases 6 Division of Official Bulletin 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 8 Press releases 8 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence 9 Correspondence 9 Correspondence 9 <td>Inven</td> <td>tory</td> <td>3</td>	Inven	tory	3
Correspondence 3 Reports 4 Propaganda records 4 Card records of Americanization Activities 5 Division of Civic and Educational Ccoperation 5 Correspondences 5 Correspondences 6 Publication 6 News articles and releases 6 News articles and releases 7 News releases 7 News releases 7 Publications 7 News releases 7 Publications 7 Publications 7 Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Press releases 7 Office of Flumes 7 Publications 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Press releases 7 Office of Flumes 7 Office of frue Birector 7		Executive Division	3
Reports		Correspondence	3
Propaganda records 1 Card records of files 1 Gard records of Americanization Activities 1 Correspondence 1 Copy for publication 1 Copy for publication 1 News articles and releases 1 Division of News 1 News releases 1 Publications 1 News releases 1 Publications 1 Publications 1 News releases 1 Publications 1 Publications 1 Publications 1 Propaganda articles 1 Newspaper translations 1 Press releases 1 Press releases 1 Press releases 1 Propaganda articles 1 Newspaper translations 1 Press releases 1 Press releases 1 Prospaganda articles 1 Press releases 1 Press releases 1 Press releases		Reports	
Inventories of files 1 Card records of Americanization Activities 5 Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation 5 Correspondence 6 Publications 6 Publications 6 Publications 6 Publications 6 Division of News 7 News articles 7 Publications 7 Propagnda articles 7 Prepagnda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Press releases 8 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of Speakers 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Office of the Director 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondenc			li
Card records of Americanization Activities 5 Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation 5 Copy for publication 6 Publications 6 Publications 6 News articles and releases 6 Division of News 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda articles 7 Press releases 7 Division of Fictures 7 Press releases 7 Press releases 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda completions 7 Press releases 7 Propaganda completions		Inventories of files	
Publications 6 News articles and releases 7 News releases 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Forign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Fictures 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Orerespondence:<			
Publications 6 News articles and releases 7 News releases 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Forign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Fictures 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Orerespondence:<	C	Division of Civic and Educational Cooperation	5
Publications 6 News articles and releases 7 News releases 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Forign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Fictures 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Orerespondence:<			5
Publications 6 News articles and releases 7 News releases 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Forign Language Publications 7 Propaganda articles 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Fictures 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Orerespondence:<			6
News articles and releases 6 Division of News 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Correspondence 7 Propagands articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Pictures 8 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: consolidated files of the Division of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: files of the Speakers' Bureau 10 Division of Speaking 10		Publications	
Division of News 7 News releases 7 Division of Official Bulletin 7 Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Correspondence 7 Propaganda articles 7 Newspaper translations 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Pictures 8 Division of Films 7 Correspondence 7 Gorrespondence 7 Office of the Director 7 Publications 7 Speakers [®] Bureau 9 Correspondence: 7 Office of the Director 7 Publications 7 Speakers [®] Bureau 9 Correspondence: 7 Orrespondence: 7 Orrespondence: 7 Publications 7 Orrespondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: 10 <td></td> <td></td> <td>6</td>			6
News releases ? Division of Official Bulletin ? Publications ? Division of Foreign Language Publications ? Correspondence ? Propaganda articles ? Newspaper translations ? Newspaper translations ? Newspaper translations ? Press releases ? Bivision of Pictures ? Records ? Correspondence ? Bivision of Films ? Correspondence ? Office of the Director ? Publications ? Speakers' Bureau ? Correspondence: ? Speakers' Bureau ? Office of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau ? Division of Speaking ? Orrespondence: ? Division of Speaking ? Orrespondence ? Division of Speaking ? Division of Speaking ? Division of Speaking ? Division of Speaking	1		
Division of Official Bulletin			
Publications 7 Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Correspondence 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Films 8 Division of Pictures 8 Division of Films 8 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Card records of speakers 9 Stareoption slides 9 Stareoption slides 9 Stareoption of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau 9 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 12 Lists 12 Division of Speaking			
Division of Foreign Language Publications 7 Correspondence 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Pictures 8 Division of Films 8 Division of Films 8 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 10 Publications 10 Correspondence: 10 Correspondence: 10 Publications 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12			
Correspondence 7 Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Division of Pictures 8 Division of Films 8 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Office of the Director 9 Correspondence: 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Speaking 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12	F I		
Propaganda articles 8 Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Press releases 8 Division of Pictures 8 Records 9 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Card records of speakers 9 Speakers* 9 Correspondence: 9 Card records of speakers 9 Speakers* 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Card records of speakers 9 Speakers* 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: 10 Correspondence 10 Division of Speaking 10 Card records of speakers 10 Carrespondence 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12			
Newspaper translations 8 Division of Labor Publications 8 Press releases 8 Division of Pictures 8 Bivision of Films 8 Correspondence 9 Office of the Director 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Optision of Speaking and the Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: 12 Lists 12 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work 12			
Division of Labor Publications			
Press releases 8 Division of Pictures 8 Records 9 Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Publications 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers ⁶ Bureau 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Lists 12 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work 12			8
Division of Pictures			8
Records Seconds Seconds	8		8
Division of Films 9 Correspondence 9 Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Publications 9 Card records of speakers 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers* 9 Speakers* 9 Correspondence: 9 Speakers* 9 Scorrespondence: 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Division of Speaking 12 Lists 12 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work 12			8
Division of Four Minute Men 9 Office of the Director 9 Publications 9 Card records of speakers 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers 9 Speakers 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Division of Speaking 12 Lists 12 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work 12	8 1		9
Office of the Director 9 Publications 9 Card records of speakers 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers 9 Speakers 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Division of Speaking 10 Lists 10 Lists 12 Division of women's War Work 12		Correspondence	9
Publications 9 Card records of speakers 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers 8 Bivision of Speaking and the Speakers 9 Correspondence: 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Lists 10 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work 12	S (1	Division of Four Minute Men	9
Card records of speakers 9 Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers Bureau 9 Correspondence: consolidated files of the 9 Division of Speaking and the Speakers Bureau 9 Correspondence: files of the Speakers 9 Division of Speaking 10 10 Division of Speaking 10 10 Publications 10 10 Lists 10 12 Lists 10 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Office of the Director	9
Stereopticon slides 9 Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: consolidated files of the Division of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: files of the Speakers' Bureau 9 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Lists 10 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Publications	9
Speakers ¹ Bureau 9 Correspondence: consolidated files of the Division of Speaking and the Speakers ¹ Bureau 9 Correspondence: files of the Speakers ¹ Bureau 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Publications 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Card records of speakers	9
Speakers ¹ Bureau 9 Correspondence: consolidated files of the Division of Speaking and the Speakers ¹ Bureau 9 Correspondence: files of the Speakers ¹ Bureau 10 Division of Speaking 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Publications 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Stereopticon slides	9
Division of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau 9 Correspondence: files of the Speakers' Bureau 10 Division of Speaking 10 Correspondence 10 Publications 10 Lists 10 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Speakers Bureau	9
Correspondence: files of the Speakers' Bureau . 10 Division of Speaking . . . 10 Correspondence 10 Publications 12 Lists 12 Division of Women's War Work . <			
Division of Speaking		Division of Speaking and the Speakers' Bureau	9
Correspondence 10 Publications 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12		Correspondence: files of the Speakers' Bureau	10
Publications 12 Lists 12 Card records of speakers 12 Division of Women's War Work 12	5 1	Division of Speaking	10
Lists			
Card records of speakers			
Division of Women's War Work			
Record cards (the index visible)	18 1		
		Record cards (the index visible)	12

Page

Division of Advertising			12
Correspondence			12
Records of advertising space contributions			13
Reference Division	• •		ĩš
	• •		ũ
	• •		13
	• •		
Publications and posters	• •		13
Director's Office of the Foreign Section	0 0		13
Correspondence	• •		13
Reports			14
Information files	0 0		14
Newspaper clippings			15
Propaganda records			16
Press releases			16
News bulletins		0	17
Record cards		•]	17
Index cards		. 7	17
Office of the Commissioner at Paris			17
Correspondence			17
Propaganda records			18
Office of the Commissioner at London			18
Telegrams and cablegrams			18
Office of the Commissioner at Rome			19
			19
Correspondence			
Reports			19
Newspaper clippings and press reviews			20
Press releases			20
Propaganda records		-	20
Office of the Commissioner at Berne, Switzerland .	• •		21
Correspondence			21
News bulletins	• •		21
Propaganda records		-	51
Office of the Commissioner at The Hague	0 0		22
Correspondence			22
Press releases and news bulletins	0 0	0 2	22
Lists		. 2	23
Office of the Commissioner at Madrid			23
Correspondence			23
News bulletins and newspaper clippings		. 2	23
Office of the Commissioner at Buenos Aires		1.00	23
Correspondence			23
Press releases and newspaper clippings			24
			24
Office of the Commissioner at Santiago, Chile		1	24
Correspondence			
Newspaper clippings			24
Office of the Commissioner at Lima, Peru			24
Newspaper clippings		0	24

Page

Russian Division, Offices in Russia and Siberia	o o 21	5
Correspondence		5
Reports		5
Clippings and translations of newspaper articles ,		5
Press releases and news bulleting	0 0 26	5
Foreign Press-Wireless and Cable Service, New York		
Office	0 0 26	5
Telegrams and cables		5
Press releases	0 0 26	5
Foreign Press-Mail Service, New York Office		7
Propaganda records	0 0 27	1
Division of Foreign Picture Service, New York Office		7
Correspondence		7
Records of film receipts and shipmonts	0 0 21	7
Division of Work With the Foreign Born, Washington		
and New York Offices	• • 28	3
Correspondence	28	3
Publications		3
Information files	。。 28	3

2

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Public Information was organized on April 13, 1917, under Executive Order No. 2594, with George Creel as chairman.

The Committee performed three great services during World War I. It acted as an agency for releasing news of the Government; it issued educational information to sustain morale in the United States and in Allied and neutral countries; and it administered the voluntary censorship that served as a substitute for the defeated censorship law.

As soon as the Armistice was signed, cessation of the domestic activities of the Committee began. The propaganda work of its offices in foreign countries, however, continued until June 30, 1919, when the Committee ceased to function.

The records described in this inventory, consisting of 92 cubic feet, are designated as Record Uroup 63, Records of the Committee on Public Information. They have been described before in a classification scheme prepared by F. Hardee Allen, of the National Archives staff, in 1939. The original classification number under that scheme appears after the title of each entry in the inventory.

Personnel and payroll records of the Committee are in the Federal Records Center, St. Louis, Mc. Some related records, consisting of three volumes of George Creel's correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, chiefly concerned with Committee on Public Information matters, are in the Library of Congress, where they are maintained as a supplement to the President Wilson collection.

RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE DIVISION

Correspondence

General Correspondence of George Creel, Chairman. CPI 1-Al. July 1917-Mar. 1919. 10 ft.	7
Answers by Mayors to Americanization Survey Letters. CPI 1-A2. FebApr. 1918. 6 in.	2
Correspondence With Mayors Who Did Not Adequately Answer Original Americanization Survey Letters. CPI 1=A3. FebApr. 1918. 2 in.	2
General Correspondence of Carl Byoir, Associate Chairman. CPI 1=A4. Nov. 1917-Sept. 1918. 1 ft.	4
Correspondence of Carl Byoir With Government Agencies and Divisions of the Committee. CPI 1-A5. June 1917-Nov. 1918. 2 ft.	2
Correspondence of Carl Byoir, Largely Financial, With Robert Maisel and Others. CPI 1-A6. Sept. 1917-Mar. 1919. 2 in.	61
Correspondence of Carl Byoir Relating to Educational Work in Industries. CPI 1-A7. Dec. 1917-July 1918. 3 in.	1
Correspondence of Associate Chairman Harvey J. O'Higgins and . Carl Bycir. CPI 1-A8. JanSept. 1918. 9 in.	8
Correspondence of Harvey O'Higgins on Use of the News Services, "The Official Facts" and "The Daily Gorman Lie." CPI 1-A9. SeptNov. 1918. 3 in.	2
Letters to Harvey C'Higgins Giving Information on German Propa- ganda Lies. CPI 1-A1C. May-Oct. 1918. 2 in.	10
Miscellaneous Correspondence of Harvey O'Higgins. CPI 1-All. FebDec. 1918. 5 in.	<u>11</u>
Correspondence and Memoranda in Regard to the Censorship of Cables, Addressed to Edgar Sisson and George Greel. CPI 1-A12. MarAug. 1917. 1 in.	12

Reports

Reports by Divisions to George Creel, and Some Correspondence Regarding State Fair Exhibits. CPI 1-Bl. Sept. 1917-Apr. 1919. 6 in.	13
Complete Report of the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information. (Washington, 1920). CPI 1-82. 1 in.	<u>L</u>
Propaganda Records	
News Releases Entitled "The Daily German Lie," Written by Harvey O'Higgins. CPI 1-CL. Aug. 1918. 1 in.	15
Information File Used by Harvey O'Higgins in Compiling the News Services, "The Official Facts" and "The Daily German Lie." CPI 1-C2. May-Oct. 1918. 7 in.	<u>16</u>
Miscellaneous Propaganda Material, File of Harvey O'Higgins. CPI 1-C3. Apr. 1917-Apr. 1918. 2 in.	17
Articles, Correspondence, and Photographs in Regard to Propa- ganda Abroad, File of George Creel. CPI 1-Ch. JanNov. 1918. 6 in.	18
Copies of the Bureau of Cartoon's Weekly "Bulletin for Car- toonists," Nos. 1-25. CPI 1-C5. June 7-Nov. 30, 1918. 8 in.	<u>19</u>
Posters, Layouts, and Correspondence Regarding Advertising, File of Carl Byoir. CPI 1-06. Nov. 1917-June 1918. 6 in.	20
Statements Relating to the Official Bulletin, and the Four Minute Men and a Memorandum of an Agreement Between Creel and the Y.M.C.A. CPI 1-C7. Sept. 1917-Aug. 1918. 1/4 in.	21

Inventories of Files

"A Report Concerning Papers, Files, Records, Public Property, 22 Assets and Liabilities, etc., of the Committee on Public Information," Prepared in Answer to Senate Resolution 323, March 5, 1920. CPI 1-Dl. 1/2 in.

23

Memoranda and Statements Regarding the Extent and Character of the Files of the Committee in the Custody of the Council of National Defense. CPI 1-D2. Mar.-May 1920. 1/4 in.

Card File of Information on Records and Organization of the 24 Committee, Prepared by the Council of National Defense. CPI 1-03. Apr. 1920. 4 10. Card Records of Americanization Activitius Abstracts of Replice Received in Answer to Americapitation 25 Survey Letters, CPI 1-EL, Febe-Apro 1918, 9 Inc. Americanisation Registration Caris for Indirant Societles. CPI 1-E2. Mar. Apr. 1918. 3 10. Entries 26A and 26B. See page 5A. DIVISION OF CIVIC AND EMCATIONAL COOPERATION Correspondence General Correspondence of Guy Stanton Ford, Director of the 27 Division. CPI 3-Al. May 1917-Dec. 1915. 6 ft. Correspondence and Memoranda Setusen Officials of Other 28 Divisions and to S. Fords GPL 3-12. Nov. 1917-Dec. 1915. 8 in. Correspondence With College Professors Probalating and 29 keporting on the Foreign Language Press. CPI 3-A3. Apro-1917-Feb. 1913. 4 ino 30 Correspondence With E. B. Greens, Chairman of the National Board for Historical Service. CPI 3-Ah. July 15-Sept. 11. 1918. 1/4 ino 31 Correspondence of J. S. Ford Juriag the Conclusion of his Work with the Consisters. CPI 3-A5, Nov.-Dec. 1918. 1/4 in. 32 Letters to Go F. Look and G. S. Ford in Regard to the Filuetrated Shide Instures Prepared by Looks UPI basis Sept. 1917-108. 1914. 11 200 Correspondence with Educators in Regard to Publication of the 33 Teachers' National Service Bulletin. Crl 3-47. May-Nov. 1918. 9 12. Correspondence Regarding Preparation of a New Edition of the 34 war Cyclopedia, CPI 3-All, Jan.-June 1918, 1/2 in.

Card Record of Vouchers Paid. CPI 2-D7. N.d. 6 in. <u>26-A</u>

Card Record of Funds Advanced to Employees of the <u>26-B</u> Committee. CPI 2-F4. Oct. 1917-June 1919. 12 in.

- Correspondence of the National Community Center Association Regarding Community Center Work and the Food Conservation Campaign. CPI 3-Al2. Jan.-Nov. 1917. 4 in.
- Printed Diplomatic Correspondence, Consisting Chiefly of Telegrams in Regard to Neutral Rights, CPI 3-A13, Aug. 1915-Apr. 1917, 1 in.

Copy for Publication

- Copy for Publication in the War Cyclopedia, and Some Copy for <u>37</u> Pamphlets of the Committee. CPI 3-BL. Feb.-July 1918. 1 ft.
- Copy, Both New and Discarded, for the New Edition of the War <u>B</u> Cyclopedia. CPI 3-B2. Feb.-Oct. 1918. 3/4 in.
- Rejected Copy Submitted for use in the <u>War Information Series</u>, <u>39</u> German-American Articles, and Mr. Lane's "Anthology." CPI 3-B3. 1917. 1/2 in.
- Proofs and Rhotestats for the German Bolshevik Conspiracy, 40 With Notes by J. F. Jameson and Others Regarding Their Correctness. CPI 3-54. Oct. 1918. 3 in.

Publications

- Pamphlets in the Red, White and Blue Series, Including Some 11 Foreign Language and Press Edition Copies. CPI 3-CL. June 1917-Oct. 1918. 10 in.
- Pamphlets, Other Than the Red, White and Blue Series, Issued 42 by the Division. CPI 3-C2. n.d. 1/4 in.

News Articles and Meleases

- Copies and Translations of Articles From Newspapers Published 43 in Germany. CPI 3-DL. May-Oct. 1918. 4 in.
- News Release and Clipping File of Carl Becker and S. Harding.

DIVISION OF NEWS

News Releases

News Stories About the War Work of Special and Regular Govern- mental Agencies, Issued by the Committee and in Part by the	45
Council of National Defense. CPI 4-Al. FobDec. 1917. 4 ft.	
News Stories About Army Cantonment and Emergency Fleet Con- struction, Issued by the Committee. CFI 4-A2. June-Oct. 1917. 8 in.	46
lelesses of the Committee Regarding Conservation of Materials,	47

Refeases of the Committee Regarding Conservation of Materials, Price Fixing, and Priority, Authorized by the War Industries Board, CPI h-A3, July-Dec. 1918, 1 ft.

Miscellaneous News Stories Authorized by the War Industries Board and Issued by the Committee. CPI 4=A4. Sept.-Nov. 1918. 2 in.

DIVISION OF OFFICIAL BULLETIN

1.8

50

52

Publications

Copies of	the	Official	Bulletin,	Published 12 ft.	Daily.	CPI	5-A20	49
May 10	, 191	7-Maro 33	La 19190	12 ft.				

Copies of the United States Bulletin, Continuation of the Official Bulletin, Published Weekly. CPI 5-A2. Apr. 3, 1919-Feb. 14, 1921. 9 in.

Copies of Leaflet Entitled "Facts Concerning Official Bulletin." 51 CPI 5-A3. n.d. 1/2 in.

DIVISION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Correspondence

Correspondence and Other Papers Megarding Preparation of a Proposed <u>Mar Information Series</u> Samphlet, "German and Belgian Free Masonry." CPI 6-AL. Sept. 1914-Mar. 1918. 1/4 in.

Propaganda Articles

Propaganda Artic	les Regardin	g Conditions i	n Europe, Tr	anslated	53
for Possible 1/2 in.	Pamphlet Pub	lication. CPI	6-Bl. Nov.	1917.	
Articles Written	n by Germans,	Translated fo	r Propaganda	Use.	51

Article Entitled "In Darkest Europe. Austria-Hungary Exterminating her Jugoslav Subjects." CPI 6-B3. n.d. 1/4 in. 55

57

58

59

Newspaper Translations

CPI 6-B2. 1917. 1/2 in.

Translations From and Some Copies of Die Freie Zeitung, Berne, 56 Switzerland. CPI 6-Cl. Apr. 1917-Mar. 1918. 5 in.

Translations of Articles from <u>Das Freie Deutsche Wort</u>, Geneva, Switzerland. CPI 6-C2. 1917. 1/4 in.

DIVISION OF LABOR FUBLICATIONS

Press Releases

Articles and Editorials for Use in Newspapers and Periodicals, Issued Under the Name of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, CPI 7=Al, July=Nov, 1918, 2 in.

DIVISION OF PICTURES

Records

Catalogue of Photographs and Stereoptican Slides Issued by the Division of Pictures. Three Issues. CPI 9-A3. Oct. 25, 1917-June 1, 1918. 2 in.

Photographs Showing Shipbuilding Activities. CPI 9-Au. 60 Mar. 1918. 1/4 in. DIVISION OF FILMS

Correspondence Letters Sent, the Division of Films. CPI 10A-Al. Mar. 15-May 14, 1918. 5 in.

> DIVISION OF FOUR MINUTE MEN Office of the Director

Publications

OFFEEDONALDERS FALLES OF the Speakern Bureau

64

- General Bulletins Issued for Use of the Four Minute Men, With <u>62</u> Some School and Army Bulletins. CPI 11A-Al. May 22, 1917-Dec. 24, 1918. 1 ft.
- The News Bulletin, Four Minute Men News, Issued to Four Minute 63 Men. CPI 11A-A2. Nov. 1917-Dec. 1918. 3 in.

Card Records of Speakers

Lists of Speakers and Information Regarding Speeches. CPI 11A-BL. June 1918-Jan. 1919. 9 ft.

Information on Speeches Made. CPI 11A-B3. Aug. 1917-Jan. 1919. 65 4 in.

DIVISION OF SPEAKING

Speakers' Bureau

Staaldag Division and Sta Mydeory Constituter. (2) 12-42.

Correspondence: Consolidated Files of the Division of Speaking and the Speakers Bureau

General Correspondence of the Speakers' Bureau. CPI 11B-A1. 67 Apr.-Nov. 1918. 4 ft.

Correspondence With and Concerning Special Speakers Serving Under the Speaking Division and Speakers' Bureau. CPI 11B-A2. Oct. 1917-Nov. 1918. 5 ft.	<u>68</u>
Copies of Memoranda to Division Chiefs of the CPI. CPI 118-A3. MarNov. 1918. 3 in.	<u>69</u>
Memoranda from deorge Creel, A. E. Bestor, and B. W. Shimp. CPI 13B-A4. May-Oct. 1918. 1 in.	70
Correspondence, Including Telegrams, With State Councils of Defense Regarding Cooperation in Providing Speakers. CPI 11B-A6. FebDec. 1918. 10 in.	<u>71</u>
Correspondence: Files of the Speakers' Bureau	
Copies of Memoranda to George Creel, Carl Byoir, and M. F. Lyons, Secretary of the Committee. CPI 118-B1. AugOct. 1918. 1/4 in.	72
Correspondence and Telegrams of J. J. Pettijohn With Edith Huntington, Secretary for the Speakers' Bureau, Written While Pettijohn Was in Indianapolis. CPI 118-B2. Sept. 1918. 1/4 in.	<u>73</u>
Correspondence With Officials of the Division, Especially Concerning Consolidation in the South of Speakers' Bureaus With State Four Minute Men Organizations. CPI 118-B3. AugNov. 1918. 3/4 in.	74
DIVISION OF SPEAKING	
Correspondence	
General Correspondence of the Speaking Division. CPI 12-Al. Sept. 1917-Aug. 1918. 6 ft.	<u>75</u>
Correspondence Concerning the Organization and Program of the Speaking Division and its Advisory Committee. CPI 12-A2. Sept. 1917-Mar. 1918. 2 in.	<u>76</u>
Copies of Memoranda Addressed to George Creel. CPI 12-A3. Oct. 1917-Aug. 1918. 1/2 in.	11

E.

Correspondence, Telegrams, and Memoranda With A. E. Bestor. CPI 12-A4. May-June 1918. 1/2 in.	<u>78</u>
to the second second and the second and the second se	010 m
Telegrams and Memoranda Exchanged Between A. E. Bestor and B. W. Shimp. CPI 12-A5. Oct. 1917-June 1918. 1/2 in.	72
Annue and the Recording Man Conferences Objects With State	80
Correspondence Regarding War Conferences, Chiefly With State Council Officials, About Supplying Speakers for the Con- ferences. CPI 12-A6. Nov. 1917-June 1918. 9 in.	eromo
	00
Correspondence Regarding Regional War Conferences, With Letters of Approval and Schedules. CPI 12-A7. Nov. 1917-May 1918. 1 in.	81
are .	
and Pictures of Speakers and Aviators. CPI 12-A8. To prove the Nov. 1917-May 1919. 2 ft.	82
is of Specimers, Including Records of Qualifications and	
Correspondence in Regard to Special Requests for Speakers Upon Which Final Action Had Been Taken. CPI 12-A10.	83
Maro-July 1918. 3 in the guide of all our of the second of all our of the	
Which Further Action was Indicated or Promised. CPI 12-All.	84
Maro-Augo 1918. 1 ino	
AND AND R REPORT OF MOTORIAL	n.d
Correspondence in Regard to General Requests for Speakers. CPI 12-A12. MarAug. 1918. 1 in.	85
rord Cards (The Inder Vistole)	
for Specified Dates. CPI 12-A13. July-Sept. 1918. 1 in.	86
Entry 86A. See pag	
Correspondence and Telegrams With State Councils of Defense and Red Cross Officials Regarding Speaking Tours of 50 Returned American Soldiers. CPI 12-A15. May-June 1918. 6 in.	87
inclusion many and There been Open for Specifices. OP . Sector and.	00
Correspondence and Telegrams Pertaining to the Itineraries of 50 Returned American Soldiers Making Speaking Tours. CPI 12-A16. MarJuly 1918. 3 in.	88
DWIGITSHVOA TO MOISTVOU	
Correspondence and Telegrams Regarding the Tour of the Alpine Chaussary Through Cities East of the Mississippi. CPI 12-Al7. May-June 1918. 4 in.	82
	~~
Correspondence and Telegrams Regarding the Trip Across the United States of About 350 Belgian Soldiers. CPI 12-A18. May-June 1918. 3 in.	20

Sorrespondences of the Division still Carl Byoirs CPI 14-15.

Correspondence Regarding Train Reservations for Speakers. <u>86-A</u> CPI 12-A14. Mar.-May 1918. 1 in.

Publications

- General Bulletins of the Speaking Division. CPI 12-B1. 91 Jan.-May 1918. 1/2 in.
- Mimeographed Bulletins of the Speaking Division on the Progress <u>92</u> of the Work. CPI 12-B2. Jan.-Apr. 1918. 1/4 in.

Lists

Lists of Speakers and of Officers and Members of Cooperating <u>93</u> Organizations. CPI 12-Cl. Oct. 1917-July 1918. 3/4 in.

Card Records of Speakers

- List of Speakers, Including Records of Qualifications and <u>94</u> Speeches Made. CPI 12-DL. n.d. 4 ft.
- Cross-Reference File to Speakers, Giving Their Names and 25 Addresses and Institutions or Individuals Through Whom They May Be Reached. CPI 12-D2. n.d. 10 in.

DIVISION OF WOMEN'S WAR WORK

Record Cards (The Index Visible)

	13-A2.		Organizations	Engaged 1	n War	work.	<u>96</u>
VA &	and Sector O	 4.660					
The second second	where services	 in the second		and the second second	200		

Information File for Washington, D. C., Listing Colored Churches, <u>97</u> Meeting Dates of Fraternal Organizations, Names of Four Minute Men, and Theaters Open to Speakers. CPI 13-A3. n.d. 3 in.

Entry 97A. See page 12A.

DIVISION OF ADVERTISING

Correspondence

	With Personnel of Other Divisions of the CPI 14-A2. Dec. 1917-Dec. 1918. 3 in.	<u>98</u>	
Correspondence JanNov. 19	of the Division with Carl Byoir. CPI 14-A3. 918. 2 in.	<u>99</u>	

Entry 99A. See page 12A.

General Correspondence Concerning Advertising. CPI 14-A1. <u>97-A</u> Dec. 1917-Dec. 1918. 11 ft.

Card Record of Advertising Space Contributed to the <u>99-A</u> Government. CPI 14-B1. Feb. 1918-Apr. 1919. 8 in.

Records of Advertising Space Contributions

Reports to George Creel on Contributions of Advertising Space, <u>100</u> With Some Copies of Advertisements. CPI 14-B3. June 1-Dec. 1, 1918. 6 in.

REFERENCE DIVISION

Correspondence

Correspondence and Telegrams Regarding Gathering Material for <u>101</u> Use by Arthur Bullard in Russia. CPI 15-Al. Jan.-Mar. 1918. 3/l: in.

Lists of Published Material, Largely Educational, Sent to 102 Arthur Bullard in Russia. CPI 15-A2. Jan. 26, 1918-Feb. 16, 1918. 2 in.

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Publications and Posters

- Labor Bulletins Entitled Special Service for Employers. 103 CFI 16-Al. Feb.-Apr. 1918. 2 in.
- Foster Entitled Let Us Remember Russia. CPI 16-A2. n.d. 104 Negligible.

Countries, Held at London, UPI 17-83. Ang. M.-16, 1913.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN SECTION

Correspondence

General Correspo	mdence.	CPI 17-	Alo	Jan. 1918-	Mar. 1919.	o 6 fto	105
Correspondence,	Cables,	Reports,	and	Newspapers	Received	frem	105

Employees of the Committee Abroad. CPI 17-A2. Nov. 1917-Apr. 1919. 6 ft.

Correspondence, Largely Financial, of the Foreign Section. 107 CPI 17-A3. July 1917-Oct. 1919. 1 ft.

- Financial Correspondence With G. C. Smith, Representative in 108 Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland. CPI 17-Al. Mar. 1918-Mar. 1919. 1/2 in.
- Correspondence of the Directors of the Foreign Press-Cable 109 Service and the Foreign Section Regarding the Tour of Mexican Editors in the United States. CPI 17-A5. Apr.-Nov. 1918. 1/4 in.
- Correspondence and Papers Giving Military and Diplomatic 110 Information Regarding Neutral and Belligerent Countries. CPI 17-A6. Dec. 1917-Dec. 1918. 2 ft.
- Correspondence of Arthur Wood, Director of the Foreign Section, Relating to Foreign Countries. CPI 17-A7. Nov. 1917-Mar. 1918. 4 in.
- Correspondence and Papers of Carl Byoir and H. N. Rickey <u>112</u> Pertaining to the Division of Work With the Foreign Born. CPI 17-A8. Dec. 1916-Mar. 1919. 1 ft.

Reports

- Reports of the Personnel Officer of the American Command in Italy 113 on War Attitude of the Italian People. CPI 17-Bl. Oct. 1918. 1/2 in.
- Unsigned Typed Reports Upon Conditions in Allied Countries.
- Reports of the Inter-Allied Conference on Propaganda in Enemy Countries, Held at London. CPI 17-B3. Aug. 14-16, 1918. 2 in.
- Reports by the Division of Distribution Upon Shipments of Propaganda Material to Foreign Countries. CPI 17-B4. May-Oct. 1918. Negligible.

Information Files

Comment Sheets of the United States Postal Censorship, Press Branch, Regarding Incoming Newspapers, Principally from South America. CPI 17-Cl. Jan.-Oct. 1918. 10 in.

"San Antonic Postal Censorship-The Weekly Bulletin of the Representative of Chief Cable Censor and of the O.N.I. Postal Censorship Officer." CPI 17-C2. Oct. 26, 1918- Jan. 31, 1919. 5 in.	118
"Daily Radio Press Bulletin issued by the United States Naval Communication Service," Containing Press Messages Intercepted From Allied and German Wireless Stations. CPI 17-C3. July 21, 1918-Apr. 18, 1918. 3 ftm	119
Supplements to the <u>Review of the Foreign Press</u> , Issued by the General Staff, War Office in England. CPI 17-CL. MarJune 1919. 5 in.	120
News Summaries Issued by the Bureau de Precse Francais at Berne, Switzerland. CPI 17-05. Mar. 1-July 18, 1918. July 4-31, 1919. 5 in.	121
Circulars and Papers Pertaining to Censorship in Canada. CPI 17-06. July 1915-Jan. 1919. 1 in.	122
America's Voice in China, a Memorial Endorsing the Work of the Committee in China. CPI 17-C7. n.d. Negligible.	123
Memorials Concerning the Future of Bolshevik Russia. CPI 17-C8. Nov. 26, 1918. 3/4 in.	124
Newspapers and Typed Newspaper Articles, Concerning the Russian Bolsheviki, Sent by G. C. Smith From Stockholm. CPI 17-C9. Oct. 7-Nov. 3, 1918. 1 in.	125
Newspaper Clippings	
Clippings From Newspapers in the United States Regarding the Bolsheviki and the German-Bolshevik Conspiracy. CPI 17-DL. SeptNov. 11, 1918. 8 in.	126
Clippings Regarding Achievements of the Speakers' Department in Italy, Sent by Commissioner Merriam to Edgar Sisson. CPI 17-D2. June-Aug. 1918. 1/2 in.	127
Clippings Taken From the Swiss Press by the Berne Office to Tilustrate Use of American Press Material, CPI 17-D3-	128

July-Augo 1918. 2 ino

- Clippings From Swiss Newspapers Published by Swiss Journalists 129 Following Their Trip to the United States. CPI 17-D4. Oct. 1918-Feb. 1919. 3 in.
- Articles on the War Effort of the United States Published by 130 Italian Members of a Press Mission to the United States. CPI 17-D5. Sept.-Dec. 1918. 1 in.
- Clippings From United States Newspapers, Chiefly Pertaining to <u>131</u> Mexico and a Visit to the United States by Mexican Editors. CPI 17-D6. June-July 1918. 2 in.

Propaganda Records

- General File of Newspapers, Largely Foreign, and Correspondence, <u>132</u> Concerned With American and Enemy Propaganda. CPI 17-EL. Mar. 1918-Mar. 1919. 1 ft.
- Manuals Giving Psychological Estimates of Foreign Countries, 133 Prepared by the Military Intelligence Branch of the General Staff. CPI 17-E2. Feb.-June 1918. 2 in.
- Collection of Maps, Posters, and Newspapers for Use in Propaganda 134 Work Abroad. CPI 17-E3. n.d. 4 in.

Press Releases

- Miscellaneous Cable and Wireless News Messages Disseminated Abroad 135 by the Foreign Press-Wireless and Cable Service ("Compub"). CPI 17-Fl. Nov. 1917-Aug. 1918. 2 in.
- Cable Press Messages to Representatives at Buenos Aires, Moscow, <u>136</u> and Other Capitals, With Some Tuckerton Navy Radio Press Messages. CPI 17-F2. June 1-Aug. 31, 1918. 7 in.
- "Homestuff" Wireless Press Messages, Sent to Paul Perry in London 137 and James Kerney in Paris. CPI 17-F3. July-Nov. 1918. 6 in.
- Foreign Information Service, Featuring News of Foreign Groups, 138 Both Abroad and in the United States. CPI 17-F4. Aug.-Dec. 1918. 11 in.
- News Releases of the Scandinavian Bureau of the Division of Work 139 With the Foreign Born for Use in the Foreign Language Press in the United States. CPI 17-F5. May 1918-Feb. 1919. 9 in.

News Bulletins

- Mail News Letter, of the Foreign Fress-Cable Service, for <u>140</u> Dissemination in Europe. CPI 17-GL. Nov. 1918-Jan. 1919. 3 in.
- Servicio Postal de Información of the Foreign Press-Cable 141 Service, for dissemination in Spain and Spanish America. CPI 17-62. n.d. 3/4 in.
- Weekly News Bulletin, Published by the Office of Commissioner Murray at Mexico City. CPI 17-03. Dec. 5, 1918-Jan. 30, 1919. 1/4 in.
- News Bulletin America in the War-Edición de Mexico, Published 143 Weekly by Commissioner Murray at Mexico City. CPI 17-64. Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 1919. 1 in.
- Boletín Oficial del Diario, Fublished in Mexico Under Commissioner Murray. CPI 17-05. Nov. 1, 1918-Jan. 31, 1919. 3 in.

Record Cards

- Record of Payments From the Advance Expense Fund to Employees <u>115</u> of the Foreign Section Abroad. CPI 17-H1. Feb.-Oct. 1918. 1 in.
- Abstracts of Agents' Requests for and Reports on Use of 146 Propaganda Material Abroad. CPI 17-H2. May=Oct. 1918. 6 in.

Index Cards

Cross Reference Index to Persons and Subjects in Correspondence 117 Files. CPI 17-JL. June-Nov. 1918. 8 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT PARIS

Correspondence

General Correspondence, in English and French, of James Kerney, 148 Commissioner. CPI 18-AL. Apr.-Dec. 1918. 8 in.

Correspondence of A. M. Brace, Herman Suter, and Other Employees Engaged in News Service Work. CPI 18-A2. July 1918-June 1919. 3 in.	119
French Language Letters Sent Regarding Distribution of Pamphlets and Films. CPI 18-A3. June 1918-Apr. 1919. 3/4 in.	150
Miscellaneous Correspondence of the Director of the Foreign Press-Cable Service While at Paris for the Peace Conference. CPI 18-A4. Oct. 1918-Apr. 1919. 1 in.	<u>151</u>
Wire Messages Between the Foreign Press-Wireless and Cable Service and Agents of the Committee in Berne, London, Washington, and Other Capitals. CPI 18-A5. Aug. 1918- June 1919. 7 in.	152
Miscellaneous Telegrams, Principally of the Wireless and Cable Service at Paris. CPI 18-A6. Oct. 1918-May 1919. 1 in.	<u>153</u>
Telegrams of J. F. Kerney, Concerning Film Distribution and Compub Problems. CPI 18-A7. May-Sept. 1918. 3/4 in.	<u>154</u>
Cables Sent, Mostly Dispatched by Edgar Sisson. CPI 18-A8. Dec. 1918. 1/2 in.	155
Wireless News Messages Sent by Compub from Paris for Distribution Among American Newspapers. CPI 18-A9. Dec. 1918-June 1919. 9 in.	<u>156</u>

Propaganda Records

Record of Distribution of Posters and the Brochures Américaius 157 Arrivent, Efforts Américains, and President Wilson. CPI 18-Bl. Sept. Nov. 1918. 3/4 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT LONDON

Telegrams and Cablegrams

Copies of Telegrams of the American Embassy in London Relating 159 to the Committee's Work in Holland, France, and Sweden. CPI 19-Al. Feb.-Sept. 1918. 3/4 in. Copies of Cablegrams From the American Embassy in London to the 160 Embassy at The Hague, Transmitting the German-Bolshevik Conspiracy Documents. CPI 19-A2. Sept. 1918. 1/2 in.

Copies of Intercepted Telegrams Relating to Propaganda Work of 161 the United States in the Scandinavian Countries. CPI 19-A3. Apro-June 1918. 1/4 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT ROME

Correspondence

General File of Correspondence. CPI 20-Al. May-Dec. 1918. 5 in.	162
Correspondence of Commissioners Charles Merriam and John H. Hearley. CPI 20-A2. Jan. 1918-Feb. 1919. 3 in.	<u>163</u>
Personal File of C. E. Merriam, Including Correspondence and Unused Letters of Introduction, With Books and Pamphlets in Italian. CPI 20-A3. Mar. Sept. 1918. 3 in.	<u> 164</u>
Correspondence Between Speakers of the Committee in Italy. CPI 20-A4. May-Oct. 1918. 1 in.	<u>165</u>
Cables of the Commissioner's Office at Rome. CPI 20-A5. Feb. 22, 1918-Feb. 1919. 3 in.	166
Correspondence Book, Listing Point of Origin, Correspondent, and Subject Matter of General File of Correspondence and of the Speakers in Italy, CPI 20-A6. May-Dec. 1918, 1/4 in.	<u>167</u>
Reports	
Reports of C. E. Merriem to George Creel, Will Irwin, and Edgar Sisson. CPI 20-BL. Apr. 15-Oct. 1. 1918. 1/2 in.	<u>168</u>

- Reports of J. H. Hearley to C. E. Merriam, George Creel, and <u>169</u> Edgar Sisson. CPI 20-B2. Apr.-Nov. 1918. 1/2 in.
- Reports, in English and Italian, on American Propaganda Work <u>170</u> in Italy, Prepared by Agents of the Committee for C. E. Merriam and J. H. Hearley. CPI 20-B3. May 1918-Jan. 1919. 7 in.

Reports on Bolshevian, Italian and American Socialian, and the American Socialist Mission, Made Chiefly by John Spargo. CPI 20-B4. AugSept. 1918. 1/2 in.	<u>171</u>
Reports on Enemy Propaganda in Italy. CPI 20-85. Nov. 1917- Apr. 1918. 1/2 in.	172
Reports and Maps on the Italian Military Effort, Supplied by the <u>Comando Supremo</u> , CPI 20-86, June-Sept, 1918, 1 in.	<u>173</u>
Newspaper Clippings and Press Reviews	
Clippings from Italian Newspapers in Regard to the Lecture Tour in Italy of Salvatore Cotillo, State Senator for New York, CPI 20-Cl. June 20-Sept. 18, 1918. 3 in.	174
Clippings From Italian Newspapers, Consisting of Reports on Speeches Made by Various American Speakers in Italy. CPI 20-62. June-July 1918. 3/h in.	175
Italian Periodicals and Newspaper Clippings Collected by Countess Maria Loschi to Demonstrate Publication of her Articles on the United States. CPI 20-03. Aug. 1918- Feb. 1919. 1 in.	1.76
Confidential Reviews Frepared by the "Cable Radio Division," Regarding European and American Press Comments on the Pence Conference, CPI 20-04, Dec. 22, 1918-Feb. 7, 1919, 4 in.	177
Press Releases	
Daily Cable and Wireless News Service, in Italian, Issued by the Foreign Press-Wireless and Cable Service ("Compub"). CPI 20-DL. June-Sept. 1918. 3 in.	178
Compub's Daily Cable and Wireless News Service。 CPI 20-D2。 FebSept. 1918。 其 in。	
Propaganda Records	

Record of Distribution in Italy of Post Cards, Sow Flags, Posters, <u>180</u> Pamphlets, and Booklets. CPI 20-E1. June 11, 1918-Jan. 14, 1919. 3/4 in.

Record Book Showing					181
Committee. CPI	20-E2. July	4-Oct. 20, 1918.	3/4	ino	

Five War Pamphlets in Italian, and Picture Post Cards of 182. Woodrow Wilson, CPI 20-E3, 1918, 2 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT BERNE, SWITZERLAND

Correspondence

General Correspondence of Commissioners Vira B. Whitehouse and G. C. Smith. CPI 21-Al. Apr. 1918-Feb. 1919. 8 in.	183
Correspondence of Vira B. Whitehouse Regarding Films. CPI 21-A2. Jan -Nove 1918. 1 in.	184

- Miscellaneous Correspondence Regarding the Office at Berne, Collected by the Council of National Defense. CPI 21-A3. Apr. 1918-June 1919. 1 in.
- General Telegrams of the Berne Office. CPI 21-Al. June 12, 186 1918-Feb. 19, 1919. 1 in.

News Bulletins

- Communiqués for the Swiss Press, Based on Daily Cable and Wireless Service, in English, German, and French. CPI 21-Bl. July 1, 1918-Feb. 22, 1919. 6 in.
- The Daily News Bulletin Prepared and Issued by the Berne Office. 188 CPI 21-B2. July 1, 1918-Feb. 22, 1919. 2 in.
- The Weekly News Bulletin, in English, French, and German. Prepared and Issued by the Berne Office. CPI 21-B3. Oct. 11, 1918-Feb. 22, 1919. 3/4 in.

Propaganda Records

- Card Record of Foreign Press-Mail Bureau Articles Sent to Swiss 190 Newspapers, CPI 21-Cl., July 1918-Feb, 1919, 3 in.
- Pamphlets Distributed by the Berne Office, With Lists of Organizations and Individuals to Whom Sent. CPI 21-C2. 1918-19. 2 in.

- Copies of Speeches by President Wilson, and a Few News Articles <u>192</u> in German and French. CPI 21-C3. Jan. 8, 1918-Feb. 14, 1919. 1 in.
 - Fersonal Letters Dealing With Conditions in Europe, as Prepared 193 for Propaganda Use. CPI 21-C4. Oct. 1916-Apr. 1917. 1/4 in.
 - Newspaper Catalogs, Principally of the Swiss Press, and Lists 194 of Newspapers Fublished in Switzerland. CPI 21-05. 1917. 3 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT THE HAGUE

Correspondence semilit guildrayed annoted tak at a to eccelerometrol

- General Correspondence of Henry Suydam, Commissioner. CPI 22-A1. 195 July 1918-Feb. 1919. 2 in.
- Correspondence Concerning Film Work in the Netherlands, 196 CPI 22-A2. Feb.=Oct. 1918. 3/4 in.
- Miscellaneous Current File, Consisting Chiefly of Correspondence, <u>197</u> Mewspapers, and Memoranda. CPI 22-A3. May 1918-Jan. 1919. 3/4 in.

Press Releases and News Bulletins of Long the ball

Sent via Wireless. CPI 22-BL. Sept. 1918-Feb. 1919. 3 in.	198
	199
	200
	201,

British Wireless Service News for Dissemination in the Press 202 of the Netherlands. CPI 22-B5. Mar.-Dec. 1918. 1/2 in. The American News Bulletin, Prepared and Distributed by the 203 Office at The Hague, in Dutch and English. CPI 22-86. Jan.-Feb. 1919. 2 in.

Lista

List of Books Received and Distributed by the Office at The 2 Hague, CPI 22-Cl. n.d. 1/4 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT MADRID

204

Correspondence

- General Correspondence of Commissioner Frank J. Marion, and 205 Others in Madrid, Including Reports on Propaganda in Spain. CPI 23-Al. Mar.-Dec. 1918. 5 in.
- Spanish Language Correspondence of the Office at Madrid. 206 CPI 23-A2. May 1918-Feb. 1919. 4 in.

News Bulletins and Newspaper Clippings

			ished at Madrid	207
Distribution	n to America	ns in Spain	and Portugal.	distant of
CFI 23-BL.	Aug. 15-Dec	。12,1918。	1/2 in.	

Clippings from Spanish Newspapers of Articles on the United 208 States. CPI 23-B2. June 1917-Jan. 1919. 10 in.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT BUENOS AIRES

Correspondence

Correspondence of Lt. F. E. Ackerman, Representative of the 209 Committee in South America, and H. H. Sevier, Commissioner at Buenos Aires. CPI 24-Al. Feb. 1918-Jan. 1919. 2 in.

Telegrams of H. H. Sevier and Lieutenant Ackerman. CPI 24-A2. 210 Apr. 1918-Feb. 1919. 1/2 in.

Correspondence Concerning Dissemination of the Committee's Publications and Picture Material in Argentina and Chile. CPI 24-A3. May 1918-Jan. 1919. 1/2 in.	<u>211</u>
Letters Sent by H. H. Sevier to George Creel, Edgar Sisson, and W. D. Robbins, Charge d'Affaires. CPI 24-A4. July 13-Aug. 22, 1918. Negligible.	<u>212</u>
Spanish Language Correspondence With Newspaper Officials, Accompanied by Newspapers. CPI 24-A5. May 3, 1918- Jan. 25, 1919. 3 in.	<u>213</u>
Press Releases and Newspaper Clippings	
News Items of the Foreign Press Bureau for Dissemination by the Office at Buenos Aires. CPI 24-B1. July-Aug. 1918. 2 in.	<u>214</u>
Clippings From Newspapers in Argentina, Containing News Items Regarding the United States. CPI 24-B2. June 1918- Jan. 1919. 4 in.	<u>215</u>
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT SANTIAGO, CHILE	
Correspondence	
Correspondence and Papers of Commissioners A. A. Preciado and H. H. Sevier. CPI 25-Al. Aug. 1918-Jan. 1919. 1 in.	216
Newspaper Clippings	

Clippings from Newspapers in Chile of Articles on the United 217 States Supplied by the Foreign Press Burean. CPI 25-B1. June-Dec. 1918. 1 ft.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AT LIMA, PERU

Newspaper Clippings

Clippings From Newspapers in Lima of Articles Regarding the 218 United States. CPI 26-Al. Sept. 18-Dec. 17, 1918. 2 in.

RUSSIAN DIVISION, OFFICES IN RUSSIA AND SIBERIA

Correspondence

Cablegrams and Latters of Arthur Bullard, Director of Hussian Division, Sent While on Route from Moscow to the United States. CPI 27-Al. May-July 1918. 1/2 in.	<u>219</u>
Translations of Letters Received by the Vladivostok Office. CPI 27-A2. Nov. 1918-Feb. 1919. 1 in.	220
Miscellaneous Correspondence of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Division. CPI 27-A3. JanMar. 1919. 1 in.	221
Telegrams and Letters of Philip Norton, Acting Director, During Final Weeks of the Committee's Work in Siberia. CPI 27-AL. Feb. Mar. 1919. 3/4 in.	222

Reports

- Reports and Letters of Field Offices to the Siberian Department 223 of the Russian Press Division. CPI 27-B1. Aug. 1918-Mar. 1919. 2 in.
- Reports by H. I. Barnes and G. S. Bothwell on the Work of the 22h Film Division in Russia and Siberia. CPI 27-B2. Sept. 1918-Mar. 1919. 1/4 in.
- Reports Regarding Musical and Educational Activities of the <u>225</u> Office in Vladivostok. CPI 27-B3. Dec. 1918-Feb. 1919. 1/4 in.

Clippings and Translations of Newspaper Articles

- Clippings from Moscow Newspapers, With Notes in English in 226 Regard to Their Content. CPI 27-Cl. Apr.-May 31, 1918. 3/4 in.
- Translations From Newspapers in Siberia, With Reports, for 227 Inspection by Philip Norton. CPI 27-C2. Dec. 1918-Jan. 1919. 1 in.
- Clippings, Translations, and Copies of Articles From the Press in and Near Vladivostok. CPI 27-C3. Dec. 1918-Mar. 1919. 1/2 in.

Press Releases and News Bulletins

- News Releases of the Office at Tchita, Siberia, CPI 27-DL. 229 Jan.-Feb. 1919. 1 in.
- The American Bulletin, Issued Weekly by the Committee in230Cooperation With the American Consulate General at Moscow.CPI 27-D2.CPI 27-D2.Apr. 19-May 24, 1918.1/2 in.
- The American Bulletin, in Russian, Issued Weekly in Cooperation 231 With the American Consulate General at Moscow. CPI 27-D3. Dec. 22, 1917-June 15, 1918. 1 in.
- Daily News Bulletins, in English, Distributed by the Office at 232 Vladivostok. CPI 27-DL. Dec. 23, 1918-Feb. 28, 1919. 2 in.

FOREIGN PRESS-WIRELESS AND CABLE SERVICE, NEW YORK OFFICE

Telegrams and Cables

- General File of Telegrams and Cables for Employees in Paris, 233 Handled Through the American Embassy at Paris. CPI 28-A1. Dec. 1918-June 1919. 2 in.
- Copies of Wireless and Cable Service Telegrams Sent from <u>234</u> Shanghai to the American Consuls at Vladivostok and Marbin. CPI 28-A2. Oct. 16-Nov. 1, 1918. 1/4 in.
- Telegrams Sent by the New York Office of the Wireless and Cable 235 Service During its Last Month of Existence. CPI 28-A3. June 1919. Negligible.

Press Releases

- Compub Cablegrams Containing News of the Peace Conference for <u>236</u> Release to the Press in the United States. CPI 28-B1. June 20-26, 1919. 1 in.
- Lists of Telegraph and Cable Messages, Especially of Compub 237 Press Cables, CPI 28-B2, Sept. 1, 1918-June 27, 1919, 3 in.

FOREIGN PRESS-MAIL SERVICE, NEW YORK OFFICE

Propaganda Records

Articles in the Russian Language, Prepared by Serge Geiman. CPI 29-Bl. n.d. 1/2 in.	238
Editorials, Clippings, and Correspondence Concerning a Plan to Encourage the Use of American Publicity Material in the German-Swiss Press. CPI 29-B2. AprOct. 1918. 1 in.	239
Feature Articles and Press Clippings Sent to the Assistant Director of the Foreign Press Bureau. CPI 29-B3. Oct. 1918-Mar. 1919. 2 in.	240
Pamphlets, Photographs, and Other Propaganda Material for Distribution by Exporters Abroad. CPI 29-B4. n.d. 10 in.	241
	page 27A. 242
Lists of Foreign Press Bureau Mail for Distribution Abroad. CPI 29-B8. Sept. 27-Dec. 27, 1918. 1 in.	243
DIVISION OF FOREIGN PICTURE SERVICE, NEW YORK OFFICE	
Correspondence	6
Correspondence of the Assistant Director Regarding Granting of Letters of Clearance for the Export of Films. CPI 30-Al. FebNov. 1918. 3/4 in.	<u> 244</u>
Records of Film Receipts and Shipments	
Card Record of Films Reviewed and Passed for Export. CPI 30-B1 & B2. May-Dec. 1918. 7 ft.	245
Card Record of Films Rejected for Export to Foreign Countries. CPI 30-B3. May-Oct. 1918. 3 in.	246
Card Record of Films, Chiefly Educational, Exported Abroad. CPI 30-B4. AprSept. 1918. 5 in.	247

Card Record of Enclosures and Pamphlets Sent to Members 241-A of Associations of American Exporters. CPI 29-B6. N.d. 36 in.

DIVISION OF WORK WITH THE FOREIGN BORN

WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK OFFICES

Correspondence

	General	Correspondence.	CFI 31-	Alo Apro	1918-May	1919。	1 ino	248
--	---------	-----------------	---------	----------	----------	-------	-------	-----

Publications

- Proofs, Chiefly for Pamphlets in Foreign Languages. CPI 31-B1. 249 Nov. 1917-Apr. 1918. 2 in.
- Leaflets Regarding the Celebration of July 4, 1918, by the 250 Foreign Born in the United States. CPI 31-B2. 1/2 in.

Information Files

- Translations and Abstracts From German Newspapers, Especially 251 the Frankfurter Zeitung, Berliner Tageblatt, and Vorwarts. CPI 31-Cl. Apr.-Oct. 1918. 11 in.
- Bulletins of the Immigration Committee of the Chamber of 252 Commerce of the U.S.A. CPI 31-C2. Apr. 1, 1916-Aug. 25, 1917. Negligible.

Corresponded of the indictant Director Regarding Ofenting of Inticat of Chartence for the Report of Films. OF 30-41.

AUDIOVISUAL RECORDS

Photographic Prints. Photographs of U.S. aviators, and German photographs received from the U.S. Naval Attaché at The Hague, 1917-18. 34 images.