

Finding Aid to the North Dakota Citizen's Clean Court Committee Records

North Dakota Citizen's Clean Court Committee

North Dakota Citizen's Clean Court Committee Records, 1921-1922

.5 linear ft.

MSS 93

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the NDSU Archives.

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HISTORY

The North Dakota Citizens Clean Court Committee was established in Fargo, North Dakota in 1921. The purpose of the group was to actively oppose the confirmation of Andrew Miller as Federal Judge for North Dakota. The group consisted of a number of politicians and newspaper publishers from across the state. The Clean Court Committee charged that Miller, a former North Dakota Attorney General, was guilty of corruption. It was alleged that Miller had been paid by the Northern Pacific Railroad to lower taxes on its property. It was also charged that Miller had bribed several state legislators to lower the gas tax on behalf of the Standard Oil Company. Miller served as personal attorney for prominent North Dakotan Alexander McKenzie. The Committee charged that Miller was guilty of helping McKenzie

corrupt a federal judge in Nome, Alaska. Miller was also accused of being “neutral or negative” during World War I. Miller’s nomination was supported by a number of prominent citizens, including former North Dakota Governor John Burke, North Dakota Senator Porter J. McCumber, Senator E.F. Ladd, and Judge Charles Amidon, who Miller was to replace on the federal bench. Despite the efforts of the Committee, Andrew Miller was confirmed by the United States Senate on February 2, 1922. He served as a Federal Judge until he retired in 1941. He died in March, 1960.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The North Dakota Citizens Clean Court Committee Records consist of subject files dealing with the work of the committee in opposing the nomination of Andrew Miller as federal judge. These include: memorandum on the organization of the committee; membership list; correspondence; telegrams; biographical material on Miller; depositions; documents regarding Miller’s legal practice; documents on his involvement with Stark County officials; and documents placed before the Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate’s Committee on the Judiciary.

FOLDER LIST

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1/19	Stark County, North Dakota vs. Adam F. Mischel, Dominick Wetzstein et al: Transcript of hearing, 1916
1/20	Stark County, North Dakota material, 1910-1922
1/21	Tuttle Land Company, 1921
1/22	U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary material, 1922

