

NAS:AW:mwf

4 Director, Public Information

4 Norbert A. Schlei, Assistant Attorney General
4 Office of Legal Counsel

4 Winston Churchill's right to vote

cc - Mr. Schlei
7 Mrs. Copeland
Mr. Walinsky
FILES

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You have asked whether Winston Churchill, an honorary citizen of the United States under P.L. 88-6, has the right to vote in American elections if he saw fit to reside in this country.

Sir Winston does not have the right to vote in American elections. The House Committee report on H.R. 4374, which granted authority to the President to proclaim Sir Winston's honorary citizenship, confirms the Department of Justice view that "what is being conferred on Sir Winston is an honor or expression of esteem rather than U.S. nationality in the technical sense," and that the act constitutes "an expression of the high regard which the people of this country have for him, perhaps stronger in sentiment but similar in effect to legislation conferring a medal or decoration upon him." See H.R. Rep. No. 57, 88th Cong., 1st Sess., p.4 (1963).