

Application for Faculty Research Grant

Title of Book Project: "The Senator from New England: John F. Kennedy, 1952-1960"

If awarded, this faculty research grant would be used to finance a two-week, full-time research project at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas during the summer of 2008. Any remaining grant funds would be used to partially finance the research of Joseph P. Kennedy's papers at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. I am currently waiting for the Kennedy library to decide if it will grant me permission to research Joseph P. Kennedy's papers.

Both of the above primary research efforts are part of a long-term book project tentatively entitled, *The Senator from New England: John F. Kennedy, 1952-1960*. I have already completed archival research on this project at Dartmouth College, John F. Kennedy Library, Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, Bates College, Margaret Chase Smith Center, University of Connecticut, and several Massachusetts newspapers. The tentative thesis of this book project is that John F. Kennedy partially prepared for his 1960 presidential campaign by uniting Democratic politicians and convention delegates throughout New England behind his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination by the end of the 1950s. In order to accomplish this partisan, regional objective, Kennedy intentionally developed and projected a reputation as a senator who would lead the promotion of New England's economic and infrastructure interests on a cooperative, regional, bipartisan basis. In addition to previous research at the Kennedy library, I have examined the papers of New England senators and governors from the 1950s, including Prescott Bush and Thomas Dodd of Connecticut, Dennis Roberts and John Pastore of Rhode Island, Margaret Chase Smith

and Edmund Muskie of Maine, and Leverett Saltonstall and Foster Furcolo of Massachusetts.

During the course of my archival research so far, my efforts and opportunities to prove my thesis have been frustrated by the fact that I need to finance the examination of relevant materials at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas. For example, Sherman Adams, the Republican governor of New Hampshire from 1949 until 1953, served as chairman of the Conference of New England Governors from 1951 to 1952 and as Eisenhower's White House chief of staff from 1953 to 1958. At my own expense, I examined Adams's papers at Dartmouth College during the summer of 2005. While these papers were helpful in addressing regional economic issues that also concerned then Congressman Kennedy from 1949 to 1952, they, of course, did not cover Adams's influence on President Eisenhower regarding Kennedy's policy requests affecting New England's economy during the Eisenhower administration. Thus, I need to examine Adams's papers as White chief of staff at the Eisenhower library.

To a lesser extent, Eisenhower's decisions affecting Kennedy's policy proposals affecting New England in general and Massachusetts in particular and his political status as a Democratic senator with presidential ambitions were also influenced by members of the Eisenhower administration who were Republicans from Massachusetts, including Secretary of the Cabinet Max Rabb, UN ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., and Christian Herter, Secretary of State and former governor of Massachusetts. Examining these and other papers at the Eisenhower library is necessary for me to establish that, while Eisenhower did not want his policy decisions to unwittingly benefit Kennedy's 1958 re-election campaign and preliminary preparation for the 1960 presidential election,

Eisenhower also knew that he needed to provide some acquiescence to Kennedy's proposals for state-wide and regional economic development because of Kennedy's cooperative, bipartisan relationship with Republican Senator Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts and his chairmanship of the Conference of New England Senators.

During my research at the Eisenhower library, I also want to examine and select rare photographs of Kennedy and Eisenhower concerning bill signing ceremonies on legislation pertaining to Massachusetts and New England, such as legislation for flood control, federal aid for the fishing and textile industries, and construction of the Cape Cod canal and national park. In my last two books, the inclusion of rare photographs improved their stylistic quality and public appeal. In this future book's words and photographs, I intend to explain and analyze aspects of John F. Kennedy's Senate career and relationship with the Eisenhower administration that have been neglected by political scientists and historians.

With the costs of a two-week research project at the Eisenhower library totaling less than \$2500, I would use the remaining grant funds to examine the papers of Joseph P. Kennedy (JPK) at the Kennedy library in Boston. Although I examined other papers at the Kennedy library for my third book, I was unable to secure permission from the library's board to examine JPK's papers. I applied most recently for this permission in October, 2007. I should know by April, 2008 if this permission will be granted. Receiving access to and examining JPK's papers are important for my research because JPK and his contacts with New England businessmen, politicians, and academics were crucial in developing JFK's ideas and economic policy proposals for his two Senate campaigns and his image as a centrist, innovative senator who sought bipartisan, regional

cooperation in lobbying the Eisenhower administration and Congress for legislation specifically beneficial to New England.

My first three books attracted national awards and favorable reviews partially because of the breadth, variety, and originality of my archival research. Based upon my proposal, abstract, and research so far, several university presses, including those of the State University of New York (SUNY), the Catholic University of America, and Dartmouth College (i.e., the University Press of New England), have expressed an interest in eventually publishing this future book manuscript. If this research grant application is approved, my aforementioned research at the Eisenhower and Kennedy libraries will be a major contribution to the future completion and academic distinction of this book project.

Sincerely,

Approval of Department Chair

Sean J. Savage

Professor of Political Science

Marc Belanger

Selective Bibliography

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