

Finding Aid
The papers of former Vice President Mondale
Minnesota Historical Society
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TOPIC: FILIBUSTER REFORM

Summary: Mondale's Senate career began during the 89th Congress and the throes of the civil rights debate. Opponents of civil rights legislation used the filibuster in the U.S. Senate as a potent tool to delay and block congressional action. (The filibuster is the use or threatened use of extended debate to delay or completely block a vote on a particular piece of legislation.) Mr. Mondale championed one of the most important changes in the rules guiding the filibuster – the establishment of a cloture rule (or Rule 22). Mr. Mondale's reform kept the filibuster as a tool of delay for numerical minorities looking to focus national attention on issues of particular concern while also providing a mechanism to bring filibusters to a close if three-fifths of the Senate (usually 60 senators) signed a cloture petition. Mr. Mondale's proposal successfully passed the Senate on March 7, 1975.

Correspondence

SENATE GENERAL FILES 1971 [**Box 17**] Cong 5

SENATE GENERAL FILES 1974 [**Box 4**] Cong 5

SENATE GENERAL FILES 1975 [**Box 5**] Cong 5

Congressional Record

SENATE STATEMENTS AND REMARKS [**Box 1**] Miscellaneous 1969 [**Box 4**] Reprints
2/19/71, 3/5/71, May 1976

News clips

SENATOR ADP SUBJECT FILES [**Box 413**] 1/16/75

SENATOR CLIPPINGS [**Box 1798**] Rule 22

SENATE PRESS SECRETARY [**Box 802,870**] Rule 22