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Senator Hattie W. Caraway letter, 1988

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Senator Hattie Caraway letter

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Senator Hattie Caraway letter
Date	1939 March 29
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Microform [Reel]	MG00241
Text [Box]	71
Container	20

Preferred Citation

Senator Hattie Caraway letter, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical Note

Hattie Caraway was the first woman elected to serve a full term as a United States Senator, representing Arkansas. She was born near Bakerville, Tennessee, to William Carroll Wyatt, a farmer and shopkeeper, and Lucy Mildred Burch. She attended Ebenezer College in Hustburg, Tennessee, and then Dickson Normal College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1896. After college, she taught school before marrying Thaddeus Caraway in 1902. The two had three children: Paul, Forrest, and Robert. The couple settled in Jonesboro, Arkansas, where he practiced law and she cared for the children and home and helped oversee the family cotton farm. Thaddeus was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1912 and served until 1921 when he became a U.S. Senator.

Thaddeus Caraway died in office in 1931. There was a precedent of appointing widows to temporarily take their husbands' places, and Arkansas governor Harvey Parnell appointed Hattie Caraway to the vacant seat. She was sworn in on December 9, 1931. She won a special election in January 1932 for the remaining months of the term, becoming the first woman elected to the Senate.

In May 1932, she announced that she would run for a full term in the upcoming election. She won the general election in November. In 1938, she ran for reelection and won. She also ran for reelection in 1944, but lost to U.S. Representative J. William Fulbright. After the election, she was appointed to the Employees' Compensation Commission by President Roosevelt and served on the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board until she had a stroke in January of 1950. She died on December 21, 1950. She is buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains of one letter written by Hattie W. Caraway to Hon. Harry B. Solsmon concerning legislation prohibition the export of peeler logs to European Countries.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 5/12/2021

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

H.B. Solmson, Longboat, Kentucky, 1988.

Collection Inventory

1. Letter from Hattie W. Caraway to Hon. Harry B. Solmson concerning legislation prohibiting the export of peeler logs to European countries. 1p. 1939 March 29