

The Empty Folder in Warren Files

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Remainder of story, which is longer, not copied.

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Sacramento
Most of Earl Warren's political and gubernatorial archives were opened to the public yesterday, throwing some light on long-hidden aspects of events in California and the nation before 1953.

But a file marked "Nixon" was empty.

David Snyder, a state archivist, said Warren had probably purged the file — part of the personal correspondence section — before it was turned over to the state.

"As usual they purge the files before they leave office," he said.

Snyder said he discovered the empty file in 1965 when he was cataloging the contents of more than 550 brown cardboard boxes of material.

Those archives that were available contained only formal letters between Mr. Nixon and Warren, two major figures in California politics in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The files on the political disagreements between the two before and during the 1952 GOP convention have not been made public.

The archives — containing more than a million items — had been sealed since 1953 when Warren resigned as governor to become chief justice. Most were unsealed as he requested after his death Tuesday at age 83.

The files show that Warren believed the internment of Japanese-American citizens on the West Coast during World War II raised serious Constitutional questions.

Warren's critics have said he, as state attorney general, condoned the massive relocation of U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry during 1942. Many documents in the files detail his thoughts on the controversy.