

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Daniel E. Button Papers

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

Daniel E. Button

Title

Daniel E. Button Papers

Identifier

MG 247

Date

1952-2009

Physical Description

14 boxes

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

Daniel Evan Button (1917-2009) was a Republican politician elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. After his landslide win for the 1966 election, Button once again ran and was re-elected to his seat on the House of Representatives as a representative of New York. He ran for a third term in 1970, but was ultimately defeated.

This collection contains newspaper articles, letters, speeches, documents, photographs, and published works in his memory.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Daniel E. Button Papers, 1952-2009, MG 247. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # LIB.2013.51

Accession Source/Date: Gift of Nancy Button Nathan in memory of Daniel E. Button, 2013

Processing Information

Processed by C. Drislane, July 2018; finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

Biographical/Historical

Daniel Evan Button (1917-2009) was a Republican politician elected as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. After graduating from the University of Delaware and the Columbia University School of Journalism, Button served an advisor to the President of the University of Delaware, as a reporter for the Associated Press, and as an editor for the *Wilmington Star* newspaper before he was appointed public relations officer and assistant to the President at the State University of New York in 1952. Beginning in 1959, Button

worked at the Albany-based newspaper *Times Union* before resigning from his position as executive editor in 1966 in order to focus on his congressional bid for election that same year. After his landslide win for the 1966 election, Button once again ran and was re-elected to his seat on the House of Representatives as a representative of New York. He ran for a third term in 1970, but was ultimately defeated.

After his 1970 defeat, Button became president of the National Arthritis Foundation the following year in 1971. From 1976 to 1980, Button served as editor of *Science Digest* magazine. As an author, Button authored books regarding New York politician John V. Lindsay and former Albany mayor Tom Whalen in 1965 and 2003 respectively. In 1993, Button considered running for mayor of the city of Albany before ultimately abandoning his bid. He died of pneumonia on March 7, 2009.

Scope and Contents

The boxes of this collection have generally been organized in a rough chronological order. The organization of the collection begins with his career before his election to the House of Representatives and many of the items that follow are derivative of his time in office and later life, along with some more personal projects Button undertook.

This collection contains manuscripts and printed materials dating from 1952 to 2009, the year of Button's death. The contents of the collection relate primarily to Button's years residing in Albany and the rise of his political career and community engagement, the majority of the documents in the collection including partial and final drafts of speeches, correspondence, photographs for private and public use, newspaper clippings reporting on contemporary political events, and publications on statistics relevant to politics and legislation.

The donation also contained some objects which have been separated and are housed in the Curatorial Department.

Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

Description	Box	Folder
Button Appointed as Public Relations Officer and later Assistant to the President under William S. Carlson at the State University of New York, 1952-1955	1	1
SUNY Writings		2
Photocopies of "Memo to the Board" (1/2)		3
Photocopies of "Memo to the Board" (2/2)		4

Button before 1963 Graduating Class of Albany Junior College		5
Political and Community Activity, 1963-1965		6
12 Photos, 1959-1965		7
“Across the Editor’s Desk” in the Albany <i>Times-Union</i>		
1963		8
1964		9
1965 and undated		10
Albany History (includes 3 photos)		11
Button as Times-Union Executive Editor (2 photos)		12
Saigon Trip		13
Notes on Erastus Corning II		14
Selma March speech at First Unitarian Society, 11 April 1965		15
Materials from and publications on the 1965 Selma March		16
Address by Attorney General Richmond M. Flowers to Southwide Lawyers and Physicians Conference, North Carolina, 7 July 1966		17
Random House correspondence or publications, 1965-1966		18
Speak for Yourself (1963-1965)		
General	2	1
Press releases		2
10 photographs		3
Lindsay Hoff episode recording		4
Correspondence		5
In publications		6
Notes		7
Publications on Erastus Corning (1/2)	3	1
Publications on Erastus Corning (2/2)		2
Correspondence and publications regarding John V. Lindsay and Lindsay: A Man For Tomorrow (with photos of Lindsay)		3
Correspondence, 1955-1961 and undated		4
Correspondence, 1962-1963		5
Correspondence, 1964-1965 and 1989		6
Articles on concurrent political events, 1966		7
Political newspaper clippings, 1966		8
Publications on operations regarding Cuba, 25-27 April 1961		9
Newspaper clippings (1/2), 1966/early 1967		10
Newspaper clippings (2/2), 1966/early 1967	4	1
12 Photos - Day of Announcement - Entering Politics/Resigning from <i>Times-Union</i> , 1966		2
36 Photos - Primary, 1966		3
19 Photos - Primary, 1966		4
25 Photos - Campaign, 1966		5
Campaign articles, pamphlets, 1966		6
Win newspaper clippings, 1966		7

Copy of article on New York State politics by Kirtland I. King, 13 November 1966		8
Clippings related to Liberal Party, November voting, 1966, O'Brien and Conners, April 1966, and Letters to the Editor		9
1966-1967 newspaper clippings on political events		10
Newspaper clippings on Vietnam, 1966-1967		11
Newspaper clippings from May 3, 1966, and clippings on ACOI/anti-poverty, Meader primary, national politics and misc. (1966-1967)		12
Newspaper clippings on state politics and national news		13
Newspaper clippings related to the trial of William J. Dawson, 1966		14
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings related to Albany politics (various dates, n.d.)		15
Good press clippings with editorial comment		16
Campaign activity, 1966		17
Campaign speeches, 1966		18
Campaign speeches/drafts, 1966		19
Election campaign for Congress, 1967-1968	5	1
A Study of Voter Attitudes in the Twenty-Ninth Congressional District of New York, September-October 1968		2
Longhand drafts transcribed		3
Political notes		4
Congressional Record, 91st Congress, 1st session, volume 115, number 1, 3 January 1969 + other congressional materials		5
Congress, 1967-1968 + 1968 campaign		6
47 photos - 1968 campaign		7
8, 2 x 3" photos - 1967-1968, 1968 campaign		8
37 5 x 7" photos - 1967-1968, 1968 campaign		9
16 7 x 9" photos - 1967-1968, 1968 campaign		10
26 8 x 10" photos - 1967-1968, 1968 campaign		11
19 photos - with constituents in Washington, 1968		12
13 Congress - 1969-1970, 1970 campaign		13
14 Photos from Congress years 1969-1970, 1970 campaign		14
Speeches from 1969-1990 in Congress and 1970 campaign	6	1
1970 campaign		2
38 photos - 1970 campaign		3
39 photos - 1970		4
1 color original and 1 black and white work-print for photo reels with Button, Agnew		5
1970 speeches with referential commentary		6
1970 newspaper clippings		7
Miscellaneous documents - Congress years		8
Concession to Stratton on Election Night, 1970		9
Condolence letters after 1970 re-election loss		10

Job search after 1970 re-election defeat		11
Coming to terms with opponents, 1966/1970, victors and vanquished and former House Colleagues		12
“Fictional” account of a candidate’s frame of mind on election day (very autobiographical - undated, likely late 1970)		13
President Rademacher speech at Button testimonial dinner (3 photos)	7	1
Button with Frank Horton and Reverend Hudnut (1 photo)		2
Button with National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., 24 May 1967 (1 photo)		3
Button at National Association of Postal Supervisors’ Legislative Congress, June 1967 (2 photos)		4
Button w/ Officer of the United Federation of Postal Clerks, 1967 (1 photo)		5
Button with members of Schenectady Chamber of Commerce, 1967 (8 photos)		6
Button with Merchant Marine Poster, 1967 (12 photos)		7
Button attending Anti-Crime Workshop held by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 1967 (1 photo)		8
Button with Stanley Edwards, 1967 (5 photos)		9
Button with Robert T. Coonrod, 1967 (9 photos)		10
Button with Republican Women, 1967 (3 photos)		11
Button with Mohawk Pathway Girl Scout Troop #58, 1967 (3 photos)		12
Button at Cohoes All-American City Award, 1967 (7 photos)		13
Miscellaneous photos from 1967 (35 photos)		14
Name plate for Button from his 52 guests in Washington, 4 June 1968		15
Albany group travels to D.C., June 9, 1968 - meets with Minority Leader Gerald Ford, 9 June 1968 (43 photos)		16
Button speaking before Postal Unions (8 photos)		17
Button with postal officials, June, 1969 (9 photos)		18
Button and postal supervisor (2 photos)		19
Button at Fort Dix, 8 June 1969 (15 photos)		20
Button with John Walsh, Dec. 1969(?) (4 photos)		21
Button’s pay TV testimony with John Callahan, 4 December 1969 (4 photos)		22
Congressional activities, 1969 (16 photos)		23
Congressional activities - 1970 (25 photos)		24
Button with John Chambers on Capital steps, Spring 1970 (2 photos)		25
Button receiving Italian Executives of America Award, January 1970 (3 photos)		26
Button with Voorheesville High School students with leader Mrs. Janet Minch, February 1970 (1 photo)		27
Button with John Gleason of the A.F.G.E., February 1970 (9 photos)		28
Button with Presidential Classroom Scholars Lynn Carpenter (Saint Agnes), and Brian Pierce and George Cinney (Christian Brother’s Academy), 17 February 1970 (6 photos)		29

Button with Presidential Classroom Scholars Stuart Suss and Anne Genova from Shaker High School March, 1970 (1 photo)		30
Button with Presidential Classroom Scholars - Virginia Pricet + unidentified girl, March 1970 (2 photos)		31
Button with Senator Fulbright + General James Gavin, April 1970 (3 photos)		32
Button with John Chambers, May, 1970 (1 photo)		33
Button with Colonel Mulheron, June, 1970 (1 photo)		34
Button with Norman Brickman family, June, 1970 (10 photos)		35
Button with group of Girl Scouts, June, 1970 (1 photo)		36
Button with children from Cohoes Middle School Representatives of Voice of America (6 photos)		37
Button with Tom Kershner, July 1970 (5 photos)		38
Button and members of Locals 234 + 390 (7 photos)		39
Button with Evie Dubrow of ILGUW (1 photo)		40
Button sitting at desk, reading Congressional Record (1 photo)		41
Button with Bob Rosenthal (5 photos)		42
Button and Marvin Kaplar (7 photos)		43
Button with Members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (4 photos)		44
Button with S.B.A. Head (3 photos)		45
Congressman Button with Judy Cohn, winner of essay contest (7 photos)		46
Sister Alvia (13 photos)		47
Button with Secretary of Transportation John Volpe (5 photos)		48
Button with President Nixon (1 photo)		49
Button with questionnaires in recording studios (9 photos)		50
Campaign group meets with New York Senator Charles Gobdell and Newsman Martin Agronsky (14 photos)		51
Button at the First Annual AFGE Clam Steam (1 photo)		52
Button and Robert Case family (2 photos)		53
Button assorted photos with politicians (22 photos)		54
Button with the 1018th Combat Support Company of the U.S. Army (9 photos)		55
Miscellaneous Congress years (34 photos)		56
Button with unidentified family (10 photos)		57
Delmar Spotlight editorials and columns		
(late 1987-1988)	8	1
(1988, undated)		2
(1989)		3
(1990)		4
(1991)		5
(1992)	9	1
(1993)		2
New York Press Association (NYPA) award to Delmar Spotlight for Dan Button editorial pages (1993)		3

Editorials and columns (January 1994-August 1994)		4
Column on George Harder, early reform leader in Albany (reform) movement, July 12-18, 1994		5
Final Button column, August 2-8, 1994		6
Official Canvasses of the County of Albany For the Elections Held on 8 November 1960, 3 November 1964, and 5 November 1968	10	1
Arthritis Foundation		2
Charles Barney Harding		3
Letters to the White House, 1970s		4
John Andersen Committee		5
Baseball-related newspaper clippings		6
Documents and correspondence between Button and friends		7
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1964 and later		8
Miscellaneous speeches		9
Critique of Times-Union handling of Atlanta Olympics Bombing (Richard Jewell)		10
Attempt to get White House's permission to write book on Mayaguez Incident		11
Button response to New York Times editorial on congressional pensions, 14 January 1995		12
Manuscript submitted to Albany Times-Union defending Albany mayor Tom Whalen in controversy over FBI inquiry of Whalen administration		13
Publications on Whalen, Button's bid for Mayor of Albany		14
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities job		15
Stories on Button		16
Button describes his life		17
Button obituaries and funeral coverage		18
Personalized envelopes	11	1
Personalized stationery		2
Hardcover and paperback copies of Button's Victory: A Memoir of 1966 (2009)		3
Paperback copy of Button's Take City Hall!: Mayor Tom Whalen and the Transformation of New York's Capital to an "All-American City" (2003)		4
Documents relating to Thomas M. Whalen book, Take City Hall! (2002)		5
Partial draft of account of the 1965 Civil Rights Shooting in Hayneville, Alabama (101 pages) Pitched books, op-eds, etc., and feedback		6
Research/notes on unknown book project related to early congressional history		7
Book proposal (or short manuscript) - fiction, bio-based on various events involving Senator Mike Mansfield		8
Items Button pitched and got printed - complaints, corrections, observations		9
Pitched books, op-eds, etc., and feedback		10

2003 manuscript submitted to Times-Union on 250th anniversary – “Albany Plan of Union” coming in 2004	11	1
Miscellaneous certificates	12	1
Photos – Button gets primary returns at his Chapel Street Headquarters, 28 June 1966, and 1970 campaign photo		2
Cardstock-backed photos from Congress years 1969-1970, 1970 campaign, 6 November 1966, and 1966 election victory		3
Cardstock-backed House of Representative bills introduced by Button		4
Copies of political cartoons by Hy Rosen featuring Button		5
Photo of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s State of the Union Message, 10 January 1967, from Congress		6
3 scrapbooks with clippings assembled by Congressional Staff for 1967 through 1970 election	13	1
1 oversized print copy of a Button photograph	14	1
1 copy of the menu at the Dan Button Victory Supper, held 9 November 1966		2
2 copies of page F-4 of Times-Union issue from 27 October 1968, featuring political cartoon and editorial comment on Button		3
1 copy of a political advertisement for Button’s re-election, 17 October 1968		4
1 copy of a political advertisement for Button’s congressional election campaign in Times-Union issue from 7 November 1966		5
1 copy of the 9 November 1966 issue of Times-Union covering Button’s election win as headline news		6
1 copy of the 9 November 1966 issue of Schenectady UnionStar covering Button’s election win as headline news		7
1 copy of the 8 March 2009 issue of Times Union with Button’s obituary		8