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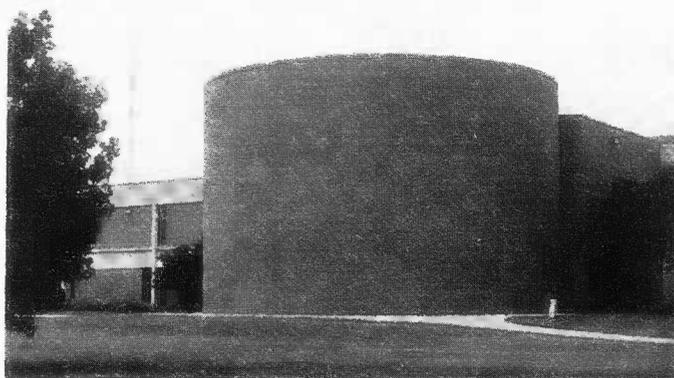
Summer 1994 • Albert Gore Research Center • Department of History • Middle Tennessee State University

Gore Center Marks First Anniversary

On March 12, 1994, the Albert Gore Research Center marked its first anniversary of regularly scheduled service. Since opening its doors to the public in 1993, the center has provided collection access to nearly one thousand patrons, mostly Middle Tennessee State University students and faculty.

Other researchers from coast to coast and overseas have sought and received assistance with a wide variety of research projects. A professor in England requested information about attempts in the 1950s to ban rock 'n roll from commercial radio broadcasts. A search of the Gore Senate Collection turned up letters from many of the legends of Country Music, urging defeat of the proposed legislation. *Strings Magazine* in California wanted to know if Senator Gore really was a fiddle player and, if so, could they be provided with a photograph. The center was happy to accommodate their request. The editors of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* needed photographs to illustrate an article in that journal. The center provided the requested materials including a Gore portrait that was published on the cover of the Spring 1994 issue.

Too busy to formally celebrate the anniversary, center staff anticipate a second year even busier than the first.



Votes and Video Received

Gifts from the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and from Democrats 2000 have significantly enhanced the research potential of the Gore Center. In late 1993, the center received the individual voting record of Senator Gore from 1952 to 1968. The nine-inch-thick document was prepared by Mariam Bertram, chief clerk of the Democratic Policy Committee of the U.S. Senate, and made available to the center through the services of Archivist Karen D. Paul of the U.S. Senate Historical Office. In addition to recording every vote cast by Senator Gore during those years, the record explains each issue under consideration and summarizes the arguments of proponents and opponents. This resource may be the single most useful tool available for documenting Senate activity during the Gore years.

Democrats 2000 Executive Director Jane Merrill Filner sent the center a videotape which had been shown at the Lifetime Achievement celebration for Senator Gore in Washington last November. The tape traces Gore's life from the verdant hills of Jackson County, to State Teachers College in Murfreesboro, to the House and Senate, to private business, and to his present role as a proud parent of the Vice President of the United States.

Among those on the tape are Edward Kennedy, Claiborne Pell, Jim Sasser, Birch Bayh, Carl Rowan, and Senator and Mrs. Gore. Ms. Filner also sent 26 videocassettes of raw footage of interviews and other materials from which the video presentation was constructed.

MTSU Graduate Assistants and Volunteers Recognized

That there is a Gore Research Center is, to a large extent, owed to the outstanding efforts of four History graduate assistants and two undergraduate volunteers. Norman Burns, presently director of the Rockymount historical site, spent the summer of 1986 in the basement of Todd Library, entering brief descriptions of the thousands of folders of Gore papers onto the hard drive of a borrowed XT computer. He brought order to records that had become almost completely disordered. Since that time it has been possible, if not especially easy, to locate any folder from among the almost one thousand linear feet of Gore materials.



Graduate Student Assistants (left to right): Denise Musgrove, Regina Forsythe, Tara Mitchell, and George Pimentel.

In 1991, George Pimentel transferred the entire collection into hundreds of bankers boxes and prepared it for its move from Todd Library to the Learning Resources Center.

Last year Denise Musgrove helped develop a program of hands-on manuscripts activities for students enrolled in sophomore history courses. She also prepared the biographical sketch of Senator Gore which helps orient students to the collections.

Tara Mitchell, who was assigned to the center as a graduate assistant for 1993-94, rearranged the entire collection of Senate materials, bringing them into an order nearly identical to that in which they were filed in Senator Gore's office. That arrangement is so logical that now most records can be retrieved without consulting the computer or the printed inventory. Tara also coordinated the student orientation program begun by Denise the year before. She described the collection and her involvement with it at the January 1994 conference of the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association at Monteagle, Tennessee.

Volunteer workers have also rendered invaluable service to the Gore Center. Regina Forsythe (B.A. '93) assisted Tara with the Gore Senate Collection and is presently processing the Q.M. Smith papers. Smith was a member of the first class to matriculate at what is now MTSU, was the first editor of the school newspaper, was the first principal of Bradley County High School, and subsequently was the president of both Tennessee Tech and Middle Tennessee State.

History undergraduate Margaret Linn is processing the Gore Commissioner of Labor Collection which documents some of Gore's activities while he served in the administration of Tennessee Governor Gordon Browning.

Persons interesting in volunteering service to the Gore Center should contact Curator Jim Neal at (615) 898-2632 for more information.

Center Solicits Faculty Papers

When the centennial history of Middle Tennessee State University is written, much of the research will be based on papers donated to the Gore Center by MTSU faculty and administrators.

In addition to the papers of Senator Gore, the Gore Center collects and prepares for research "materials that document the history of Middle Tennessee State University, its students, faculty, alumni, and the region that it serves."

Beginning this summer, the center will actively solicit collections to complement the Bill Beasley and the Q.M. Smith collections presently housed there. Retired and senior faculty and administrators will be asked to donate materials to document their experiences at MTSU. The center is also eager to receive notes and drafts which served as the basis of faculty scholarly and/or artistic activity. Such materials will help perpetuate those activities for new generations of scholars.

The Gore Research Center is located in Room 111, Learning Resources Center, MTSU. The center is open approximately 20 hours a week and the hours vary each semester. If you plan to visit or use the Gore Center, please phone ahead for the current hours, (615) 898-2632.



The Albert Gore Senate Collection

(Each issue of Document will feature an overview of one or more of the major collections in the Albert Gore Research Center. The Albert Gore Senate Collection is the largest of three Albert Gore Collections, the other two being The Albert Gore House of Representatives Collection and The Albert Gore Tennessee Commissioner of Labor Collection.)

Scope and Content (Summarized)

The Albert Gore Senate Collection is approximately 900 linear feet of papers created from the time of Albert Gore's election to the United States Senate in 1952 until the end of his tenure in that body in 1970. The greatest volume is from 1962 through 1969. A vast quantity of constituent and special interests correspondence documents various perceptions of major domestic and international issues of those years. Other communication elucidates matters with which Senator Gore was most extensively involved, especially domestic and international trade and commerce, labor law, tax reform, transportation, medical care for older citizens, civil rights, and international relations. There are very few photographs, audio tapes, or videotapes. Books, pamphlets, and other research materials used by Gore and his staff have been retained.

The general arrangement of the collection corresponds closely to the filing order operating in the Senator's office in 1969. Annual series are generally arranged alphabetically by office, committee, or some other descriptive unit, by sub-unit or sub-topic, and by date. Except for Issue Mail, carbon copies of outgoing correspondence usually are attached to the incoming letters to which they responded. The collection is described and measured at the level of the individual file folder.

Senator Gore has assigned his copyrights and literary rights to this collection to the public through Middle Tennessee State University. All researchers have equal access to materials in the collection subject to restrictions published in the individual series descriptions which follow.

Series descriptions

Issue Mail, 1953-1970 - 1790 folders

Annual files of constituent correspondence arranged alphabetically by topic and then by the date of the Senator's form letter reply. There is only one folder for 1960. Of the scores of topics identified in this series, the most voluminous are civil rights, Vietnam, prayer in schools, Taft-Hartley, transportation/minimum rates, and fire-arm controls.

Department Files, 1953-1970 - 1946 folders

Annual files of constituent and general correspondence on administrative matters arranged alphabetically by the office or agency having jurisdiction for the issue under discussion.

Legislative Files, 1953-1970 - 2058 folders

Annual files of constituent and general correspondence on legislative matters arranged alphabetically by the Congressional committee or sub-committee having jurisdiction for the legislation under discussion.

Gore Bills, 1955-1969 - 209 folders

Printed copies of bills introduced and/or co-sponsored by Senator Gore, arranged by Congressional session.

Politics, 1953-1970 - 71 folders

Annual files of correspondence, campaign finance records, speeches, notes, policy statements, political reports, and newspaper clippings pertaining to Tennessee politics and national Democratic Party politics. The series is arranged by topic with the heaviest concentration appearing in 1956 and 1960.

Tennessee, 1954-1970 - 101 folders

Annual files of correspondence, mainly from constituents, of which much pertains to issues of state rather than Congressional jurisdiction. The series is arranged by topic and contains a small amount of correspondence with Tennessee Governors Frank Clement and Buford Ellington.

Personal, 1954-1970 - 63 folders

Annual files of correspondence and related material of a personal, though not necessarily confidential, nature arranged by correspondent (Senator Gore, Mrs. Gore, William Allen, or Andrew J. Lynch). Materials from persons engaged in more extensive communication are grouped separately as in the case of Mrs. Gore's correspondence with her daughter, Nancy, or the Senator's correspondence with Bernard Baruch. Most of the series represents correspondence from 1954 through 1958 with no more than two folders a year thereafter. Among the items are bills and receipts, letters of congratulations or sympathy, birthday messages, and thank-you notes.

Special, 1953-1970 - 129 folders

Annual files of correspondence and material on topics for which there was no other designated file arranged chronologically and alphabetically by subject. Of particular interest is correspondence relating to the McCarthy censure, Senator Gore's service as president of the U.S. delegation to the Inter-parliamentary Union, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alphabetical, 1953-1970 - 324 folders

Annual files of correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Much of this series is either letters pertaining to matters over which the senator had no control or acknowledgments by Senator Gore and his staff of unsolicited materials received including sheet music, stories and poems, pamphlets, sermons, and other printed material. Folders P-Z for 1955 and X-Z for 1962 are missing.

Media, 1952-1970 - 61 folders

Annual files of correspondence and bookkeeping activities relating to Senator Gore's radio and television programs arranged alphabetically by topic. Most material from 1950s pertains to radio and television. 1960s files are predominantly related to newspapers and press releases.

Index, 1953-1970 - 2,914 folders

Yellow tissue copy of outgoing letters filed alphabetically by name of individual.

continued



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MTSU is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

Albert Gore Senate Collection

continued

Newsletter, 1959-1970 - 50 folders

Annual files arranged alphabetically by topic, then chronologically by month consisting, primarily, of Senator Gore's newsletter "The Washington Report." The series also includes photographs, news clippings, notes, draft copies, layouts, and other materials used to prepare the newsletters. There is one folder of newsletters issued by other senators in which Gore appeared.

Research files, 1952-1970 - 321 folders in 57 document boxes

Research notes and miscellaneous materials arranged by topic. These materials were used by Gore and his staff to prepare for hearings, to draft legislation, to prepare for political campaigns, and for related activities. Although comprised mostly of printed materials, much with handwritten annotations, there is some significant correspondence in these files. Major topics include atomic energy, conflict of interest, election law, taxes, highways, civil rights, and TVA. A particularly interesting series of folders includes policy statements drafted by Gore to help prepare Kennedy for the debates with Nixon and for other aspects of the 1960 campaign.

Invitations, 1954-1970 - 246 folders

Monthly files of letters and invitations received by Senator and Mrs. Gore requesting their presence at various functions in Washington, in Tennessee, and throughout the country. Acceptance or regrets usually are attached. There are also folders for "pending invitations" and for "invitations to others."

Applications, 1954-1970 - 475 folders

Annual files of correspondence, arranged alphabetically by correspondent, each of whom has requested a career or summer position in a U.S. government agency. This series does not include requests for appointive or patronage positions.

Patronage, 1954-1970 - 36 folders

Annual files of correspondence with reference to pages, elevator operators, and other patronage positions.

Federal Jobs, 1954-1970 - 123 folders

Annual files of correspondence relating to those interested in Federal appointive positions such as judgeships, U.S. attorneys, and U.S. marshals, arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Post Office, 1952-1970 - 363 folders

Annual files of correspondence pertaining to building and staffing of post offices, the appointment of postmasters, and postal service in Tennessee. Arranged by name of Post Office.

Office, 1953-1970 - 245 folders and 15 appointment books (1957-1969)

Annual files of materials related to the operation of Senator Gore's offices in Washington, Carthage, Memphis, and Nashville arranged by office and then by topic.

Case files: Academy, 1949-1971 - 152 folders; Service, 1951-1970 - 2,435 folders; Social Security, 1964-1970 - 152 folders; Veterans, 1951-1970 - 806 folders

These restricted access files are open for quantitative analysis only. All research notes derived from case files must be reviewed by a member of the Gore Center professional staff.
