



BHC-MSS 0087

Guide to the Papers of Henry Elstein regarding Mayor Jasper McLevy

By Meg Rinn

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Henry Elstein

Title: Papers of Henry Elstein regarding Mayor Jasper McLevy

Dates: 1956-1957

Quantity: ½ manuscript box

Abstract: Containing Elstein's thesis, "The McLevy Complex: analysis of voting behavior in Bridgeport, CT" and other research papers, this small collection offers insight and research into Bridgeport's socialist mayor six years after his last term in the position.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Henry Elstein is a graduate of Yale University for both undergraduate studies and law school. He currently practices law within Connecticut.

Jasper McLevy (March 27, 1878-November 20, 1962) served as the mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut from 1933 to 1957. The city's first socialist mayor, he is best remembered for helping to resolve the city's bankruptcy, on the site inspections, and keeping a tight purse string, as well as weeding out the corruption of the earlier mayors of the city. To many in the city, he was simply known by his first name, Jasper.

A full and extensive biography of McLevy including his major public works, his perception as a socialist, and all other information is available by referring to the Jasper McLevy Collection (BHC-MSS 0002) held by the Bridgeport History Center,

Scope and Content note:

The material within the collection includes Elstein's thesis, "The McLevy Complex: analysis of voting behavior in Bridgeport, CT" which he wrote in fulfillment of his political science courses, additional writings on McLevy, and some supplementary research. As the material was written in the 1950s, it serves as a time capsule of how the mayor was immediately perceived after he was no longer in office, as he was voted out in 190.

Both the thesis and the additional writings are a fantastic means of understanding McLevy in his own time as well as socialism within Connecticut politics in the first half of the 20th century.

Arrangement Note:

Thesis and supplementary research has been placed first. All other material is chronologically arranged.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Unkown,

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Henry Elstein regarding Mayor Jasper McLevy (BHC-MSS 0097) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Personal names*

McLevy, Jasper, 1878-1962

Corporate names

Socialist Party of the United States of America

Subject tracings

Connecticut--Bridgeport.

Politicians--Connecticut--Bridgeport--Biography.

Socialism--United States--History--20th century

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. The McLevy Complex: analysis of voting behavior in Bridgeport, CT, 1956 [thesis]
2. The McLevy Complex research notes, 1956
3. Jasper McLevy: his administration, his coalition, his decline, 1956
4. Bridgeport Politics Since 1933: a rather objective study with slight partisan leanings, 1956
5. The Herald Magazine featuring article by Elstein
6. The Legend of a Politician, undated