

**TITLE:** Karl Hess Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1937-1996

**CALL NUMBER:** FM MSS #111

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Karl Hess Jr. 1996

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**RESTRICTIONS:** Unrestricted

**CREDIT LINE:** Karl Hess Collection, FM MSS #111, Arizona Historical Foundation

**PROCESSED BY:** Linda A. Whitaker, 2009

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Author. Libertarian. Welder. Survivalist. Philosopher. Folk Hero.  
Born May 25, 1923 to a wealthy father and working class mother in Washington D.C., Karl Hess moved to the Philippines as a child. His mother divorced, refused alimony and returned to Washington D.C. to raise her son alone. From an early age, Karl Hess questioned authority, demonstrated a single-minded independence and effectively dodged school officials as a chronic truant. He dropped out of school at age 15 and began a long and colorful career as a journalist, speech writer, editor and author of numerous books.

Early on he wrote politically conservative columns and contributed to numerous conservative publications. His writings subsequently drew the attention of the Republican Party. Hess has been credited with writing the Republican Party platforms for the 1960 and 1964 presidential campaigns. Senator Barry Goldwater first hired him as a speech writer. Hess then went on to ghost-write his news columns in the *Los Angeles Times*. He had the temerity to call Goldwater "El Jefe." Both shared a wit and view of the world that were very similar. See Correspondence, Series I. in the Personal and Political Papers of Senator Barry M. Goldwater for correspondence between both men.

After the 1964 election, Hess grew disillusioned with the political right and swung to the New Left protesting the Vietnam War, joining the Students for a Democratic Society, and working with the Black Panthers. Through it all, he and Goldwater maintained contact and a degree of tolerance and patience rare in both men. For more information about Hess's later career and his political and philosophical evolution, read *Mostly On Edge: An Autobiography*. Drafts of this book can be found in Box 6.

Karl Hess died April 22, 1994 two years after receiving a heart transplant.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

Although the personal materials are fragmentary, news clippings documenting Hess's political journey are fairly comprehensive. Hess's early writings and his later works for hire for Senator Goldwater are often difficult to locate. Although not complete, many of those articles can be found here. Correspondence documents Hess's business with editors, military and government officials, and pursuits relating to various journalist endeavors.

Original order unknown. Folder titles reflect original folder labels. Arranged in three series: **Series I. Personal** and **Series II. Correspondence** - both alphabetically and chronologically within. **Series III. Writings** - chronologically within.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	1	<b>Personal:</b> Awards and Certificates	n.d.
	2	<b>Personal,</b> Baptismal Record of Karl Hess Jr. and Birth Certificate of Eric Callan Hess	1952, 1960
	3	<b>Personal:</b> Biographical	n.d.
	4	<b>Personal:</b> Contract with William Morrow and Company	1970
	5	<b>Personal:</b> Licenses and Passports	1950s
	6	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles – “The Log”	1959
	7	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles	1960-1966
	8	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles - “Karl Hess-Goldwater Finds His Sorensen” by Murray Kempton in <i>The New Republic</i>	1964
	9	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles (about Karl Hess)	1967
	10	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles (about Karl Hess)	1968
	11	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles (about Karl Hess)	1969
	12	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles (about Karl Hess)	1970
	13	<b>Personal:</b> Magazine and News Articles (about Karl Hess)	1971
	14	<b>Personal,</b> Membership Cards	n.d.
	15	<b>Personal:</b> Photographs (two)	n.d.
	16	<b>Personal:</b> Schedules	1969-1970
	17	<b>Personal:</b> Transcript of Interview with Sander Vanocur, NBC	circa 1969
	18	<b>Correspondence:</b> Defense of the Nationalist Chinese (Formosa)	1948-1950
	19	<b>Correspondence:</b> Der Reichsstatthalter in Württemberg, Stuttgart (office of the “Imperial	1937-1940

		Lieutenant” in the Nazi Third Reich; documents in German)	
<b>2</b>	1	<b>Correspondence:</b> General	1946-1952
	2	<b>Correspondence:</b> General	1953-1955
	3	<b>Correspondence:</b> General	1959-1970
	4	<b>Correspondence:</b> Regarding Steve Allen	1964-1965
	5	<b>Writings:</b> Magazine and News Articles (by Karl Hess)	1946-1953
	6	<b>Writings:</b> Magazine and News Articles (by Karl Hess)	1954
	7	<b>Writings:</b> Magazine and News Articles (by Karl Hess)	1955
	8	<b>Writings:</b> Magazine and News Articles (by Karl Hess)	1956
	9	<b>Writings:</b> Magazine and News Articles (by Karl Hess)	1957-1959
	10	<b>Writings:</b> <i>The Backlog</i> (contributor)	1958-1968
<b>3</b>	1	<b>Writings:</b> “Refugees and Spies” (before the Printing Arts Association)	1961
	2	<b>Writings:</b> Research 1964 (background material for news column)	1964
	3	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (1 of 11)	December 28, 1964-February 28, 1965
	4	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (2 of 11)	March 3-May 31, 1965
	5	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (3 of 11)	June 25-September 29, 1965
	6	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (4 of 11)	October 1-December 31, 1965
	7	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (5 of 11)	January 2-March 28, 1966
	8	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (6 of 11)	April 1-July 31, 1966
<b>4</b>	1	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (7 of 11)	August 3-September 30, 1966
	2	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (8 of 11)	October 2-December 30, 1966
	3	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (9 of 11)	January 1-April 30, 1967
	4	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (10 of 11)	May 3-August 30, 1967
	5	<b>Writings:</b> “The Barry Goldwater Column” for the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> (11 of 11)	September 1-December 31, 1967
<b>5</b>	1	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> (book reviews)	1967

2	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Cold Warriors: Candor?</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	1968
3	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Success</i> (associate editor)	January 1968
4	<b>Writings:</b> “Disobedience: A Direction” in <i>Hatchet Encounter</i>	April 1968
5	<b>Writings:</b> “Protest! It’s Not a Leftist Monopoly It Can Be Freedom’s Torch” in <i>Political Success</i>	April 1968
6	<b>Writings:</b> “A Discussion Continued-Protest! The Difference in Dissent The Reason for Resistance” in <i>Political Success</i>	May 1968
7	<b>Writings:</b> “The Death of Politics” in <i>Playboy Magazine</i>	1969
8	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Despairing of the Congress</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	1969
9	<b>Writings:</b> “The Tranquil Statement” (before the National Convention of Young Americans for Freedom)	1969
10	<b>Writings:</b> “Double ‘IF’” in the <i>Washington Post</i>	January 1969
11	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Obsolete Communism: The Left Wing Alternative</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	March 1969
12	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Tribunal: Provocative Report</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	March 1969
13	<b>Writings:</b> “In Defense of Hess” in <i>The New Guard</i>	April 1969
14	<b>Writings:</b> “Barry Goldwater: An Open Letter to My Friend” in <i>Ramparts</i>	October 1969
15	<b>Writings:</b> “Libertarian Outlook” in <i>Politics</i>	1969-1970
16	<b>Writings:</b> <i>The Conscience of a Majority</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	1970
17	<b>Writings:</b> “Ex-Republican Bitten by a Panther” in <i>Dialog</i>	1970
18	<b>Writings:</b> <i>The Motivating of President 1968</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	1970
19	<b>Writings:</b> “The Phillip Luce-Karl Hess Debate”	1970
20	<b>Writings:</b> <i>The New Times</i> Volume 1, Number 1 (Washington editor)	April 1970
21	<b>Writings:</b> <i>The Wrong Questions</i> (book review by Karl Hess)	December 1970
22	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Note to Readers	n.d.
23	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Chapter One (draft with notations)	n.d.
24	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Chapter Three (draft with notations)	n.d.
25	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Chapter Five (draft with notations)	n.d.

	26	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Chapter Six (draft with notations)	n.d.
	27	<b>Writings:</b> <i>In a Cause that Will Triumph</i> - Chapter Seven (incomplete draft with notations)	n.d.
	28	<b>Writings:</b> “The Enemy is the State” in <i>Counter Point</i>	n.d.
	29	<b>Writings:</b> Letter to the Editor in the <i>National Catholic Reporter</i>	n.d.
	30	<b>Writings:</b> Poetry (unpublished)	n.d.
<b>6</b>	1	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Mostly on the Edge</i> (chapters 1-5)	1996
	2	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Mostly on the Edge</i> (chapters 6-10)	1996
	3	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Mostly on the Edge</i> (chapters 11-15)	1996
	4	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Mostly on the Edge</i> (chapters 16-19)	1996
	5	<b>Writings:</b> <i>Mostly on the Edge</i> (chapter 20-selected writings)	1996