



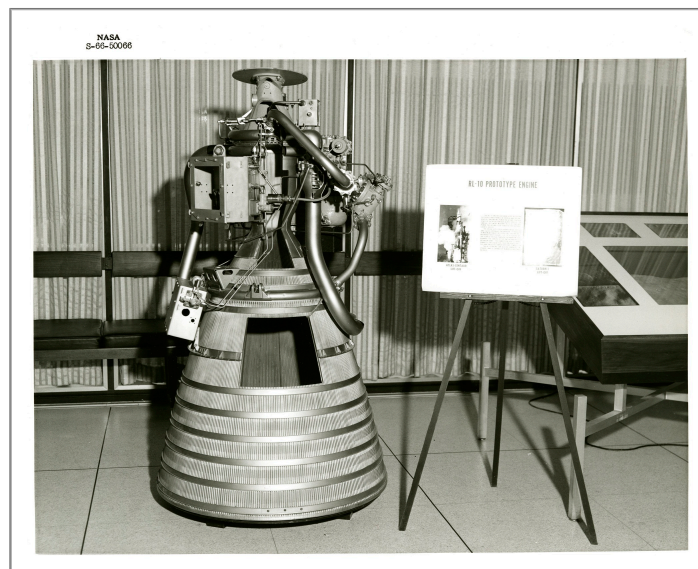
Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

James C. Elms Collection, 1959-1980

David Schwartz

2003



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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	James C. Elms Collection
Date:	1959-1980
Identifier:	NASM.1993.0047
Creator:	Elms, James C., 1916-
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of speeches, papers, notes, newspaper articles and records on Elms' career, including the following areas: Transportation System Center; Electronics Research Center; Manned Space Station; Space Shuttle; Space Systems Committee; Gemini Mission Review Board; and Hearings on space topics.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

James C. Elms, gift, 1993, 1993-0047, NASM

Processing Information

The researcher may also want to review Mr. Elms's interview found in the NASM Archives Glennen-Webb-Seamans Project Interviews Collection, Accession Number 1999-0036.

Preferred Citation

James C. Elms Collection, Acc. 1993-0047, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

[Permissions Requests](#)

Biographical Note

James Elms (1916-1993) began his aerospace career at Consolidated Vultee in 1940 as a junior stress analyst. During WWII, he served with the US Army Air Forces at Wright Field (later Wright-Patterson AFB) where he developed a cartridge positioner which prevented turret guns from jamming. After the war he received his Bachelor of Science in Physics from the California Institute of Technology and his Master of Arts Degree from the University of California. He worked for North American Aviation as manager of the Armament Systems Department, Autonetics Division. There, he was responsible for research, development, and design of fire control, radar and allied systems. Upon leaving North American, he became the manager

of the Avionics Department for the Denver Division of the Martin Company, where he was responsible for design and development of guidance, flight control, and other electronic and electrical systems for the Titan Missile. In September of 1960 Mr. Elms joined the Ford Motor Company, Aeroneutronics Division, after a brief stint at the Crosley Division of AVCO. While at Ford, Elms was recruited to join the senior staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, eventually becoming Deputy Director. During the 1960s, Elms held a variety of other administrative positions at NASA, including Deputy Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC. After his service there, Elms became the Director of NASA's Electronics Research Center (ERC). The ERC was slated to be closed at the end of 1970. Elms was able to rally support for the ERC and get the majority of his directorate transferred to the US Department of Transportation as the Transportation Systems Center. This initiative saved many jobs and allowed important government research to continue. Upon leaving official government service, Mr. Elms continued to work as a consultant for government and private industry. James C. Elms passed away on May 7, 1993.

Scope and Content Note

In 1989, Mr. Elms donated this material to the National Air and Space Museum's Department of Space History in conjunction with his interview for the Glennen-Webb-Seamans oral history project. The collection was transferred to the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Archives in 1993. The Elms Collection consists of speeches, papers, notes, newspaper articles and congressional hearings. Some of the subjects covered in the collection are: Transportation Systems Center, Electronics Research Center, Space Station Program, Space Shuttle, Space Systems Committee, and Gemini Mission Review Board.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series and within each series chronologically. In the first series, the researcher will find correspondence, congressional hearings and speeches. Series II contains miscellaneous newspaper clippings and oversize materials. The original folder titles were inconsistent, sometimes containing only acronyms and/or abbreviations. For the sake of clarity, acronyms and abbreviations have been spelled out, and the project archivist has preceded each of the original folder titles with a subject heading, project designation and/or agency title.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Space shuttles
- Space stations

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Notes
- Publications
- Speeches

Names:

- Elms, James C., 1916-

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Materials, 1959-1980

Language: English.

Arrangement: The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents: This series contains correspondence, reports, congressional hearings and speeches related to Mr. Elms's career dating from 1959 --1980.

1.1: Correspondence and Reports

Language: English.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, February, 1959 - August, 1960, November, 1960 - April, 1962
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Chronological. File, January, 1960 - July, 1960
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Chronological, September, 1960 - December, 1961
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Chronological, Outgoing, 1962
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Chronological, Outgoing, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, Chronological File, March, 1965 - December, 1965
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, Human Resources, Employment Concerns, April, 1965 - August, 1965
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, Official, Chronological File, December, 1965 - September, 1966
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, Phone Call Sheets and Notes, NASA Headquarters -- Manned Space Flight, September, 1965 - September, 1966
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, Office of Manned Space Flight, August, 1965 - November, 1966
Box 2, Folder 2	Office of Manned Space Flight, George E. Mueller Congressional Testimony -- Nomenclature, 1966
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, Chronological File, October, 1966 - December, 1967
Box 2, Folder 4	Gemini General, April, 1965 - November, 1966
Box 2, Folder 5	Gemini Mid-program Conference, February 23 - 25, 1966
Box 2, Folder 6	Gemini Mission Review Board, April, 1966 - October, 1966

Box 3, Folder 1	Gemini Mission Review Board, Meetings, June 29, 1966
Box 3, Folder 2	Gemini Mission Review Board, Meetings, July, 1966 - August, 1966
Box 3, Folder 3	Gemini Mission Review Board, Meetings, August, 1966 - September, 1966
Box 3, Folder 4	Manned Space Station Study, Official File, July, 1966 - October, 1966
Box 3, Folder 5	Manned Space Station Study, Official File, November 15, 1966
Box 4, Folder 1	Electronics Research Center, Correspondence, September, 1966 - December, 1969
Box 4, Folder 2	Electronics Research Center, Correspondence, 1967-1970
Box 4, Folder 3	Electronics Research Center, Correspondence, Chronological File, 1968
Box 4, Folder 4	Electronics Research Center, Correspondence, Director's Chronological File, May - June, 1970
Box 4, Folder 5	Electronics Research Center Advisory Group, July, 1968 - September, 1968
Box 4, Folder 6	Electronics Research Center, Director's Reading Files, December, 1969 - May, 1970
Box 4, Folder 7	Electronics Research Center, ERC News, 1966-1970
Box 4, Folder 8	Electronics Research Center, Correspondence, Chronological File, January, 1968 - May, 1970
Box 4, Folder 9	Electronics Research Center Closing, Notes, October, 1968 - January, 1970
Box 4, Folder 10	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, May, 1970 - December, 1974
Box 5, Folder 1	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, 0000-2-1 Chronological File -- J.C. Elms FY72, May, 1971 - June, 1972
Box 5, Folder 2	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, 0000-2-1 Chronological File -- J.C. Elms FY73, July, 1972 - July, 1973
Box 5, Folder 3	Transportations Systems Center, Correspondence, Chronological File, Acting Director-FY'73, July, 1972 - July, 1973
Box 5, Folder 4	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, 1500-1-5, European Trip,, October 22, 1970 - November 3, 1970
Box 5, Folder 5	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, 1500-1-5, European Trip, January 25, 1972 - February 13, 1972

Box 5, Folder 6	Transportation Systems Center, Material/Reports, 1971
Box 5, Folder 7	Transportation Systems Center, Material/Reports, 1974-1975
Box 5, Folder 8	Transportation Systems Center, "A Summary of Opportunities to Conserve Transportation Energy", June, 1975
Box 5, Folder 9	Transportation Systems Center, Correspondence, Comments on Performance, September, 1970 - September, 1980
Box 5, Folder 10	Transportation Systems Center, Memorandum for the Record File, FY '74, July, 1973 - June, 1974
Box 6, Folder 1	Transportation Systems Center, TSC News, August 1, 1970 - December 23, 1974
Box 6, Folder 2	Space Shuttle Program Level 1 Documentation, June, 1974 - January, 1975
Box 6, Folder 3	Space Shuttle Operations Management Panel, Reports, Correspondence, 1974 August-1975 July
Box 6, Folder 4	Space Shuttle Operations Management Panel, Reports, September, 1974 - March, 1975
Box 6, Folder 5	Space Shuttle Operations Management Assessment Panel Correspondence, November, 1974 - July, 1975
Box 6, Folder 6	Space Shuttle Operations Management Assessment Team, Briefings, January 14, 1975 - January 28, 1975
Box 6, Folder 7	Space Shuttle Operations Management Assessment Team, Reports, Correspondence, August, 1974 - January, 1975
Box 7, Folder 1	Space Shuttle Operations Management Assessment Team, Correspondence, Reports, Briefings, September, 1974 - January, 1975
Box 7, Folder 2	Space Shuttle Reports, September, 1974 - 1979
Box 7, Folder 3	Energy Research and Development Administration, Fuel Cell Advocacy by Potential Users, June, 1974 - October, 1975
Box 7, Folder 4	Energy Research and Development Administration, Correspondence, Reports, January, 1975 - November, 1975
Box 7, Folder 5	Energy Research and Development Administration, Correspondence, Reports, October, 1975 - February, 1976
Box 7, Folder 6	Energy Research and Development Administration, Correspondence, Reports, February, 1976 - November, 1976

Box 8, Folder 1	Energy Research and Development Administration Transition to Department of Energy, January, 1977 - September, 1978
Box 8, Folder 2	Space Systems Committee, Correspondence, Reports, February, 1975 - June, 1976
Box 8, Folder 3	Space Systems Committee, Correspondence, Reports, June, 1976 - September, 1976
Box 8, Folder 4	Space Systems Committee, Correspondence, Reports, November, 1975 - June, 1977
Box 8, Folder 5	Transportation Systems Post Retirement, May, 1976 - 1980

1.2: Hearings

Language: English.

Arrangement: This hearings are arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents: During his career in government service, James Elms was called upon to testify before the United States Congress.

Box 8, Folder 6	Hearings, U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics. Aeronautical Research and Development: Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Advanced Research and Technology of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. Ninetieth Congress, Second Session, September 24-26, 1968 , October 1-3, 1968, September 30, 1968
Box 8, Folder 7	Hearings, U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. NASA Authorization for Fiscal Year 1970: Hearings Before the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, Ninety-First Congress, First Session, May 1, 6, 9, 1969, Part 2, May 9, 1969, May 1, 1969, May 6, 1969
Box 9, Folder 1	Hearings, U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics. Aeronautical Research: Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Advanced Research and Technology. Ninety-First Congress, First Session, December 4, 1969, December 1-2, 1969, December 8-11, 1969
Box 9, Folder 2	Hearings, U.S. Congress. House. Problems Confronting FAA in the Development of an Air Traffic Control System for the 1970's: Hearing Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations. Ninety-First Congress. Second Session., January 27, 1970
Box 9, Folder 3	Hearings, U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics. Subcommittee on Advanced Research and Technology. Issues and Directions for Aeronautical Research and Development. Ninety-First Congress. Second Session., March 23, 1970
Box 9, Folder 4	Hearings, U.S. Congress. Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act. 92nd Congress, 1972. S.976, Public Law 92-513., 1972

1.3: Speeches

Language: English.

Arrangement: The speeches are arranged chronologically, and when available, titles of individual speeches appear in italics.

Scope and Contents: The following speeches were given by Mr. Elms throughout his career.

Box 9, Folder 5	Speeches, Pre-NASA Speeches, 1958-1963
Box 9, Folder 6	Speeches, Management of a Large National Program, Houston Professional Group for Engineering Management, January 31, 1962
Box 9, Folder 7	Speeches, Manned Spacecraft, Peaceful Uses of Space Conference, May 6, 1963
Box 9, Folder 8	Speeches, The Apollo Program, Southwestern Graduate School of Banking [SMU], July 19, 1963
Box 9, Folder 9	Speeches, West Valley Industrial Conference, Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, September 26, 1963
Box 9, Folder 10	Speeches, United Community Fund Luncheon, Albuquerque, NM, October 1, 1963
Box 9, Folder 11	Speeches, National Aeronautics and Space Administration -- Manned Spacecraft Center, May - November, 1963
Box 9, Folder 12	Speeches, IT&T, October 4, 1965
Box 9, Folder 13	Speeches, National Security Industrial Association and Aerospace Industries Association, April 26, 1966
Box 9, Folder 14	Speeches, UCLA Short Course in Aerospace Medicine, August 22, 1966
Box 9, Folder 15	Speeches, The Impact of Space, Australian Trip -- General Correspondence, IREE [Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers] Convention, May 22 - 26, 1967
Box 9, Folder 16	Speeches, 1968
Box 9, Folder 17	Speeches, University of New Brunswick, February 15, 1968
Box 10, Folder 1	Speeches, 1969 - June 1970

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Series 2: Miscellaneous

Language: English.

Scope and Contents: This series contains newspaper clippings and other oversize and miscellaneous material covering a variety of subjects.

Arrangement: The materials are arranged chronologically.

Box 10, Folder 3	Newspaper Clippings, James C. Elms, "Giant Role Ahead for NASA Research Center Here," Boston Sunday Herald, January 29, 1967
Box 10, Folder 4	Newspaper Clippings, James C. Elms, review of Science and the Educated Man, by Julius A. Stratton, Boston Globe, March 19, 1967
Box 10, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings, James C. Elms, "Tommy Shulman's Tips on Career Guidance: Career in Space," Boston Record American, April 24, 1967
Box 10, Folder 6	Newspaper Clippings, James C. Elms, "Research in Electronics," Wellesley Alumni Magazine, May, 1967
Box 10, Folder 7	Newspaper Clippings, Electronic Research Center in the News, 1967-1969
Box 10, Folder 8	Newspaper Clippings, July, 1963 - November, 1969
Box 10, Folder 9	Newspaper Clippings, April, 1969 - November, 1969
Box 10, Folder 10	Electronics Research Center, Japanese Visitors, 1967-1970
Box 10, Folder 11	Cartridge Positioner Patent, 1944
Box 10, Folder 12	Les Chemins de fer en France, S.N.C.F, Paris, 1972
Box 10, Folder 13	[NASA] Dictionary of Acronyms, undated

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