

George Edward Little (1921-)
Vermont Council for Effective Government Records, 1976-1982
MSA 224

Introduction

This collection contains records from the Vermont Council for Effective Government, a private, non-profit organization in operation between 1976 and 1982. The records were collected by George E. Little (1921-), a Burlington businessman and treasurer of the Council. The records were given to the Vermont Historical Society in January 1999 by Mr. Little (ms. acc. no 99.14). They fill one small archival box and consume .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Agency History

The Council was formed by a group headed by Howard Bank board chairman William Lockwood; George Little was Treasurer and Robert S. Gillette was Operating Committee Chairman. Richard Snelling, a Shelburne businessman and politician, had been instrumental in starting the Council, though he stayed out of its organization, as he was running for Governor. The Council hired a Chicago consulting firm, Warren King and Associates, to make a study of state government and come up with specific recommendations for "ways, means, procedures and programs to effect economies and improvements in the operation of state and local government" in Vermont. The Vermont business community was asked both to finance the undertaking and also to name individuals who would have the expertise to make recommendations in specific areas, such as accounting, personnel, food service, and finance. King and Associates completed a preliminary survey in 1976. In 1977 the final survey and recommendations were made. To quote from the Chairman's covering letter on these recommendations, "more than 11,000 man-hours were devoted to the study by volunteers from the business community." The Council was institutionalized by the creation of the Governor's Cost Control Council in 1977; the Vermont Council for Effective Government closed down its operations in 1982.

Scope and Content Note

The papers in this collection were assembled by George E. Little of Burlington, Vermont, treasurer of the Vermont Council for Effective Government. Most of these papers relate to the early efforts to organize the Council, including raising money from leading Vermont businessmen, finding a proper name for the organization, and some notes from the first meetings. There are letters explaining why some businessmen chose not to contribute, partly for fear the sitting governor would not be behind the Council's efforts due to the impending gubernatorial election. There are a number of financial records, monthly expense statements from this non-profit organization, copies of Federal income tax returns, and bank statements. There is correspondence relating to the closing out of the books on the Council and distributing the remaining funds to the State for a

useful purpose, and the disposal of its records and how they should be made available to the public.

Related Collections

There are four reports from the Council's successor agency, the Governor's Cost Control Council, in the collection of the Vermont Department of Libraries. See Folder 0 for an inventory printed out in June 2000, and related documents.

Inventory

- MSA 224:
1. Getting Organized
 2. Financial pledges to get the Council funded
 3. Statements of income and expense
 4. Federal tax reports
 5. The Council at work
 6. Closing the Council
 7. Preliminary Findings Report

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