

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB09:027

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2009

Contact: Kate Folmar
(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Announces Newly Processed State Archives Collections

SACRAMENTO – Researchers now have easier and faster access to information about six California State Archives collections, Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today.

The newly processed collections include records from:

- Assemblyman Tom Bates (served in Legislature 1977-1996),
- Assemblyman Richard Katz (served in Legislature 1980-1996),
- Democratic State Central Committee Chairwoman Elizabeth Snyder (1937-1987),
- The Native American Heritage Commission (1964-1991),
- The Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy (also known as the “Little Hoover Commission”) (1974-1990), and
- The California State Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission (1934-1948).

The Secretary of State’s office has been home to the State Archives since 1850. As custodian of the State Archives, Secretary Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the legislative and executive branches of state government, as well as Golden State history in the form of tens of millions of documents, maps, photographs, film and audio recordings, and artifacts. Among the treasures housed in secure, climate-controlled rooms stretching over six floors of the State Archives’ Sacramento building are the original California Constitutions; Spanish and Mexican land grant records; election records dating back to 1849; political campaign items; and evidence, tapes, and photographs from the Los Angeles Police Department investigation of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination.

The California State Archives continually organizes the materials it receives and creates detailed guides to collections known as “finding aids” that make researching easier. For more information about the California State Archives collections, or for assistance on a historical research project, go to <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>.

Finding aids for the recently processed collections are available on the Online Archive of California at <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search.findingaid.html>, a single digital database of finding aids that provides information about materials held in archives, libraries, museums, and historical societies across California.

###