



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 86

Foster Furcolo Papers, 1935-1995: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Furcolo, Foster, 1911-1995.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 86

Extent: 2 boxes and 2 envelopes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Foster Furcolo Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: Gift of Constance G. Furcolo, 1995.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Mary B. Bicknell, 1996; updated by Abigail Cramer, July, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents Furcolo's career as a Massachusetts politician, including his tenure as Governor.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes correspondence, published material by and about Furcolo, campaign literature, memorabilia and awards, proclamations, newspaper clippings, event programs, campaign material, and certificates, honors, and awards presented to Furcolo. Of particular interest is an extensive photograph collection of the former governor, his family, staff and colleagues.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Foster Furcolo was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on July 29, 1911 to Dr. Charles Furcolo and Alberta Foster Furcolo. He attended the Springfield public schools, received a B.A. from Yale College in 1933, and received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1936. Following law school, he established a law practice in Springfield, Massachusetts and, from 1943 to 1945, served as an officer with the United States Navy in the Pacific on an attack transport, the USS Kershaw. Furcolo rose to political prominence rapidly. In 1948, he was elected to the United States Congress from the Massachusetts Second Congressional District, which included parts of Hampden and Hampshire Counties, extending north from Longmeadow and Springfield to Amherst and Northampton. He served from 1949 to 1952 and was named in several "best congressman" polls, including those of the National Radio Press Gallery and *Fortune* magazine. Furcolo was an active member of the committee that investigated the Katyn Forest massacre in Poland during World War II. He resigned in 1952 and became State Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth, serving in that capacity until 1955. In 1956, he was elected Governor and served two terms from 1957 to 1961. His governorship was characterized by his innovations in higher education, specifically the establishment of a state community college system and a loan program for students in need, as well as advancements in civil rights and programs in health care and care of the elderly.

Furcolo lost his bid for a Democratic United States Senate seat from Massachusetts in 1960 but continued in public service. From 1967 to 1972, he was Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County. He also taught legal ethics at Portia Law School (now New England School of Law) from 1969 to 1970 and criminal law at Massachusetts Bay Community College in the early 1970s. From 1973 to 1975, he was Commonwealth Professor of Public Service, teaching in the ten state colleges of that time. In 1975, Furcolo was appointed a United States Administrative Law Judge and served until his retirement in 1989. In 1980, he became a member of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education. Furcolo died on July 5, 1995.

Furcolo was the author of numerous essays, articles, and books of both fiction and non-fiction. He wrote two plays, "Fancy Free" and "The Grail," during his law school years. During his years as a politician, he wrote numerous speeches and essays, with the exception of the political satire "Let George Do It!" in 1957. In 1973, [Rendezvous at Katyn](#), a novel about the massacre, was published, followed by a number of books and articles on law and politics including [Practical Law for the Layman](#).

For more biographical information, see the two obituaries attached to this finding aid as well as folders 5 and 33-41 in the collection.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in five series as follows:

Series I. Subject Files, 1942-1995

Series II. Published Material by Furcolo, 1939-1988

Series III. Published Material about Furcolo, 1953-1995

Series IV. Photographs, 1935-1988

Series V. Certificates, Honors, Awards, 1942-1995

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Constance G. Furcolo, 1995.

Conservation Note

Preservation activities were performed on the collection as follows:

- Photographs were removed from albums and frames.

Series Description and Container List

Series I: Subject Files, 1942-1995

Scope and Content

This series contains information relating to Furcolo's involvement with higher education in Massachusetts, primarily in the form of newspaper clippings and programs. There is also correspondence from friends and political colleagues as well as various campaign materials. Folder 5 contains material relating to Furcolo's death, mostly obituaries. These provide substantial biographical information about him, both political and personal.

Arrangement

Materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Berkshire Community College Commencement	1985
1	2	Building Dedication, University of Massachusetts	1982-1983
1	3	Campaign Material	1942-1965
1	4	Community College Commencements	1980-1987
1	5	Foster Furcolo's death	1995
1	6	Fred Allen letter	undated
1	7	Historical Papers [primarily correspondence]	1949-1995
1	8	Kermit C. Morrissey's death	1987
1	9	Poland	undated, 1982, 1989
1	10	Portrait	1988
1	11	Saturday Evening Post Case	1965-1969
1	12	Yale University	1942-1995

Series II: Published Material by Furcolo, 1939-1988

Scope and Content

This series includes Furcolo's published works from the time he was in college to the late 1980s, including letters, essays, speeches, plays, and a novel, as well as newspaper articles and works on law and politics. The first volume in this series, Reports and Hearings: Select Committee on Katyn Forest Massacre was not written by Foster Furcolo, but he was a member of the committee and instrumental in its work.

Arrangement

This material is arranged as close to chronological order as possible.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	13	Police Mailman	undated
1	14	Hampden County Bar Association Speech	1939

1	15	Congressional Council Speech	1949
1	16	"Truth Through Youth"	1950
1	17	"Blueprint for Security"	1950
2	Vol. 1	Reports and Hearings: Select Committee on Katyn Forest Massacre, 82 nd Congress	1951-1952
1	18	Congressional Record: House	1952
1	19	"One In a Million"	1952
1	20	"Governor's Oath"	1957
1	21	"Let George Do It!" Excerpt (Magazine Article)	1957
2	Vol. 2	Addresses and Messages to the General Court, Public Speeches and Other Papers of General Interest	1957-1960
1	22	Commencement Address (Harvard)	1959
1	23	"Lawyer's Creed"	1959-1989
1	24	Administration Record (H3423)	1960
1	25	Oral History Interview (for JFK Library)	1964
1	26	Statement re: Boston Globe Article	1964
1	27	Statement in Congress re: Indictment	1965
1	28	"Trial Under a Different Name"	1969-1970
1	29	"Thirteenth Juror"	1969, 1990
1	30	"My Week in Jail" (Newspaper Article)	1969
2	Vol. 3	<u>Rendezvous at Katyn</u>	1973
1	31	Exclusionary Rule	1979
2	Vol. 4	<u>Practical Law for the Layman</u>	1980
2	Vol. 5	<u>Ballots Anyone? How to Run for Office and Win!</u>	1982
1	32	Newspaper Articles	1971-1988

Series III: Published Material about Furcolo, 1953-1995

Scope and Content

This series includes the many newspaper and magazine articles were written about Furcolo from the late 1940s until his death in 1995.

Arrangement

This material is arranged as close to chronological order as possible.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	Vol. 6	Class of 1933 Yale University: A Twenty Year Record	1953
1	33	Biography (in Italian)	1957
1	34	"A Politician Who..." (Magazine Article)	1958
1	35	"Governor Furcolo of Massachusetts" (Magazine Article)	1958
1	36	"Mr. Unpredictable" (Magazine Article)	1958
1	37	"Governor Furcolo..." (Magazine Article)	1959
1	38	"Foster Furcolo: A Day in the Life" (Newspaper Article)	1969
1	39	Newspaper Clippings	undated
1	40	Newspaper Clippings	1943-1969
1	41	Newspaper Clippings	1970-1995

Series IV: Photographs, 1935-1988

Scope and Content

This series includes photographs of Furcolo's campaigns, inaugural ceremonies, and political colleagues. Also included are family pictures, but most appear to have been taken for campaign or publication reasons. Where possible an attempt has been made to identify some of the people in the photographs. Note: The front covers of four photograph albums which have information on them have been retained in a separate envelope.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in chronological order and by subject of the photographs.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	42	Eleanor Roosevelt	undated
1	43	Kathryn Furcolo	undated
1	44	Gov. Francis Sargent, Foster Furcolo, Ted Williams	undated
1	45	Foster Furcolo	1935-1988
Env. 1	1	1956 Campaign	1956
1	46-49	Election Campaign	1956
1	50	Family	[1956-1958?]
Env. 1	2	Inaugural Ceremonies	1957
1	51	Inaugural Ceremonies, Boston	1957
1	52	Inaugural Ceremonies, Springfield	1957
1	53	Inaugural Ceremonies, New Bedford	1957
1	54	Inauguration	[1957, 1959?]
1	55	Governor Foster Furcolo	[1957-1961]
1	56	Governor Foster Furcolo and Staff	[1957-1961?]
1	57	Televised Speech	[1957-1961]
Env. 2	3	Second Inauguration	1959
1	58	Inaugural Ceremonies	1959
Env. 2	4	Friendship Dinner	1961
1	59	Friendship Dinner	1961
1	60	Four Governors of Massachusetts (Leverett Saltonstall, Endicott Peabody, Francis Sargent, and Foster Furcolo)	1970

Series V: Certificates, Honors, Awards, 1942-1995

Scope and Content

This series includes certificates, honors and awards Furcolo received during his political career. See folder 5 for information on other honors he received.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	61	Certificate of Admission to the District Court	1942
2	62	Citation and Plaque: Polish Veterans	1974
2	63	Dedication: University of Massachusetts	1982
2	64	Honorary Degree: Springfield Technical Community College	1987
2	65	Proclamation: City of Cambridge	1995
2	Scroll	Proclamation: Nova Scotia Bicentennial	1958
2	Vol. 7	Reunion Book	1982

Former Gov. Furcolo dies



Gov. Foster Furcolo

Foster Furcolo, former governor

Gov. Foster Furcolo, 83, of Cambridge and a former resident of Needham, died at Youville Hospital in Cambridge on Wednesday, July 5.

Born in New Haven, Conn., he was a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School. He graduated from the Yale Labor-Management Center in 1948.

Early in his career he did mostly trial work, civil and criminal cases including 17 murder cases. As a lawyer he was past president of the Hampden County Barristers, member of the Board of Governors of the Massachusetts Bar Association, Executive Committee of American Trial Lawyers Association, and was honored by the Middlesex County Bar Association in 1970 for his contributions

to the Bar and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

He served as United States Administrative Law Judge from 1975 to 1989 and was a member of the Regents of Higher Education in 1980.

As a professor of legal ethics, Gov. Furcolo taught at Portia Law School from 1969 to 1970, taught criminal law at Mass Bay Community College from 1969 to 1974, and Boston State College from 1973 to 1975. He also taught government at Boston, Fitchburg, Framingham, Salem, Worcester and Bridgewater State colleges from 1972 to 1974.

Gov. Furcolo served as United States Congressman from 1949 to 1952 and was named "the outstanding member of the 81st Congress" by the International Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, "One of the Ten Best Members of Congress" by the National Radio Press Gallery, and "One of the Nation's Ten Rising Leaders" by Fortune Magazine.

From 1952 to 1955 he served as state treasurer and receiver general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As governor of Massachusetts he served two terms from 1957 to 1961. The official governmental report on Foster Furcolo's years as governor states, "Massachusetts now [1960] ranks first in programs of care for the aged; first in the nation in civil rights; in its health programs as one of the first states of the nation; and in education, the greatest progress in the last 50 years."

Former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano, at the dedication of the School of Education of the University of Massachusetts in the name of Foster Furcolo in 1983, called him "our nation's greatest education governor."

From 1967 to 1972, he served Middlesex County as assistant district attorney. From 1973 to 1975 as commonwealth professor of Public Service for the

then 10 colleges in the Massachusetts State College System. He was recognized as "the author of the program for loans for needy students throughout the United States," and the father of the community college system in Massachusetts.

He was trustee of St. Anselm's College in Manchester, N.H., from 1962 to 1977. Among his honorary degrees are Doctor of Laws, Public Administration, Jurisprudence, Science and Humanities from Boston University, Suffolk University, Portia Law School, Lowell Institute of Technology, Stonehill College, St. Anselm's College, New Bedford Institute of Technology, American International College and the University of Massachusetts.

His international honors include, Knight Commander, Order of Polonia Restituta (Free Poland); Star of Solidarity (Italy); and St. Dennis Zante Medal (Greece).

A partial list of national and state awards include: Middlesex Bar Association, 1970, "Outstanding Citizens Award;" The Elks, 1972, "Rehabilitation Service Award;" State American Vets, 1972, "Pilgrim Award;" Massachusetts Narcotics Officers Award, 1973, "Outstanding Service;" Elks, 1973, "Law and Order Award;" Quincy Junior College, 1974, "Outstanding Contributions to Humanity;" Italian-American Civic League, 1974, "Man of the Year Award;" Polish Society Award, 1974; Pittsfield Democratic City, 1974, "man of the Year;" Corder Community College, 1977, "In gratitude to the Father of the Community Colleges."

Also, Polish Veterans, 1974, "Citation of Appreciation;" Springfield Community College, 1980, "Gratitude Award;" House of Representatives, 1980, "He is the founder of Community Colleges," and Massachusetts Board of Community Colleges Award, 1980.

As an author and playwright, he authored the following publications: "Let George Do It," 1960, Harcourt, Brace; "Pills, People, Problems," 1971, Research Publishing Co.; "Rendezvous at Katyn," 1973, Marlborough House; "Law for the Layman," 1975, Acropolis Books Ltd., reprint, 1982; and "Ballots Anyone?" 1982, Schenkman Publishing Co.

He authored various stories, essays, and articles in "Boston Magazine," "Life Magazine," "Trial," "Portia Law Journal," "Congressional Record," "Herald Magazine," "Justice Magazine," "Dramatist Quarterly," and "Readers Digest."

During World War II, Gov. Furcolo served with the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant on the USS Kershaw as deck officer, battery officer, 40 M/M, and as division officer and transport quartermaster in the American and Pacific theatres.

He is survived by his wife, Constance (Gleason) Furcolo; four children, Charles (Mark) Furcolo of Wellesley Hills, Foster Furcolo Jr. of Coronado, Calif.; Katherine Hope (Furcolo) Shearman of San Diego, Calif.; and Richard William Furcolo of Boston; one brother Charles Furcolowe of Phoenix, Ariz.; 14 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, 1382 Highland Ave., Needham, at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 8. Interment will be at Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline.

Memorials in Gov. Furcolo's name should be made to Hospice of Cambridge, Inc., 186 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge 02138; or to the United Parkinson Foundation, 833 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Ill. 60607.

Contributions may also be made to the Building Fund of St. Joseph's Middle School, 1382 Highland Ave., Needham 02192.

Arrangements by the Eaton Funeral Home in Needham.

NEEDHAM TIMES

JULY 6, 1995

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1995

Foster Furcolo, two-term Mass. governor, dies at 83

By Edgar J. Driscoll Jr.
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

Former Gov. Foster Furcolo of Cambridge, who rose from the obscurity of a Springfield law firm to the Massachusetts governor's office in just 10 years, died yesterday of heart disease in Youville Hospital in Cambridge. He was 83.

The first Italian-American to be elected chief executive of the commonwealth, Mr. Furcolo, a Democrat, served two two-year terms as

governor, from 1957 to 1961. He was also a Massachusetts congressman from 1949 to 1952, and treasurer of Massachusetts from 1952 to 1954.

As meteoric as his rise to the governorship was, his fading into the political background was even more rapid following his failure to win the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate in the 1960 elections.

His career reached its nadir in 1964 when he was indicted by a special grand jury. See page 47.



FOSTER FURCOLO
Rapid political rise in '40s, '50s



1967 GLOBE FILE PHOTO

Former Gov. Foster Furcolo is sworn in as a Middlesex assistant district attorney by Secretary of State Kevin H. White.

FURCOLO—Of Cambridge, formerly of Needham, July 5, Gov. Foster Furcolo, 83, beloved husband of Constance (Gleason) Furcolo, loving father of Charles Mark Furcolo of Wellesley Hills, Foster Furcolo Jr. of Coronado, CA, Katherine Hope Furcolo Shearman of San Diego, CA, and Richard William Furcolo of Boston. Brother of Charles Furcolowe of Phoenix, AZ. Also survived by 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Josephs Church, 1382 Highland Ave., Needham, on Saturday, July 8, at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment Holyhood Cemetery, Brookline. In lieu of flowers Memorials in Gov. Furcolo's memory may be made to Hospice of Cambridge, Inc., 186 Alewife Brook Pkway, Cambridge, MA 02138, United Parkinsons Foundation, 833 West Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607 and to the Building Fund of St. Josephs Church Middle School, 1382 Highland Ave., Needham, MA 02192. Late graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School. Late former Governor of Mass 1957-1961. Late US Administrative Law Judge & US Congressman. Late Lt. US Navy Vet. WW II. Arrangements by Eaton Funeral Home, NEEDHAM

Foster Furcolo, former governor, dead at 83

■ FURCOLO
Continued from Page 1

cial grand jury on a charge of conspiring to arrange a bribe to be paid to the Governor's Council. He was acquitted of the charge the following year by a directed verdict. He never entered the political arena again.

From 1975 to 1989 he was a federal administrative law judge for the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was responsible for administering all programs that came under Social Security when conflicts developed over benefit recipients. In the 1970s he also was commonwealth professor of public service in the state college system and professor of criminal law at Massachusetts Bay Community College in Watertown.

A friendly, breezy, approachable man, Mr. Furcolo forged his life's career out of the law and politics. But he paid his way through Yale College with a series of working-class jobs and wrote two plays while at the Yale Law School and a politically satirical novel later in life.

As to the conspiracy trial, the former governor told a Globe interviewer some years later that he harbored no bitterness about it. He attributed the end of his political life to his vigorous espousal of a state sales tax. The tax later became a reality under a Republican governor.

"The sales tax was the one issue that finished me politically," he said. "The difference between my proposal for a sales tax and the one in effect is that mine had safeguards to insure that the money went to lower the local tax rates."

In pressing for a sales tax, Mr. Furcolo met vigorous and open opposition from all the other leaders of his party. He also quarrelled during his four years in office with the members of his own party in the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

"My friends say I have too much candor," he once said. "I guess I'm blunt. But I try to mean what I say and say what I mean."

However, although he was frequently at odds with the Legislature, Mr. Furcolo's two administrations were marked by progress in civil rights legislation, programs for the

grams, and the establishment of community colleges.

He later served on the commonwealth's Board of Regents of Higher Education and unsuccessfully led a campaign to halt increases in state college tuitions.

Mr. Furcolo was born John Foster Furcolo (he dropped the John early in his political career) in New Haven. He attended schools in Longmeadow and Springfield and was a graduate of New Haven High School and Yale College in 1933 after working part-time as a truck-driver, waiter, dishwasher and apprentice printer to pay his tuition. An honor student, he played class basketball and football and was an intercollegiate boxing champion in his senior year. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1936.

While in law school he wrote two plays, "Fancy Free," a comedy that was later produced by stock companies, and "The Grail," an antiwar drama. Years later, in 1957, under the pen name of John Foster, he published a comic political novel entitled "Let George Do It!," which sharply satirized campaigning aimed at the various ethnic voting blocs.

The identity of the author was soon widely known and his attack on the practice did not stop him the following year when he simultaneously named six judges to Superior Court — one each of black, Portuguese, Polish, Irish, French and Italian descent.

Mr. Furcolo became a prominent figure in western Massachusetts Democratic politics soon after his discharge from the Navy at the end of World War II. He had served as a lieutenant aboard an attack transport in the Pacific.

His first exposure to politics as a candidate had been in 1942 when he ran as a Democrat for district attorney of Hampden and Berkshire counties and lost. In 1946 he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Congress in the 2d Congressional District. He lost by a narrow margin to Charles R. Clason of Springfield.

Two years later the successful

Springfield trial lawyer defeated Clason by a margin of nearly 15,000 votes to become the second Democrat in Bay State history to be elected to Congress from western Massachusetts. He was reelected to a second term in 1950, but resigned in July of 1952 to accept an appointment by Gov. Paul A. Dever as state treasurer and receiver-general.

When Mr. Furcolo next campaigned in 1954 it was for the Senate seat held by the Republican incumbent, Leverett Saltonstall. He won the Democratic nomination over the opposition of the Americans for Democratic Action.

But his defeat for the Senate by Saltonstall was attributed more to the fact that the then junior Massachusetts senator, John F. Kennedy, had refused to endorse Mr. Furcolo on a major television broadcast. Kennedy and Furcolo apparently had not hit it off when both were serving together as congressmen.

After serving as governor, Mr. Furcolo was denied a second chance to run for the Senate against Saltonstall when he was defeated in the Democratic primary by the relatively unknown Mayor Thomas J. O'Connor of Springfield. Friends said that this was such a bitter blow to him that he bowed out of politics completely, moved from Longmeadow to Newton and set up a private law practice in Boston.

In 1967, he joined the staff of Middlesex District Attorney John J. Droney as a prosecuting assistant.

Yesterday, Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci said, "Countless citizens throughout Massachusetts have been touched by Governor Furcolo's dedication to public service and his great love for the commonwealth. With his passing, so too passes a part of Massachusetts history."

Mr. Furcolo leaves his wife, Constance (Gleason); three sons, Charles M. of Wellesley, Foster Jr. of Coronado, Calif., and Richard W. of Boston; a daughter, Katherine Hope Shearman of San Diego; a brother, Charles Furcolio of Phoenix; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Saturday in St. Joseph's Church in Needham. Burial is in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline.