

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Thruston Ballard Morton, 1907-1982  
Papers, 1968-1982**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg

**Size of Collection:**

2 cubic feet

**Location Number:**

Mss./A/M891

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**Scope and Content Note**

Collection contains general business correspondence related to Morton's position on various corporate boards of directors, including Churchill Downs, R. J. Reynolds, the Pittston Company, and the Pillsbury Company. Numerous speaking engagement invitations as well as letters seeking donations are attached to copies of Morton response. In addition, collection includes constituent letters, legislative correspondence, letters of recommendation, financial records, congratulatory notes, and limited personal correspondence. Also included is correspondence related to Morton's declined nomination to serve as Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

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**Biographical Note**

Thruston Ballard Morton was a prominent political and business leader in Kentucky during the mid-twentieth century. As a student, Morton attended public schools, the Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, and graduated from Yale University in 1929. He married Belle Clay Lyons in 1931 and had two sons.

From 1947 to 1953, Morton served three terms as a representative for Kentucky's Third Congressional District. After his tenure in the house, Morton was appointed Assistant Secretary of State of Congressional Relations by President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953 until 1956. In addition, Morton served two terms in the United States Senate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky from 1957 to 1969. Morton was also Chairman of the Republican National Committee and one of the first conservatives to withdraw support from President Lyndon B. Johnson's Vietnam War policies. After his retirement from the Senate, Morton remained active in the Louisville business community, serving as Vice-Chairman of the Board and Director of Liberty National Bank and Chairman of the Board and Director of Churchill Downs. He also served as a Director or Advisor for the Louisville Board of Trade, Pillsbury Company, Texas Gas Company, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the Pittston Company, the University of Louisville, Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor and the Ohio Valley Assembly. Morton died in Louisville in 1982.

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- Folder 2: Correspondence – January 1969
- Folder 3: Correspondence – February 1969
- Folder 4: Correspondence – March 1969, I
- Folder 5: Correspondence – March 1969, II
- Folder 6: Correspondence – April 1969, I
- Folder 7: Correspondence – April 1969, II
- Folder 8: Correspondence – April 1969, III
- Folder 9: Correspondence – May 1969
- Folder 10: Correspondence – June 1969
- Folder 11: Correspondence – July-August 1969
- Folder 12: Correspondence – September 1969
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Folder 69: Correspondence – July-December 1981  
Folder 70: Correspondence – March-August 1982  
Folder 71: Correspondence – Ballard Memorial School Fundraising, 1970  
Folder 72: Correspondence – British Royal Family's Visit to the Kentucky Derby, 1974  
Folder 73: Correspondence – Undated  
Folder 74: Thruston Ballard Morton – Obituaries

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**Subject Headings**

Agriculture – Taxation  
American Horse Council  
Animal industry – Law and legislation  
Appalachians (People)  
Appalachians (People)  
Ballard Memorial School (Barlow, Ky.)  
Churchill Downs Incorporated  
Energy policy  
Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.  
Kentucky Derby – History  
Morton, Thruston B. (Thruston Ballard), 1907-1982  
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994  
Pillsbury Company  
Presidents – United States – Election. – 20th century  
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company  
Red Cross and Red Crescent - Kentucky  
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)  
Vice-Presidential candidates - United States