

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Daniel E. Button Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Daniel E. Button Papers

Call Number: MG 247

Creator: Daniel E. Button

Inclusive Dates: 1952 - 2009

Bulk Dates: 1966 - 1970

Abstract: Gift by Nancy Button Nathan of Daniel E. Button's collection of newspaper articles, letters, speeches, documents, photographs, and published works in his memory.

Quantity: 14 boxes

Administrative Information

Custodial History:

Preferred Citation: Daniel E. Button Papers, MG 247. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information: Gift of Nancy Button Nathan in memory of Daniel E. Button.

Accession #: LIB.2013.51

Accession Date: 2013

Processing Information:

Processed by Carly Drislane; completed on July 2, 2018.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Button, Daniel E. (Daniel Evan), 1917-2009.

Organizations

State University of New York at Albany

The Spotlight (Delmar, N.Y.)

Times-Union (Albany, N.Y.)

United States. Congress. House.

Subjects

Corning, Erastus, 1909-1983.

Lindsay, John V. (John Vliet).

Whalen, Tom (Thomas M.).

Albany (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century.

Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965 : Selma, Ala.)

Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.

United States -- Politics and government -- 1963-1969.

United States -- Politics and government -- 1969-1974.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- United States.

Reagan, Ronald, 1911-2004.

Places

Albany (N.Y.).

New York (State) -- Politics and government.

Washington (D.C.).

Document Types

Clippings

Correspondence

Photos

Files by Subject

Speeches

Titles

Button, Daniel E. *Take City Hall!: Mayor Tom Whalen and the Transformation of New York's Capital to an "All-America City"*. Albany, N.Y.: Whitson Publishing Company, Inc., 2003.

Button, Daniel E. *Victory!: A Memoir of 1966*. Xlibris Corporation, 2009.

Biography/History of

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 as 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 of the Records/Papers/Collection

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.

Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection

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.

Related Material

Separated Materials

<u>Drawing</u> : <i>Feather in His Hat</i> , by Hy Rosen, c. 1956. Ink	2013.44.1
<u>Drawing</u> : <i>Readin', Writin', and Fightin'</i> , by Hy Rosen. Ink, signed to Dan Button	2013.44.2
<u>Drawing</u> : "So, That's Where you Gather Your Campaign"	2013.44.3

<i>Material!</i> ” by Hy Rosen. Ink, pencil	
<u>Drawing</u> : “ <i>Still Life</i> ” by Jerry Roliman (last name?)	2013.44.4
<u>Stamp</u> : Daniel E. Button signature	2013.44.5
<u>Map</u> : New York 29 th district	2013.44.6
<u>Print</u> : <i>City Hall, Albany, NY</i> , 1990, Hy Rosen 84/650	2013.44.7
<u>Drawing</u> : <i>Author, Author!</i> By Hy Rosen, ink and colored pencil.	2013.44.8
<u>Art: Advertising Medium: Button</u> : ‘ <i>Dan-again!</i> ’ ad button	2013.44.9
<u>Art: Advertising Medium: Button</u> : ‘ <i>Dan-again!</i> ’ ad button	2013.44.10
<u>Art: Advertising Medium: Button</u> : ‘ <i>Re-elect Button</i> ’ button	2013.44.11
<u>Art: Advertising Medium: Button</u> : ‘ <i>A Great Congressman, Dan Button</i> ’ button	2013.44.12
<u>Furnishings: Temperature Control device: Matchbook</u> : ‘ <i>Check the record...Honest, Able, Experienced!</i> ’	2013.44.13
<u>Art: Advertising Medium: Button</u> : ‘ <i>130,000!</i> ’ button	2013.44.14

Other Finding Aids

[This would be for additional guides to the same collection. These other access tools would describe all or parts of the collection. For example, there might be a published edition of the inventory or the materials may have come to the repository with some sort of inventory prepared by the creator. File plans are formal examples of such finding aids (with a separate element all their own) that sometimes accompany organizational needs.]

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

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

Series # [#] . Series Title [title]

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Button Appointed as Public Relations Officer and later Assistant to the President under William S. Carlson at the State University of New York, 1952-55
1	2	SUNY Writings
1	3	Photocopies of “Memo to the Board” (1/2)
1	4	Photocopies of “Memo to the Board” (2/2)
1	5	D.E.B. before 1963 Graduating Class of Albany Junior College
1	6	Political and Community Activity, 1963-65
1	7	12 Photos, 1959-1965
1	8	“Across the Editor’s Desk” in Albany Times-Union, 1963
1	9	“Across the Editor’s Desk” in Albany Times-Union, 1964
1	10	“Across the Editor’s Desk” in Albany Times-Union, 1965 and n.d.
1	11	Albany History (includes 3 photos)

1	12	D.E.B. as Times-Union Executive Editor (2 photos)
1	13	Saigon Trip
1	14	Notes on Erastus Corning II
1	15	Selma March speech, April 11, 1965 at First Unitarian Society
1	16	Materials from and publications on the 1965 Selma March
1	17	Address by Attorney General Richmond M. Flowers to Southwide Lawyers and Physicians Conference, N.C., July 7, 1966
1	18	Random House correspondence or publications, 1965-66
2	1	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65)
2	2	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – Press releases
2	3	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – 10 photographs
2	4	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – Lindsay-Hoff episode recording
2	5	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – Correspondence
2	6	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – in publications
2	7	<i>Speak for Yourself</i> (1963-65) – Notes
3	1	Publications on Erastus Corning (1/2)
3	2	Publications on Erastus Corning (2/2)
3	3	Correspondence and publications regarding John V. Lindsay and <i>Lindsay: A Man For Tomorrow</i> (with photos of Lindsay)
3	4	Correspondence, 1955-1961 + unspecified years
3	5	Correspondence, 1962-63
3	6	Correspondence, 1964-65 and 1989
3	7	1966 articles on concurrent political events
3	8	1966 political newspaper clippings
3	9	Publications on operations regarding Cuba, April 25-27, 1961
3	10	1966/early 1967 newspaper clippings (1/2)
4	1	1966/early 1967 newspaper clippings (2/2)
4	2	12 Photos - Day of 1966 Announcement - Entering Politics/Resigning from Times-Union
4	3	36 Photos - 1966 Primary Photos
4	4	19 Photos - from 1966 Primary
4	5	25 Photos - from 1966 campaign
4	6	1966 campaign articles, pamphlets
4	7	1966 win newspaper clippings
4	8	Copy of article on New York State politics by Kirtland I. King, November 13, 1966
4	9	Clippings related to Liberal Party, November voting, 1966, O'Brien and Connors, April 1966, and Letters to the Editor
4	10	1966-1967 newspaper clippings on political events
4	11	1966-1967 newspaper clippings on Vietnam
4	12	Newspaper clippings from May 3, 1966, and clippings on

		ACOI/anti-poverty, Meader primary, national politics and misc. (1966-1967)
4	13	Newspaper clippings on state politics and national news
4	14	Newspaper clippings related to the trial of William J. Dawson, 1966
4	15	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings related to Albany politics (various dates, n.d.)
4	16	Good press clippings with editorial comment
4	17	1966 campaign activity
4	18	1966 campaign speeches
4	19	1966 campaign speeches/drafts
5	1	1967-68 election campaign for Congress
5	2	A Study of Voter Attitudes in the Twenty-Ninth Congressional District of New York, Sept. - Oct. 1968
5	3	Longhand drafts transcribed
5	4	Political notes
5	5	Congressional Record, 91 st Congress, 1 st session, volume 115, no. 1, January 3, 1969 + other congressional materials
5	6	Congress, 1967-68 + 1968 campaign
5	7	47 photos - 1968 campaign
5	8	8 2 x 3" photos - 1967-68, 1968 campaign
5	9	37 5 x 7" photos - 1967-68, 1968 campaign
5	10	16 7 x 9" photos - 1967-68, 1968 campaign
5	11	26 8 x 10" photos - 1967-68, 1968 campaign
5	12	19 photos - with constituents in Washington, 1968
5	13	Congress - 1969-70, 1970 campaign
5	14	Photos from Congress years 1969-70, 1970 campaign
6	1	Speeches from 1969-90 in Congress and 1970 campaign
6	2	1970 campaign
6	3	38 photos - 1970 campaign
6	4	39 photos - 1970
6	5	1 color original and 1 black and white work-print for photo reels with Button, Agnew
6	6	1970 speeches with referential commentary
6	7	1970 newspaper clippings
6	8	Miscellaneous documents - Congress years
6	9	Concession to Stratton on Election Night, 1970
6	10	Condolence letters after 1970 re-election loss
6	11	Job search after 1970 re-election defeat
6	12	Coming to terms with opponents, 1966/1970, victors and vanquished and former House Colleagues
6	13	"fictional" account of a candidate's frame of mind on election day (very autobiographical - date unknown, likely late 1970)

7	1	Pres. Rademacher speech at D.E.B. testimonial dinner (3 photos)
7	2	D.E.B. with Frank Horton and Reverend Hudnut (1 photo)
7	3	D.E.B. with National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., May 24, 1967 (1 photo)
7	4	D.E.B. at National Association of Postal Supervisors' Legislative Congress, June 1967 (2 photos)
7	5	D.E.B. w/ Officer of the United Federation of Postal Clerks, 1967 (1 photo)
7	6	D.E.B. with members of Schenectady Chamber of Commerce, 1967 (8 photos)
7	7	D.E.B. with Merchant Marine Poster, 1967 (12 photos)
7	8	D.E.B. attending Anti-Crime Workshop held by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 1967 (1 photo)
7	9	D.E.B. with Stanley Edwards, 1967 (5 photos)
7	10	D.E.B. with Robert T. Coonrod, 1967 (9 photos)
7	11	D.E.B. with Republican Women, 1967 (3 photos)
7	12	D.E.B. with Mohawk Pathway Girl Scout Troop #58, 1967 (3 photos)
7	13	D.E.B. at Cohoes All-American City Award, 1967 (7 photos)
7	14	Miscellaneous photos from 1967 (35 photos)
7	15	Name plate for D.E.B. from his 52 guests in Washington, June 4, 1968
7	16	Albany group travels to D.C., June 9, 1968 - meets with Minority Leader Gerald Ford (43 photos)
7	17	D.E.B. speaking before Postal Unions (8 photos)
7	18	D.E.B. with postal officials, June, 1969 (9 photos)
7	19	D.E.B. and postal supervisor (2 photos)
7	20	D.E.B. at Fort Dix, June 8, 1969 (15 photos)
7	21	D.E.B. with John Walsh, Dec. 1969(?) (4 photos)
7	22	D.E.B.'s pay TV testimony with John Callahan, Dec. 4, 1969 (4 photos)
7	23	Congressional activities, 1969 (16 photos)
7	24	Congressional activities - 1970 (25 photos)
7	25	D.E.B. w/ John Chambers - on Capital steps, Spring 1970 (2 photos)
7	26	D.E.B. receiving Italian Executives of America Award, Jan., 1970 (3 photos)
7	27	D.E.B. w/ Vorheesville H.S. students with leader Mrs. Janet Minch, Feb., 1970 (1 photo)
7	28	D.E.B. with John Gleason of the A.F.G.E., Feb., 1970 (9 photos)
7	29	D.E.B. w/ Presidential Classroom Scholars Lynn Carpenter (Saint Agnes), and Brian Pierce and George Cinney (Christian Brother's Academy) - February 17, 1970 (6 photos)
7	30	D.E.B. with Presidential Classroom Scholars Stuart Suss and Anne Genova from Shaker H.S., March, 1970 (1 photo)
7	31	D.E.B. w/ Presidential Classroom Scholars - Virginia Pricet +

		unknown girl, March 1970 (2 photos)
7	32	D.E.B. with Senator Fulbright + General James Gavin, April 1970 (3 photos)
7	33	D.E.B. w/ John Chambers, May, 1970 (1 photo)
7	34	D.E.B. w/ Col. Mulheron, June, 1970 (1 photo)
7	35	D.E.B. w/ Norman Brickman family, June, 1970 (10 photos)
7	36	D.E.B. w/ group of Girl Scouts, June, 1970 (1 photo)
7	37	D.E.B. with children from Cohoes Middle School Representatives of Voice of America (6 photos)
7	38	D.E.B. w/ Tom Kershner, July, 1970 (5 photos)
7	39	D.E.B. and members of Locals 234 + 390 (7 photos)
7	40	D.E.B. with Evie Dubrow of ILGUW (1 photo)
7	41	D.E.B. sitting at desk, reading Congressional Record (1 photo)
7	42	D.E.B. with Bob Rosenthal (5 photos)
7	43	D.E.B. and Marvin Kaplar (7 photos)
7	44	D.E.B. with Members of U.S. Chamber of Commerce (4 photos)
7	45	D.E.B. with S.B.A. Head (3 photos)
7	46	Congressman Button with Judy Cohn, winner of essay contest (7 photos)
7	47	Sister Alvia (13 photos)
7	48	D.E.B. w/ Secretary of Transportation John Volpe (5 photos)
7	49	D.E.B. w/ President Nixon (1 photo)
7	50	D.E.B. with questionnaires in recording studios (9 photos)
7	51	Campaign group meets with N.Y. Senator Charles Gobbell + Newsman Martin Agronsky (14 photos)
7	52	D.E.B. at the First Annual AFGE Clam Steam (1 photo)
7	53	D.E.B. + Robert Case (sp?) family (2 photos)
7	54	D.E.B. assorted photos with politicians (22 photos)
7	55	D.E.B. with the 1018 th Combat Support Company of the U.S. Army (9 photos)
7	56	Miscellaneous Congress years (34 photos)
7	57	D.E.B. with unidentified family (10 photos)
8	1	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (late 1987-1988)
8	2	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> "Constant Reader" columns (1988, n/d)
8	3	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (1989)
8	4	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (1990)
8	5	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (1991)
9	1	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (1992)
9	2	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (1993)
9	3	New York Press Association (NYPA) award to <i>Delmar Spotlight</i> for Dan Button editorial pages (1993)
9	4	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> editorials and columns (Jan. 1994-Aug. 1994)
9	5	<i>Delmar Spotlight</i> column on George harder, early reform leader in Albany (reform) movement, July 12-18, 1994

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

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