

Supplementary Material on the 8-F Group

In 1932, the 8-F Group was formed to coordinate the political activities of prominent right wing politicians and businessmen in the South. It was named after its location in suite 8-F in the Lamar Hotel in Houston, Texas. Membership was very exclusive indeed and included such people as George and Herman Brown of Brown and Root; the Governor of Texas; chief executives and founders of major oil companies, insurance companies, pipe line companies; and prominent and powerful politicians such as Albert Thomas, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense, etc. In 1960, members included Robert Anderson, president of the Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association; Robert Kerr of Kerr-McGee Oil Industries; Billie Sol Estes, an entrepreneur in the cotton industry; Glenn McCarthy of McCarthy Oil and Gas Company; Earl E. T. Smith, of U.S. Sugar Corporation; Fred Korth, Continental National Bank and Navy Secretary; Ross Sterling of Humble Oil; Texas oil magnates Sid Richardson and Clint Murchison, Jr., H. L. Hunt of Placid Oil; Eugene B. Germany (Mustang Oil Company), David Harold Byrd, chairman of Byrd Oil Corporation; Lawrence D. Bell, of Bell Helicopter; William D. Pawley (business interests in Cuba), Gordon McLendon of KLIF; Senators George Smathers, Richard Russell, James Eastland, Benjamin Everett Jordan; and lobbyists Fred Black and Bobby Baker, also affiliated with the Serve-U Corporation. Lyndon Johnson and John Connally were also members. Lawyers Alvin Wirtz and Edward Aubrey Clark were closely associated with the group.