Guide to the Victor L. Anfuso Papers
CMS.033

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March 13, 2015

Center for Migration Studies
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Summary Information

Repository: Center for Migration Studies

Creator: Anfuso, Victor L., 1905-1966

Title: Victor L. Anfuso Papers

Date [inclusive]: 1928-1966

Extent: 22.0 Cubic feet in 32 manuscript boxes, 2 record cartons, and oversize box.

Language: English

Language of Materials note: Materials mostly in English.

Abstract: Victor L. Anfuso (1905-1961) served the people of Brooklyn, New York in various capacities during his career. His papers, dating from 1928-1966, reflect his social and political activities as an attorney, as a Congressman, and New York State Supreme Court Justice, with the bulk of materials pertaining to his years of service in Congress. The collection contains correspondence, speeches, photographs, materials from the Congressional Record, personal documents, reports to his constituency, remarks and bills introduced, trip materials, and materials generated from his work on the Post Office Commission, Civil Service Commission, and the Committee on Science and Astronautics. The materials related to his work as a lawyer consist of his admission to the Bar, Correspondence, the Citizen's Welfare Association, Italian Board of Guardian, Tolerance Day League Inc, The Youth Congress, Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, Italian Immigration and Italian Communism, and speeches. The materials related to his work as a congressman include of election campaign and delegate to national conventions materials, correspondence (including correspondence with Most Reverend Thomas E. Bishop), memos, press
releases, and materials related to Israel, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Italy, the Brooklyn Army Terminal, the Cellini case, and sabbath law. The materials related to his work as a state supreme court justice include materials on his campaign, correspondence, the National Order of Science, firearms, Cuba, the President's Club of New York, Young Citizens for Johnson, the Democratic National Convention, President Antonio Segni of Italy, Farleigh Dickinson Honorary Degree, World's Fair, and inaugural balls.

**Preferred Citation note**

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Victor L. Anfuso Papers (CMS 033); Box; Folder.
Biographical/Historical note

Victor L. Anfuso was born in Gagliano Castelferrato in Sicily, Italy on March 10, 1905. He emigrated to America with his mother, two older brothers, and two sisters in 1914. They settled in an Italian neighborhood in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York. Anfuso was educated in New York City's public schools and attended Columbia University. He received his law degree from Brooklyn Law School and admitted to the Bar in 1928. He practiced law before the courts of the State of New York and US Federal Court, and admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court. In 1930, he married Frances Stallone; they had five children.

Anfuso organized the Citizens Welfare Association in 1931 to aid the destitute and needy in Brooklyn. In 1936, he founded the Italian Board of Guardians, later affiliated with the Catholic Charities of Brooklyn, to curb crime and prevent juvenile delinquency. For his humanitarian work, he was named Knight Commander of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre by Pope Pius XII.

During World War II, Anfuso served with the Office of Strategic Services in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. He returned from Europe in 1945 and in 1946 was appointed Assistant to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Department of Justice. In that capacity, he made a special study of the immigration "quota" laws and worked vigorously to obtain fair treatment under the law for new immigrants.

Anfuso's political career began in 1950 when he successfully campaigned as the Democratic candidate for Congress in District 8, Kings County, New York. In Congress, he served on the House Post Office and Civil Service Committees and was instrumental in obtaining a salary increase for postal workers in 1951.

In 1952, Anfuso's Congressional District was reapportioned and he did not seek a second term. On January 24, 1954, he was sworn in by New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner as a City Magistrate. In 1954, he ran for Congress again and elected to the 84th Congress.

Upon his return to Congress, Anfuso served on the House Agricultural Committee and as a member of the United States Delegation to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome. In 1957, he undertook a special mission for the House Agricultural Committee to study stockpiling and disposal of US food surpluses in Europe and the Middle East. Anfuso supported aid to Italy and Poland through the sale of surplus food in the belief it would diminish Communism in Italy and make Poland less dependent on Russia. He also urged economic and military support to Israel.

In Congress, Anfuso centered his activity on world peace and the reduction of international tension, while stressing the need for strengthening the defense and security of America. He stood in opposition to policies of colonialism, and encouraged programs such as the international youth convention. Anfuso also dedicated himself to improving United States-Latin American relations, through support of the Pan-American Parliamentary Association. In 1955, he was appointed as a member of the United States Congressional Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Conference in Paris. In 1959, Fidel Castro invited him and other members of Congress to Cuba.
Anfuso supported labor legislation, including bills for 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for those who exhausted their benefits; redevelopment aid for areas suffering from chronic unemployment; disclosure of employee welfare and pension funds, and the Kennedy bill to eliminate discrimination in employment. Anfuso also authored a Social Security bill to reduce the retirement age for men and women to 62, with full benefits, and advocated free distribution of surplus food to the elderly and needy through the food stamp plan.

Anfuso favored measures to promote medical research, aid to education, redevelopment of slum area, and construction of housing and hospitals. He also supported legislation to outlaw mob violence and the smuggling of narcotics into the United States. Anfuso was the author of several bills designed to repeal the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and the national quota system.

In 1959, he was appointed a member of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, the House Committee of Merchant Marine and Fisheries, the Subcommittee on International Space Cooperation and Security, and was the United States Representative for the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Congressman Anfuso served as Chairman of the Italian Centennial Celebration in 1961 and appointed Chairman of the Congressional Delegation to Italy by President Kennedy. He often served as intermediary between the US government and the Italian government.

In 1962, Anfuso's district was redistricted again, the eighth district was to be combined with the fourteenth district. To prevent a divisive primary fight against senior member of the House of Representative John J. Rooney, the New York State Democratic leadership offered Anfuso the Supreme Court Justice nomination of the State of New York. He accepted the nomination and won the election in 1962. He served on the New York State Supreme Court until his death on December 28, 1966.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains the papers of Victor L. Anfuso, documenting his work as a lawyer, congressman, and New York State Supreme Court Justice. The collection contains correspondence, handwritten drafts of letters, speeches, by-laws and constitution, letters of invitation to social functions and lists. Included is material from congressional and judicial campaigns, government publications, Anfuso's speeches, remarks and bills introduced as recorded in the Congressional Record, reports to his constituency and press releases. Additionally, there is a large scrapbook of Anguso's material clipped from the Congressional Record of the 87th Congress. There is material concerning the Post Office Commission, Civil Service Commission, and the Committee on Science and Astronautics. Also included Anfuso's bills to establish a National Science Academy and material regarding his support for private ownership rather than the government ownership of communication satellites.

There are papers concerning several trips to Italy and other countries of Europe, and documents concerning the Centennial Celebration of the Unification of Italy in Washington DC. Other papers concern his interest in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Also included are insignias and documents, photographs, scrapbooks of clippings, and cases adjudicated by Anfuso. Finally, there are oversize...
materials concerning his election as Consul General of San Marino by President Truman, his diplomas, his law degree, oversize photographs of distinguished persons and formal dinners, and honorary documents awarded to Anfuso.


Arrangement note

This collection is divided into four series:

Series I: Activities as a Lawyer
Series II: Activities as a United States Congressman
Series III: Activities as a New York State Supreme Court Justice
Series IV: Photographs, Scrapbooks of Clippings, and Oversize Materials

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Center for Migration Studies

Revision Description
Edited for DACS compliance by Nicole Greenhouse March 2015

Conditions Governing Access note
Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note
Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Gift of Victor L. Anfuso, Jr.

Processing Information note

In 2015, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS and the original series level description was converted into EAD.

Controlled Access Headings

Occupation(s)

- Lawyers |z New York (State) |z New York.

Subject(s)

- Legislation |z United States.
- New York (State) Supreme Court.

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I: Activities as a Lawyer</th>
<th>Box 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Admission To The Bar, State Of New York 1928</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of Anfuso's application to the Committee of Character and Fitness for admission to the Bar of the State of New York. Included are handwritten and typewritten copies of letters of recommendation, mostly from attorneys.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 2: Correspondence 1934-1949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly letters received, several in Italian, regarding social discrimination, political appointments, politics, immigration cases and business dealings. Included are copies of Anfuso's letters to Italian officials, condemning the racial policies against Jews in Germany and Italy. These letters have been grouped together in a separate folder. The letters in Italian deal mainly with his appointment as Consul General of the Republic of San Marino. Significant items include: a copy of a letter dated November 12, 1938 to Benito Mussolini, Prime Minister of Italy, urging him to intercede with Hitler for religious tolerance toward the Jews and Catholics in Germany; a letter of October 10, 1940 from Selective Service Headquarters appointing Anfuso as chairman of the Registrants Advisory Board for Local Board No. 221, Brooklyn; a copy of a letter of September 23, 1946 to President Harry S. Truman, in which Anfuso sets forth his views on how to achieve world peace; a letter of October 25, 1949 from William O'Dwyer, Mayor of New York, asking Anfuso to serve as a member of an Official Advisory Committee for the Aged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 3: Citizen's Welfare Association 1936

Scope and Contents note

In 1936 Anfuso organized the Citizens Welfare Association in Brooklyn, N.Y. The Association assisted the needy in obtaining relief, aided the unemployed in finding work; advanced the cause of amicable adjustment of disputes between individuals, and assisted those who came into conflict with the law. This small series consists of a typewritten draft of the purpose of the Association, a Post Office permit to mail materials without stamps affixed, and a list of the membership.

Subseries 4: Italian Board of Guardians 1936-1952

Scope and Contents note

In 1936 Anfuso organized the Italian Board of Guardians, (IBC) now affiliated with Catholic Charities of Brooklyn, N.Y., to aid delinquent children and children from broken homes. He served four terms as president of the organization. This series consists of minutes of the special meeting of the Advisory Board of Trustees, held on May 27, 1937; a Supervisor's report of IBC, December 21, 1938; correspondence concerning membership; I.B.C. affiliation with Brooklyn's Catholic Charities; Charities Dinners; and a list of the Board of Trustees for 1953 and 1954. Also included are articles on Crime Prevention and the Problem of Juvenile Delinquency; a thesis on "Ten Progressive Years -The Development of the Italian Board of Guardians, an affiliate of Brooklyn Catholic Charities, 1939-1949", by Michael Petruzzi. Included is a speech delivered by Anfuso at a Testimonial Dinner given in his honor on May 14, 1949.

Subseries 5: Tolerance Day League Inc. 1943-1944

Scope and Contents note

Anfuso was the founder and president of Tolerance Day League Inc., in Brooklyn, N.Y. The purpose of the League was to promote good-will and better understanding among people of all races and religious denominations. This series includes correspondence
enlisting support and invitations to meetings; articles on tolerance; lists of Advisory
Board Members; certificate of incorporation; testimonial dinners, and contracts and
speeches. Included are a dozen pages of rough notes by Anfuso concerning meetings,
organizations, and lists of members.

Subseries 6: Youth Congress 1948-1949

Scope and Contents note

In 1948 Anfuso was the founder and Director of the Youth Congress, an organization
of young men and women. The purpose of the organization was to combat juvenile
delinquency through an educational program both for parents and children. Included
is the constitution and by-laws, correspondence, lists, speeches, minutes of meetings,
seven large photographs of young boys and girls with Anfuso. Also included are
programs, clippings, and a souvenir journal.

Subseries 7: Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty 1949

Scope and Contents note

In 1949 Anfuso organized rallies to protest the trial of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty,
a catholic prelate, by the Communist authorities in Hungary. Included is copy of the
letter sent out concerning the trial, correspondence, minutes of meeting, program,
resolutions and press releases. Also Included is the House of Representatives Resolution
35, condemning the imprisonment of the Cardinal, and thirteen pages of handwritten
notes by Anfuso concerning meetings and organizations.

Subseries 8: Italian Immigration and Italian Communism 1947-1948

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, articles, and list of National Committee Members relative to the
National Committee, organized in 1947 by Anfuso, to help secure passage of H.R. 3568.
The bill was to liberalize U.S. immigration laws for Italian nationals. There are also
several letters pertaining to Italian Communism, including a copy of a letter in Italian, dated March 28, 1948, which Anfuso drafted and mailed to the Italian people. The letter exhorted them to vote against communist candidates and preserve freedom for the Italian nation.

### Subseries 9: Political and Campaign Material 1934-1942

**Scope and Contents note**

Included is campaign material from Anfuso's candidacy as national delegate to the Democratic Convention. Also included is material dealing with his first attempt as a candidate for Congress from the Third Congressional District of Brooklyn, N.Y. Additionally, there are materials re the campaign of Charles Poletti, Lieutenant Governor of New York State.

### Subseries 10: Miscellaneous Materials 1934-1939

**Scope and Contents note**

Included is the Regular Veterans Association Citation for his service during World War II; a draft on the constitutional amendment proposal for State Industrial Labour Court; Resolution introduced by Anfuso at the 20th Assembly Democratic Club of Kings County regarding the disposition of former Italian Colonies after World War II. Also included are notes on aliens; income tax returns; an account and disbursement notebook; and a notebook with miscellaneous handwritten notes and four souvenir journals.

### Subseries 11: Speeches 1938-1950

**Scope and Contents note**

Speeches in manuscript, typewritten and printed form. Most of them are undated. The speeches cover a variety of topics and reflect the development of Anfuso's political and social thinking. They are arranged as follows: "Italian-American Patriotism", "Plea for Unity Amongst the Fathers", "Immigration", "Juvenile Delinquency", "Jewish Board

### Series II: Activities as a United States Congressman

#### Subseries 12: Congressional Election Campaign 1950-1960

**Scope and Contents note**

In the primaries of August 22, 1950, Victor L. Anfuso defeated the 14-year incumbent, Congressman Dr. Joseph L. Pfeifer, for the Democratic nomination representing the 8th Congressional District, Brooklyn, New York. This series deals with the campaign material of Anfuso’s successful congressional elections of 1950, 1954, 1956, 1958 and 1960. Included is correspondence, lists, campaign material and articles.

#### Subseries 13: Political Affairs, Federal Judgeship 1952-1953

**Scope and Contents note**

In 1952, a redistricting law merged Anfuso’s Congressional district with that of Congressman Louis Heller. Democratic Party leaders, anxious to avoid political in-fighting, offered Anfuso a position as a federal judge if he declined to run against Heller in the primaries. The appointment never came to fruition, leaving Anfuso disappointed and skeptical about the political process. This series consists mainly of copies of letters written to political leaders, including President Truman, and Attorney General James P. McCranery, denouncing party politics and the failure of his appointment as a federal judge.

#### Subseries 14: Election Campaigns and Delegate to National Conventions 1952-1961

**Scope and Contents note**
During the interim period of 1953 to 1954, Anfuso was a candidate for Kings County District Attorney, for New York City County Judge and for President of the Borough of Brooklyn. He eventually declined to continue with the campaign for District Attorney, and never seriously campaigned for the judgeship and the borough presidency. He was on the ballot during the "Spring Primary of 1952" for a seat at the Democratic National Convention. He was a member of the committee for the New York State Senate election of John Cashmore and the Assistant Manager for the campaign of Robert Wagner, Jr., Mayor of New York City. Also included are the papers re his role as a New York State Delegate to the National Convention of 1961. The papers consist of correspondence, lists, campaign literature, press releases, programs, speeches, lists of contributors, position papers, and bulletins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 15: Important Correspondence 1955-1962</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These letters were received over a period of eight years, from 1955-1962. Correspondents are numerous, consisting primarily of government officials. Numerous topics are covered. These letters received are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of correspondents; letters sent are arranged chronologically.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 16: General Correspondence 1951-1962</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainly telegrams and letters concerning immigration visas, Anfuso's birthday and union recognition for his support of labor problems. Included are several letters on politics, expressions of support by the Jewish War Veterans; and Merchant Marine Institute's gratitude for his perception of maritime problems.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 17: Correspondence with reverend Thomas E. Molloy Bishop of Brooklyn 1949-1953</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mainly letters pertaining to H.R. 3001, designed to facilitate the admittance of religious women from Europe into the United States in the non-quota category.

### Subseries 18: Intra-Office Correspondence 1960-1962

| Box | 7 |

**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence between Anfuso's secretaries, Mary Coradi, in the Brooklyn Congressional office, and Evelyn Carson in Washington, D.C. The correspondence, mostly notes and short letters, shed light on Anfuso's activities regarding the public, his friends, and congressional duties.

### Subseries 19: Press Releases 1957-1962

| Box | 7 |

**Scope and Contents note**

These press releases, issued from the office of Anfuso, reveal his concern over pertinent Congressional issues confronting this nation and the world. They document the Congressional bills he sponsored, his propositions, statements, and resolutions regarding local, national and international controversies, and are an invaluable reference for understanding his activities in Congress. Most press releases are dated; however, in each year there are several which are undated; they will be listed at the beginning of the year. The press releases of 1950-1952 and 1955-1956 were not retained. For 1957 there are only several copies extant.

### Subseries 20: Material in the Congressional Record 1951-1962

| Box | 8 |

**Scope and Contents note**

The material in the Congressional Record consists of speeches, statements, remarks and resolutions, bills introduced and miscellaneous items presented by Anfuso during the proceedings and debates of the 82nd Congress, 1951-1952; 84th Congress, 1955-1956; 85th Congress, 1957-1958; 86th Congress, 1959-1960; and the 87th Congress, 1961-1962. There are many gaps; for example, for the 82nd Congress, only two items
have been retained. Even for the years for which the material is available, it is doubtful it represents the total volume of the records produced. One exception, the documents of the 87th Congress, 1st Session, have been carefully bound in a scrapbook.

### Subseries 21: Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1961

#### Scope and Contents note

Included is the Continental Congress, September 5, 1779 to October 21, 1988; and the Congress of the United States from the first to the eighty-six Congress, March 4, 1789 to January 3, 1961, inclusive. Published by the United States Government Printing Office, 1961.

### Subseries 22: Reports to the People 1955-1960

#### Scope and Contents note

These reports of Anfuso's record in Congress cover the 84th and 86th Congresses. They delineate his activities and deal with the accomplishments, the failures, and the important legislation he introduced. Included with the reports is a questionnaire inviting his constituents to make any comments and express any view regarding them. For the 1955-1956 Congress, there is only one copy of the report; apparently the reports returned were not retained. However, a large number of the 1959-1960 reports returned were retained. They include letters, reports with letters, and reports with comments.

### Subseries 23: Post Office and Civil Service Commission 1951-1957

#### Scope and Contents note

In 1951 Anfuso was made a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Commission of the United States Congress. This series consists of correspondence pertaining to a 1951 survey of the New York area postal system; several letters concerning salary increases for postal employees; and letters requesting Anfuso to obtain employment in
the postal service for various individuals. Included are miscellaneous letters concerning postal problems, a speech and three photographs.

Subseries 24: National Medal of Science 1959

Scope and Contents note

On April 13, 1959 Anfuso introduced Bill H.R. 6288 to establish a National Medal of Science to provide recognition for individuals who make outstanding contributions in science and engineering. Included is a copy of Bill H.R. 6288 to establish a National Medal of Science; Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics; Report submitted by Mr. Anfuso, from the Committee on Science and Astronautics. Also included is copy of Public Law 86-209, 86th Congress, and H.R. 6288, establishing the National Medal of Science.


Scope and Contents note

In 1959 Anfuso sponsored a bill to establish a National Science Academy. Upon examination the bill received mixed reactions. There were those who felt that a federally-sponsored institution of higher learning would involve unnecessary duplication and expense. Moreover, the feeling was that the government should support to the fullest the top-level excellent technical institutions that exist in the United States. However, there were others, who maintained the importance of science and technology in the nation and government, and in making available through a science academy, an adequate supply of competent scientists and engineers for government service. The bill received special House Subcommittee hearings in Washington, D.C.. However, in 1962, Anfuso left Congress, and the intention to establish a science academy was abandoned. This series includes the opening statement by Anfuso regarding the academy, correspondence, hearings, and statements by experts before the Subcommittee on Science and Astronautics, copies of Congressional Records and clippings.

Subseries 26: Committee on Science and Astronautics 1959-1962

Scope and Contents note

In 1959 Anfuso sponsored a bill to establish a National Science Academy. Upon examination the bill received mixed reactions. There were those who felt that a federally-sponsored institution of higher learning would involve unnecessary duplication and expense. Moreover, the feeling was that the government should support to the fullest the top-level excellent technical institutions that exist in the United States. However, there were others, who maintained the importance of science and technology in the nation and government, and in making available through a science academy, an adequate supply of competent scientists and engineers for government service. The bill received special House Subcommittee hearings in Washington, D.C.. However, in 1962, Anfuso left Congress, and the intention to establish a science academy was abandoned. This series includes the opening statement by Anfuso regarding the academy, correspondence, hearings, and statements by experts before the Subcommittee on Science and Astronautics, copies of Congressional Records and clippings.
Scope and Contents note

On February 1959 Anfuso became a member of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. During the same year Congressman Overton Brooks, Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, appointed Anfuso to head the Subcommittee on International Cooperation and Security. The purpose of this committee was to seek means and methods whereby this country could cooperate with any nation in the peaceful exploration of outer space, including the Soviet Union. The Committee held hearings and reported its finding to the Congress on actions to be taken. It also planned visit to NASA, U.S. Weather Bureau, and research laboratories. Also as a ranking member of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, Anfuso was appointed by the Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, as delegate from the House of Representatives to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful use of Outer Space.

Subseries 27: Communication Satellite 1962

Scope and Contents note

In 1962, President Kennedy requested that Congress charter a private billion-dollar corporation to run a world-wide network of communication satellites. As a member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, Anfuso, conducted hearings to establish if the communication satellites should be operated exclusively by the Federal government or by private enterprises. After Senate and Congressional Hearings, the matter was resolved in the creation of the privately owned COMSAT. Included with the material are several letters; statements by officers of private corporations, Communication Workers of America, Americans for Democratic Action, political persons; and Congressional Records.

Subseries 28: Peace 1952-1956

Scope and Contents note

Included under peace are the following documents: identical letters Anfuso sent in 1952 to the heads of government of the United States, Russia, England, France and Italy. In his letters, Anfuso speaks for world peace and suggests that the five heads of
government meet in Switzerland to terminate the Korean conflict and reduce the tension throughout the world; an amendment Anfuso introduced to the Mutual Security Act of 1956 providing the creation of the "Free World Organization" to extend aid to friends and organizations in foreign countries who are allied with the United States and who are dedicated to preventing the spread of communism. Also included is material and documents on Food for Peace and Atoms for Peace.

**Subseries 29: Israel**

**Box** 12

**Scope and Contents note**

In 1957, as Chairman of the Congressional Committee on Agricultural Surplus, Anfuso visited Israel in connection to a fact-finding mission to provide Israel with agricultural surplus. Included is correspondence, and a tentative schedule for Anfuso in Israel. Also included are pamphlets by agricultural committees; circulars, review, and bulletins on the Middle East and other areas in the world.

**Subseries 30: Cuba 1954-1961**

**Box** 13

**Scope and Contents note**

Anfuso maintained friendly relations with several important political figures in Cuba. During the civil war, which led to the fall of General Fulgencio Batista as President of Cuba and the ascendency of Fidel Castro as the Head of Cuba, Anfuso visited Cuba twice, in 1957 and in 1958. Moreover, in 1958, in view of the communist advances in Cuba and in South America, he proposed the establishment of a Pan American Parliamentary Association (PAPA) designed to counteract communism and to improve understanding among the people of the Western Hemisphere. Included is correspondence re Cuba's national politics documenting Anfuso’s relations with political friends there.

**Subseries 31: Dominican Republic 1961-1962**

**Box** 13

**Scope and Contents note**
After the assassination of General Trujillo on May 30, 1961, the Dominican Republic was a battleground for rightist and leftist political forces. In 1962 Anfuso, long an outspoken foe of communism, went on a fact-finding tour in that Caribbean state to study its political and economic crisis. He came back from there with grave warnings that the country would become second Cuba. It should be noted that in 1968, Anfuso warned that Castro was not a liberator and that he had communist affiliations. While in the Dominican Republic, the editor of the Dominican newspaper "El Caribe", German Ones, accused Anfuso of having been a good friend of the dictatorial regimes of Rafael L. Trujillo, Fulgencio Batista of Cuba, and Francois Duvalier of Haiti. These charges, however, were categorically denied by Anfuso.

Subseries 32: Italy 1952-1962

Scope and Contents note

From the inception of his legal and political career, Anfuso corresponded with friends, business leaders, and political leaders in Italy. Having been born there, he was concerned about its political, social, and economic vicissitudes. This series is divided into four subseries: correspondence; papers relating the Giovanni Gronchi, President of Italy, during an official visit to Russia, 1960; U.S. Surplus Food Distribution throughout Italy under Public Law 480; and the Centennial Celebration of the unification of Italy.

Subseries 33: Brooklyn Army Terminal 1961

Scope and Contents note

In 1961 the Department of Defense recommended that the Brooklyn Army Terminal be closed. Anfuso was concerned because a great number of his constituents were employed at the Terminal. A New York Congressional Delegation was organized in order to prevent the closing of the installation. This series consists of correspondence, news releases, statements concerning the closing of the Terminal.

Subseries 34: Juvenile Delinquency 1951-1962

Box

14
Scope and Contents note

From the very inception of his legal career, Anfuso studied the problem of juvenile delinquency and crime prevention. In 1951 he introduced H.R. 178, providing for the establishment of a permanent Bureau of Crime Prevention under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of the U.S. This series includes a reprint of a speech, "Why Criminals", delivered in the House of Representatives; correspondence with J. Edgar Hoover, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Justice Tom Clark, Supreme Court; J. Howard McGrath, Attorney General; Congressmen and District Attorneys regarding crime prevention and H.R. 178. Also included are speeches as well as articles on the Youth Council Bureau of New York City. Additionally, there is a report by the New York State Legislative Committee re its study of the publication of comics, and the text of a play titled "Cut-rate Crime".

Subseries 35: Cellini Case 1950-1955

Scope and Contents note

In 1950 Anfuso represented Renato Cellini, a conductor at the Metropolitan Opera of New York, and his family. They were here on a temporary visa from Italy, and their application for temporary stay had been denied. As Congressman, Anfuso introduced two bills on behalf of Mr. Cellini. This he did because he felt Mr. Cellini had a meritorious case and warranted Congressional relief. In 1955 agents of William P. Rogers, Deputy Attorney General, interrogated Anfuso in reference to bills he introduced in the 87th Congress dealing with the relief to various aliens and, in particular, Mr. Cellini. This series consists of correspondence between the U.S. Department of Justice and Mr. Cellini; letters of Mr. Cellini to Anfuso; and copy of an October 25, 1955 letter from Anfuso to William P. Rogers re Anfuso's interrogation and his legislative conduct. Also included is a statement of legal services rendered by Anfuso to Cellini.

Subseries 36: Miscellaneous Documents 1952-1957

Scope and Contents note
Anfuso’s miscellaneous files include correspondence with the President of Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, relative to the Allen Resolution (H. Res. 532) regarding the Wage Stabilization Board; memorandum re New York State narcotic situation; and an article on H.R. 12120, introduced by Anfuso, also re narcotic treatment; articles on what America offers to immigrants, and "Should Premier Khrushchev of Russia visit the U.S.?" Also included are four U.S. Government Committee Prints regarding farm products; four notebooks with notes by Anfuso, a Christmas card with a photo of Anfuso's family, and copy of the 1953 Italo-American Legal Gazette.

**Subseries 37: Newspaper Releases 1950-1952**

**Scope and Contents note**

Included are eight newspaper releases by Anfuso re the possible appointment of Gen. Mark Clark as Ambassador to the Vatican; support to the State of Israel; a meeting between Anfuso and President Truman about H.R. 7376, a bill to permit 117,000 Italians to come to this country; and miscellaneous releases.

**Subseries 38: Sabbath Law 1953**

**Scope and Contents note**

In 1953 Anfuso accepted the chairmanship of an interfaith citizens committee to bring about a change in the Sabbath Law. The new law called for amending the state Sabbath Law which would permit persons observing Saturday as their holy day to open their business Sunday. Included are three photographs of Anfuso with rabbis and businessmen; several letters; two reports of New York’s Joint Legislative Committee on the Sabbath Law, memorandum and statements.

**Subseries 39: Insignias and Documents 1952-1961**

**Subseries 40: Speeches 1950-1962**
Subseries 41: Travels to Europe 1959

Scope and Contents note

In 1959 Anfuso visited Europe in connection with the work of the Subcommittee on International Cooperation and Security. The purpose of the visit was to go to Moscow to discuss the peaceful exploration of outer space. He had been invited to visit Russia by the Soviet Union’s Parliament. He also attended the Astronautical Conference in London; and the first German-American Conference in Bad-Godesburg, Germany. At the end of his traveling, Anfuso prepared three reports to the American people.

Subseries 42: Miscellaneous Lists 1955-1962

Scope and Contents note

Anfuso represented the 8th Congressional District of Brooklyn. Included are lists of its election districts, assembly districts, district captains and enrolled voters. There are also lists of social and political organizations, names and addresses of physicians, lawyers, dentists, pharmacists, barbers; Protestant churches. Catholic parishes and synagogues. Also included are the following lists: New York State nationality group leaders; Delegates to the Democratic State Conventions; Delegates to Democratic National Conventions; and New York State County Democratic Chairmen. Finally, there is a brochure with a list of the manufacturing firms in Brooklyn.

Subseries 43: Dinner Affairs 1950-1962

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of correspondence, invitation cards, seating lists, memos, lists, notes, programs, speeches and a statement of accounts regarding dinners tendered to Anfuso and buffets given by Anfuso.
### Subseries 44: Campaign Music undated

| Box | 19 |

### Series III: Activities as a New York State Supreme Court Justice

#### Subseries 45: Supreme Court Campaign 1962

| Box | 20-21 |

**Scope and Contents note**

The material on the Supreme Court Campaign includes correspondence with friends and political leaders of the Democratic Party; letters to campaign committees; thank you letters for campaign contributions; congratulatory letters on his election to the Supreme Court; and congratulatory letters on his induction as Justice of the Supreme Court. Also included are articles and speeches; twelve sheets of writing paper with Anfuso's notes relative to the procedural steps to follow in the organization of the campaign; campaign account and bills paid. Finally, there is a miscellaneous folder consisting of statements by Anfuso, drafts of letters, a 1962 copy of a report to the people, elections bulletins, and a oversize 1962 map of the 14th Congressional District.

#### Subseries 46: Correspondence 1962-1966

| Box | 21-22 |

**Scope and Contents note**

This series is divided into five subseries: general correspondence, which comprises most of the correspondence; Washington correspondence; correspondence with Italian officials; birthday greetings to members of the Congress with responses; and miscellaneous greetings addressed to Anfuso. The correspondence is arranged chronologically with the exception of general correspondence; for this subseries, the correspondence received is arranged alphabetically and the correspondence sent chronologically. Also, in general correspondence, where an exchange of letters was grouped by the donor around a specific person or topic, the group was retained.

These letters were received over a period of five years from 1962-1966. Correspondents are many and range from personal friends to government officials. Numerous topics
are covered. The correspondence includes letters urging Anfuso to use his influence to obtain employment for various individuals, letters recommending students to professional schools, and letters of reference for members of the legal profession. Also included are letters re hardship cases, especially those in the armed forces; immigration visas, the space program, Cuba and information on Italian-Americans. Included is a letter dated December 9, 1964 from Richard M. Nixon to Anfuso, regarding his appearance before the Brooklyn Bar Association on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee Dinner.

Many letters concern national politics, appointments to federal offices, the National Aeronautics Space Administration and the National Medal of Science Award. Included are two letters dated August 19, 1962 and August 21, 1962 from Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson regarding Russian cooperation with the U.S. on efforts to reach the Moon. Also included are thank you letters from W. Averell Harriman, Under Secretary of State and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson; and a Sept. 13, 1963 letter from James E. Webb, NASA Administrator, concerning charges that the space program was mismanaged. The letter says: "I only wish you were back in the Congress to help see the President's program considered in the light of facts".

Other letters deal with Italian politics and the threat of communism in Italy. While some letters are in Italian, the bulk of this correspondence is in English. Significant items include a letter dated Dec. 11, 1962 from Aldo Moro, Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), commenting on Anfuso's knowledge of Italian political problems, and how the CDP has benefited from Anfuso's advice in guiding Italy to adopt an American form of democracy. Furthermore, Moro reports that in order to fortify democracy, and diminish the menace of communism, the anti-communist element of the Socialist Party, has been invited to govern Italy together with the Christian Democratic Party. A letter of Dec. 11, 1962 from the Most Rev. Giacomo Cardinal Lercaro, Archbishop of Bologna, concerns the Bishop’s efforts to reduce communist influence in Bologna and its environs. For many years, Bologna was regarded as the hotbed of Italian communism. Also included are copies of letters to Italian political officials in which Anfuso reiterates his views about following Franklin Roosevelt’s formula in order to successfully separate socialists from communists.
## Subseries 47: National Order of Science 1959

**Scope and Contents note**

In 1959 Anfuso introduced Bill H.R. 6288, to establish a National Order of Science to provide recognition for individuals who made outstanding contributions in science and engineering. On February 18, 1963, President Kennedy presented the award to the first recipient, Dr. Theodore von Karman. Justice Anfuso was invited to attend the ceremonies. Included is a letter of Feb. 12, 1963 from Jerome B. Wiesner, Assistant to the President, inviting Anfuso to attend the ceremonies, a list of guests invited, a speech Anfuso delivered at the ceremonies and copies of an Aug. 19, 1959, Congressional Record re the National Order of Science. Also included are eight clippings from national newspapers with photographs of the presentation of the Medal to Dr. Karman by President Kennedy.

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## Subseries 48: Firearms 1963

**Scope and Contents note**

On January 3, 1961, Congressman Anfuso introduced H.R. 613 requiring private individuals to register firearms with the FBI. The bill engendered a storm of criticism; the pressure on Congress was so great that the bill did not pass. In 1963, after the assassination of President Kennedy, Anfuso wrote to Emmanuel Celler, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to reintroduce the bill. In his answer, Mr. Celler felt that it was not opportune to introduce any bill so controversial in nature. Included with this series are several letters, clippings from national newspapers, and twelve pages of paper with Anfuso's handwritten draft of letters and notes relative to the bill. Also included are the articles from the Library of Congress on weapons in the world.

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## Subseries 49: Cuba 1963

**Scope and Contents note**
In 1963 Anfuso wrote to President Kennedy and offered his assistance to develop a better relationship between his administration and the Cuban exiles. Included is a copy of letter dated April 16, 1963, from Anfuso to President Kennedy, offering his help to resolve the Cuban problem and communism in Latin America; several letters to members of President Kennedy's Administration regarding Cuba; and correspondence with members of the Cuban government-in-exile and the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Also included are notes, six clippings and seven articles on Cuba.

Subseries 50: The President's Club of New York 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

Anfuso was a member of the Advisory Committee of the President's Club of New York. The purpose of the club was to raise funds for the Democratic Party, to support the President and to help him obtain a Congress sympathetic to his program. Among the notable events of the club was the birthday dinner given to President Kennedy on March 3, 1963; and the New York's Salute to President Johnson on May 28, 1964. Included is correspondence between Anfuso and members of the club regarding new members and fund-raising; President Kennedy and President Johnson dinner programs and newspaper clippings.

Subseries 51: Miscellaneous Political Papers 1964

Scope and Contents note

Included are several letters, newsletters and four clippings concerning plans to promote Justice Anfuso as candidate for the United States Senate. Also included are several letters to political friends including a copy of a letter dated March 30, 1964, to J.W. Fulbright, U.S. Senator, re the Cuban situation and the proposal to appoint a special envoy to the Vatican; and campaign material distributed during the 1964 Johnson-Humphrey Presidential election. Finally, there is the press release of a speech "Finger of Guilt in Race Riots Points to Lawless Extremists." The speech was delivered on Aug. 10, 1964, before the International Air Cadet Exchange, N.Y.
### Subseries 52: Young Citizens for Johnson 1964

**Scope and Contents note**

In 1964 Victor Anfuso Jr. organized and chaired the New York State Young Citizens for Johnson. The organization was to unify the young voters of New York State behind President Johnson. The material consists mainly of letters sent by Victor Anfuso Jr. to New York State and national officials apprising them of meetings, rallies and other programs re the organization. Included is a letter dated March 24, 1964 from Mrs. Lyndon Johnson; two speeches and several letters by Victor L. Anfuso.

#### Box 23

### Subseries 53: Democratic National Convention 1963-1964

**Scope and Contents note**

This small series includes correspondence and memorandum re New York President's Club and the 1964 Democratic National Convention held at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

#### Box 23

### Subseries 54: President Antonio Segni of Italy 1963-1964

**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence, booklets on reception and dinners, and printed photographs relative to the United States visit of Antonio Segni, President of Italy. Included are copies of two addresses President Segni delivered: first, before the Joint Session of the United States Congress; and the second, during a dinner at the Metropolitan Club in New York. The dinner was attended by representatives of American industry, business and finance.

#### Box 23

### Subseries 55: Farleigh Dickinson University Honorary Degree 1963

**Scope and Contents note**

In March 1981 Farleigh Dickinson University conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Law upon Justice Anfuso. Included are several letters and telegrams, a speech.

#### Box 23
delivered by Justice Anfuso and two large photographs showing Justice and Dr. Peter Sammartino, President, Farleigh Dickinson University.

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<th>Subseries 56: World's Fair - Italy Day 1964-1965</th>
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<tr>
<td>The New York World's Fair had as one of its feature the Nationality Day Festival. This day highlighted music, songs, and dances of national and ethnic association representing nations all over the world. Justice Anfuso was one of the organizers and honorary chairman for &quot;Italy Day at the World's Fair&quot;. Included is mostly correspondence between Anfuso and officials of the Fair, letters with members of the organizational committee, lists, news releases and programs.</td>
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<th>Subseries 57: Anfuso Travel to Italy and France 1965</th>
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<tr>
<td>The material includes correspondence and itinerary regarding trip to Europe. One item of interest is a letter dated August 11, 1965, to his secretary, Fred Meyersen, in which Anfuso states that he had had another seizure during the voyage, and had been ill for a week.</td>
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<th>Subseries 58: Speeches 1963-1966</th>
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<td>This series includes letters of invitation to attend testimonial dinners and other affairs, and copies of letters answered.</td>
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<th>Subseries 59: Dinner Affairs 1962-1966</th>
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<th>Subseries 60: President Lyndon B. Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey Inaugural Ball 1965</th>
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**Series IV: Photographs, Scrapbooks of Clippings, and Oversize Materials**

### Subseries 61: Photographs 1936-1966

**Scope and Contents note**

The photographs of Victor L. Anfuso consist of 610 positive prints (mainly 8x10", 9x10") documenting his public and private life. Among the numerous photographs are those of his family and friends; his travel to Europe and dinner affairs; photographs of congressional committees; and photographs of local, national and international political leaders. Also, since Anfuso was Chairman of the House Space Subcommittee, there are numerous photographs with American astronauts at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Among the collection are photographs with President John F. Kennedy, and President Lyndon B. Johnson; Fiorello La Guardia and Robert F. Wagner, Mayors of New York; John McCormack and Sam Rayburn, Speakers of the House of Representatives; Alcide De Casperi, and Amintore Fanfani, Prime Ministers of Italy; John Glenn, Walter Schirra and John Shepperd, American astronauts.

The photographs are arranged into one series and without a precise chronological order. Many photographs are undated and many could not be identified. The photographs identified are placed at the beginning of the series, and those unidentified are at the end of the series.

The photographs are arranged as follows: the photos are placed between sheets of stapled acid-free paper. Each is numbered on the back in the upper right hand corner. The same number appears on the folder in which the photo is placed.

**Box** 27-30

### Subseries 62: Clippings 1930-1966

**Scope and Contents note**

...
Included are nineteen scrapbooks of clippings collected by Anfuso in the course of his social and political life. Most of the scrapbooks are of the same format, measuring 11x13", 11x151/2" and in soft covers.


Many items are neither labeled nor dated. Also, there is an overlapping of dates with several volumes, and while most clippings are arranged in some kind of chronological order, it is not strictly followed.

Subseries 63: Oversized Material 1920-1963

Box 33