

“Dairy and the US Congress”

**University of Vermont
Special Collections/Center for Digital Initiatives**

Link to website: <http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/about.xql>

Link to finding aid with digital images:

<http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/getCollection.xql?title=Dairy%20and%20the%20US%20Congress>

Link to documentation:

<http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/about.xql?pid=metadata>

The material included in the Dairy and the US Congress is our attempt at making available a large body of evidence on a given topic. George Aiken served on the Agriculture Committee in the Senate from 1941-1975 and was extensively involved in issues of concern to Vermont dairy farmers. Our selection and delivery of this group of materials has been unique in relation to other digital collections we have built.

We are attempting to digitize a large volume of material, everything that has no potential rights issues and has some significant content. We do not have the staff to create descriptive metadata at the item level. So what the user sees is the equivalent of a folder of material. There is a table of contents to aid navigation, as well as descriptions and subject headings at the folder level, but the user still needs to scroll through all of the documentation. This approach more or less follows a traditional archival description model, but it may not be what people necessarily expect from digital collections at this time.