

**The New York Public Library
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Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Dean Alfange Papers
1927-1988**

**Mary Ellen Rogan
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Summary

Main entry:	Alfange, Dean
Title:	Dean Alfange Papers, 1927-1988
Size:	4.8 lin. ft. linear feet (8 boxes)
Source:	Gift of Dean Alfange, Jr., January 1990.
Abstract:	Dean Alfange (1897-1989), lawyer, politician and political advisor to U.S. presidents and New York governors, was instrumental in the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944. The collection consists of correspondence, speeches, articles by Alfange, news clippings, and other materials documenting his career as a lawyer and political activist.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
Preferred citation:	Dean Alfange Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Photographs, sound recordings

Biographical note

Dean Alfange was born in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) of Greek parents, December 2, 1897. His family migrated to the United States and settled in Utica, New York, when he was very young. He attended Hamilton College where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1922. Later he attended Columbia University Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1925.

Alfange's interests led him to pursue a career in politics as well as law. He was also deeply involved with the Order of Ahepa, a Greek-American cultural organization, acting as its national president from 1927-1929. He ran for New York State Governor on the American Labor Party ticket in 1942 against Thomas E. Dewey and was a strong advocate of the New Deal and a great admirer of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

During World War II he was the Vice-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. He made speeches for aid to the Jews against the Nazis, and at a hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives submitted a plan to save the Jews in Europe. After World War II he became chairman of the Committee to Arm the Jewish State, a group aimed at lifting the arms embargo on Palestine.

He was instrumental in the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944 when the American Labor Party split between pro-communist and anti-communist factions. Alfange held nominations or appointments from Democrats and Republicans as well as the Liberal and American Labor Party. As early as 1954 he expressed opposition to the American policy of military aid to the French government in Indochina, his position being one based on anti-colonialism. This position continued throughout America's involvement in the Vietnam Conflict.

Other positions held by Alfange were: Deputy Attorney General of New York State, Trustee of the Fashion Institute of Technology and New York State Quarter-Horse Racing Commissioner. Among his awards are the Freedom Foundation Award (1952) for his composition "My Creed" (included in Box 5, folder 3) and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Award for his book *The Supreme Court and the National Will* (1937).

He died in New York City on October 24, 1989 at age 91.

Scope and content note

The papers (1927-1988), though sketchy, reflect aspects of Alfange's career as a lawyer and political activist. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, speeches, articles by Alfange and news clippings dealing with his political activities and with the Greek American community from 1934-1975.

The collection reveals Alfange's involvement and influence in the American Labor Party, the Order of Ahepa and aspects of his work in the political arena between 1940-1980. Presidential correspondence from Hoover and Truman includes letters requesting Alfange's insight into the problems of immigrant communities, which is also reflected in Alfange's notes dealing with presidential meetings. There is information in the collection documenting Alfange's involvement in electoral campaigns both on a state and nationwide level. There is nothing in the papers which deals with Alfange's private life. The collection gives insight into the political scene in New York during the 1940's, notably the 1942 New York State gubernatorial election and Alfange's efforts in the formation of the Liberal Party. Of special note is Alfange's interest in human rights revealed in his involvement as Vice Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe during World War II and his chairmanship of the Committee to Arm the Jewish State.

There is a subgroup of letters in the collection from Alfange's friend (who was sometimes referred to as "Uncle"), Augustus L. Richards. Richards, a retired lawyer and Harvard graduate, reveals in his letters a satiric wit and strong liberal leanings. It is obvious through much of this correspondence that Alfange respected his opinion and political insight.

Arrangement note

The Dean Alfange Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series 1. Correspondence, 1929 - 1988
- Series 2. Articles and Speeches
- Series 3. Organizations
- Series 4. Election Campaigns
- Series 5. Memorabilia
- Series 6. Augustus L. Richards Correspondence

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Correspondence, 1929 - 1988

Arranged alphabetically. Included are personal letters from such notables as Presidents Gerald R. Ford, Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman. Also included are letters from J. Edgar Hoover, Nelson Rockefeller and Henry Cabot Lodge. Of particular note are Alfange's personal comments and observations from private meetings with Truman.

A letter from Harlan Fiske Stone which accompanied an edited article by Alfange can be found in the Articles and Speeches series.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Anderson, Warren (3 letters)
	2	Biddle, Francis (1 letter)
	3	Cummings, Homer (1 letter)
	4	Eisenhower, Dwight (1 letter)
	5	Ford, Gerald (2 letters)
	6	Goodman, Roy M. (2 letters)
	7	Hoover, Herbert (3 letters)(Includes comments by Alfange)
	8	Hoover, J. Edgar (1 letter)
	9	Lefkowitz, Louis J. (1 letter)
	10	Lehman, Herbert H. (1 letter)
	11	Levitt, Arthur (1 letter)
	12	Lodge, Henry Cabot (1 letter)
	13	Marchi, John J. (5 letters)
	14	Rockefeller, Nelson (12 letters; 5 memoranda)
	15	Steingut, Stanley (1 letter)
	16	Stone, Harlan F. (1 letter)
	17	Truman, Harry F. (4 letters; 3 telegrams)(Includes comments by Alfange)
	18	Wagner, Robert F. (1 letter)
	19	General, 1944 - 1945
	20	Incoming
	21	Outgoing

Series 2. Articles and Speeches

Articles arranged alphabetically; speeches arranged chronologically. Articles contain assorted writings of Dean Alfange. Included are: "A Liberal Looks At the Jewish State," "The Effect of Prior Imperfect Obligation on the Matter of Preference in Bankruptcy" (includes letter by Harlan Fiske Stone), excerpts from The Supreme Court and the National Will (included are excerpts of reviews of this work), "The Supreme Court Battle in Retrospect," "Toward a New Foreign Policy," "Tribute to the Late President Roosevelt," "The Truman Doctrine in a Coma" and an annotated copy of his court case -- Spyridon Catapodis against Aristotle Socrates Onassis.

Alfange's speeches include addresses he made at various functions throughout his career. Some of note are: "American Aid to Greece," "Is Security Compatible With Liberty" and a radio address delivered June 15, 1941 entitled "A Program For Action." Wartime speeches given by Alfange include many for aid to save the Jewish people of Europe. Included is his speech in 1944 concerning the newly formed Liberal Party. This series also includes articles written by Augustus Richards and one entitled "On Freedom of the Press" which is of unknown authorship. One of Alfange speeches is included in the Ahepa file.

Also included are 10 glass phonograph recordings of Alfange delivering some of his more notable speeches. Included are the speech given to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe and a speech given to the Legion for American Unity. Phonograph recordings are unavailable until transferred to cassette.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	22	Articles by Alfange
	23	Letters to the New York Times
	24	Supreme Court and the National Will (Contains reviews and publishers agreement)
	25	Speeches by Alfange, 1940 - 1966
	26	Works by Augustus L. Richards
	27	On Freedom of the Press
<u>Vol</u>		
1		Legion for American Unity, 1941 Jul 13 (Phonograph recording)
2		Legion for American Unity, 1941 Jul 14 (Phonograph recording)
3		Italian, 1941 Aug 19 (Phonograph recording)
4-5		Emergency Conference to Save the Jews of Europe, 1943 July 24 (Phonograph recording)
6-10		Unidentified (Phonograph recording)

Series 3. Organizations

Arranged alphabetically. Included in this series are papers from various organizations which Alfange was affiliated. These include Ahepa, A.L.P. (American Labor Party), Commission of Critical Choices for Americans, Committee to Arm the Jewish State, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe and the New York State Quarter Horse Commission. Alfange played a prominent role in each of these organizations and the papers contain correspondence, speeches and programs. Of special note are the files from Ahepa, A.L.P. and the Committee to Arm the Jewish State.

The Order of Ahepa is an American fraternal organization for those of Greek ancestry, dedicated to inculcating American values and reverence for the history, culture and traditions of Greece. The file contains issues of the publication Ahepa Bulletin from 1927 - 1929. Also included are programs from the Order of Ahepa convention and works by Dean Alfange at Ahepa functions in his position as Supreme President and later as guest speaker.

The A.L.P. files contain press releases and copies of speeches by Dean Alfange as the American Labor Party candidate for Governor. Alfange campaigned as "the only New Deal candidate running for governor." The Committee to Arm the Jewish State was formed after World War II. "Its purpose was not to solicit funds for arms. It created public opinions in support of arming the Jewish people of Palestine and to induce the U. S. government to lift the arms embargo and lend-lease military equipment to the new Jewish state."(Box 3, File #5 : Pamphlet containing statement of goals and purpose). The files contain correspondence, financial information and general information on the organization.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
3	1	Ahepa
	2	A.L.P. (American Labor Party), 1942 Oct - Nov (Press releases and campaign speeches)
	3	Commission on Critical Choices for Americans Committee to Arm the Jewish State
3	4	Certificate of Resolutions
	5	Correspondence, 1948
	6	Contribution correspondence
	7	Contributors
	8	Bank statements
	9	Accounts payable
	10	Middle East oil propaganda
	11	Press releases
	12	Press releases, 1948 Jan 19 - May 10
	13	Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe - Testimonial dinner, 1944 Jan 26
	14	New York State Quarter Horse Commission

Series 4. Election Campaigns

Arranged chronologically. Contains correspondence, speeches and subject files for both presidential and gubernatorial campaigns from 1952-1976. Of special note is the 1952 Presidential radio address and correspondence from Nelson Rockefeller's Governor's Club.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
4	1	Presidential election radio address, 1952
	2	Presidential and senatorial election, 1956
	3	Presidential campaign, 1968
	4	Presidential campaign, 1976
	5	Gubernatorial campaign - Rockefeller - Governors Club
	6	Gubernatorial campaign - Wilson, 1964
4		Subject files
	7	Cyprus
	8	Israel
	9	Plant Industries
	10	Soviet Union

Series 5. Memorabilia

Contains photographs, news clippings and ephemera dealing with Alfange's career. The 33 photographs of Dean Alfange document the Ahepa trip to Greece during the late 1920's while he was Supreme President of Ahepa and his public career. News clippings include articles about Alfange's public life, mainly his involvement in politics and with his affiliation with the Greek community in the United States. Included in the ephemera are political leaflets for his campaign for Congress and the gubernatorial election in New York State, as well as other items of memorabilia.

5	1	Photographs, ca. 1928 - 1945
	2	News clippings, 1934 - 1957
	3	Ephemera

Series 6. Augustus L. Richards Correspondence

Arranged chronologically. Contains letters written by Augustus L. Richards to Dean Alfange concerning matters of political importance. Also included are copies of letters Richards wrote to prominent people in politics and government voicing his opinions on U.S. policy and the international scene. These letters are often in a sarcastic and/or satiric vein and many are extremely humorous.

6	1	1943
	2	1944 Jan - May
7	1	1944 Jun - Jul
	2	1944 Aug - Sep
	3	1944 Oct - Dec
	4	1945 Jan - Dec.
	5	News clippings, 1945
8	1	1946
	2	1947
	3	1948
	4	1949 - 1951