



ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Title: Buford Ellington Papers

Dates: 1957–1972

Creator: Buford Ellington

Summary/Abstract: The Buford Ellington Papers includes articles and journals from 1957 to 1972, books related to Tennessee or U.S. government, speeches given by Ellington, and memorabilia from Ellington's political career. In addition, the collection has numerous scrapbooks that have articles and photographs from Ellington's career as governor of Tennessee. There are also photographs of various political events such as gubernatorial and presidential inaugurations, celebrations, and political campaigns.

Quantity/Physical Description: 20.0 linear feet

Languages(s): English

Repository: Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2632

Restrictions on Access: None

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Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Buford Ellington Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Acquisition: John Ellington and Ann Ellington-Wagner, son and daughter of Buford Ellington, donated his collection to the Albert Gore Research Center in 1998.

Processed By: Original processor unknown

Biographical Note: Buford Ellington was born on June 27, 1907, in Holmes County, Mississippi. After his early education in Goodman, Mississippi, he studied religion at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. While editing a newspaper in Durant, Mississippi, he met and married Catherine Cheek of Marshall County, Tennessee. After ten years of marriage he moved his family to Verona, Marshall County, Tennessee, where he bought a general store. He then spent eight years as a salesman for International Harvester in Memphis. In 1942 he bought a farm and traveled the state for the Farm Bureau Insurance System.

Ellington entered politics by working for Jim Nance McCord in his races for U.S. representative and governor, and serving as Marshall County campaign manager for Joe Ervins in 1946. In 1948 Ellington was elected to the state legislature, representing Marshall County. In 1952 he led Frank Clement's campaign to defeat incumbent Governor Gordon Browning. After Clement was elected, Ellington became commissioner of agriculture. When Clement could not succeed himself as governor in 1958 Ellington ran, preserving the Clement-Ellington political coalition. He was elected, took office in 1959, and served until 1963.

During the 1960 Democratic primaries for president, Ellington supported Lyndon B. Johnson and served as the chairman of the 1960 Democratic National Convention. After his four-year term as governor, he sat out the 1962 race as required by the state constitution, and once again Frank Clement was elected governor. Ellington served as vice president of the Louisville-Nashville Railroad until he took a position in President Johnson's civil rights program. He was reelected governor in 1966 and served from 1967 until 1971. Shortly after leaving the governor's office, Ellington died while playing golf in Florida on April 3, 1972. He was buried in Lone Oak Cemetery in Lewisburg, Tennessee. (The biographical information is from *Tennessee: A Political History* by Phillip Langsdon)

Scope and Content: The Buford Ellington Papers contains documents covering primarily the period from 1957 to 1972 and relating to Ellington's political career comprise the majority of the 20.0 linear foot collection. It includes articles and journals from 1965 to 1972, books related to Tennessee or U.S. government, speeches given by Ellington, and memorabilia from Ellington's political career. In addition, the collection has numerous scrapbooks that have articles and photographs from Ellington's career as governor of Tennessee. There are also photographs of various political events such as gubernatorial and presidential inaugurations, celebrations, and political campaigns.

Arrangement: These materials are arranged into twelve series: Articles/ Journals; Brochures; Correspondence; Newspaper Clippings; Other Printed Materials; Reports; Speeches; Subject Files; Books; Audio/Visual; Memorabilia and Scrapbooks. The Articles/ Journals, Brochures, Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Other Printed Material, Reports, Subject Files, Books, Audio/Visual, and Memorabilia series are arranged alphabetically by subject. The memorabilia listed box 10A are large, framed items shelved with the rest of the collection. The scrapbooks are stored separately.

SERIES 1: Articles/Journals, 1965-1978 (15 Folders)

This series includes many items that are related to Tennessee such as visitors guides, Department of Agriculture reports, and Department of Mental Health Bulletins.

SERIES 2: Brochures, 1967-1969 (5 Folders)

This series provides biographical directories of various counties in Tennessee, pamphlets from the news show Meet the Press and a souvenir guide of the Tennessee State capitol.

SERIES 3: Correspondence, 1960s-1970s (2 Folders)

These files contain letters that were sent to Ellington when he was governor of Tennessee. The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the last names of the senders.

SERIES 4: Newspaper Clippings, 1961-1979 (11 Folders)

These files contain a varied assortment of items that were collected by Ellington and his family. Some of the materials included in this series are press releases regarding the Tennessee governor's race and campaign trail in 1966, information on Ellington's wife, Catherine Cheek, and the governor's mansion history.

SERIES 5: Other Printed Materials, 1962-1965 (6 Folders)

This series has a variety of materials that were collected by Ellington. Some of the items are pamphlets on Tennessee governors, a book on Industrial Development in Tennessee and a bulletin on the White House conference on health.

SERIES 6: Reports, 1965-1970 (8 Folders)

These files contain a varied assortment of items such as Ellington's report to the Nation during Boy Scout Week, manufacturing growth in Tennessee by industry, and a survey of the political climate in Tennessee in 1966.

SERIES 7: Speeches, 1958-1971 (10 Folders)

This series provides numerous speeches that were made by Ellington or collected by him during his political career. Some interesting items that are included in the files are a campaign introduction for Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, President Johnson's Inauguration Address, and various other Ellington speeches.

SERIES 8: Subject Files. 1958-1971 (48 Folders)

This series is the largest in the collection and contains numerous items that were collected by Ellington. Some of the materials include information on Louisville and Nashville Railroads, Southern Governor's conference bulletins, Emergency Planning Commission papers and information on Lyndon B. Johnson.

SERIES 9: Books, 1963-1970 (21 Items)

The items in this series were collected by Ellington. Some interesting sources in this series are a Blue Ribbon Tennessee Walking Horse Official Yearbook, Fifty Years of Primary Elections from 1916-1966, a book entitled Fifty Years of Tennessee Elections 1916-1966 and 2 volumes on the Public Papers of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

SERIES 10: Audio/Visual, 1959-1966 (10 Items)

This series has numerous items that provide audio or visual insights of Ellington's campaign for governor. Some items of interest include recordings of Ellington's campaign music and inauguration speeches.

SERIES 11: Memorabilia, 1959-1970 (27 Items)

Some of the items in this collection are posters of the interior of the State Legislature building, souvenirs from gubernatorial campaigns and letters from the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce.

SERIES 12: Scrapbooks, 1958-1970 (27 Items)

This series provides books with various photographs, newspaper clippings and press releases during Ellington's run for governor and during his years as governor.

Photograph Materials: All photographs from the Ellington Papers are stored separately.

Related Collections: The John Bragg Papers and the Jim Cummings Papers located at the Gore Center. The official gubernatorial papers of Buford Ellington are available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Subject Terms:

Persons:

Buford Ellington
Lyndon B. Johnson
Catherine Cheek
Winfield Dunn
Places: Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

Subjects (General):

Politics
Tennessee Governors
Democratic Party
Department of Agriculture
Department of Mental Health
Louisville and Nashville Railroad
Industrial development in Tennessee
Tellico Dam
Southern Governors' Conference

Material Types:

Scrapbooks
Articles
Maps
Brochures
Correspondence

Newspaper Clippings
 Reports
 Speeches
 Books
 Audio/ Visual material
 Subject files
 Memorabilia

Collection Inventory:

Box	Folder	Series	Description of Contents	Date
1	1	Articles/Journals	Dept of State Bulletin	Jan 1970
1	2	Articles/Journals	Fortune Magazine article, "Welfare with a Future"	July 1970
1	3	Articles/Journals	Fortune Magazine article, "The Looming Money Revolution Down South"	June 1970
1	4	Articles/Journals	Tennessee Visitor Guide	Jan 1967
1	5	Articles/Journals	NY Journal-American, "LBJ-RFK Tilt in Tennessee"	Jan 1967
1	6	Articles/Journals	New Republic, "Nixon's Family Assistance Bill"	July 1970
1	7	Articles/Journals	Look, "The Story of James Earl Ray and the Plot to..."	Nov 1968
1	8	Articles/Journals	Marshall Co. Historical Quarterly, information on Catherine A. Cheek Ellington	Fall 1978
1	9	Articles/Journals	Nashville Magazine, "No Way to Go but Up: TN Demo. Face Fact..."	Oct 1968
1	10	Articles/Journals	Sports Today	Dec 1971
1	11		State Government Administration	July 1969
1	12	Articles/Journals	TN Dept of Agr Report Journal	June 1970
1	13	Articles/Journals	TN Dept of Mental Health, Vol. 15 #1 and #2	June 1970
1	14	Articles/Journals	TN Professional Engineer	Feb 1969
1	15	Articles/Journals	US News and World Report, "Mobilization Outlook,"- Dir. Emerg. Planning	Aug 1965
1	16	Brochures	Bio. Dir. TN Gen. Assembly Chester Co.	1996
1	17	Brochures	Bio. Dir. TN Gen. Assembly Marshall Co.	1967
1	18	Brochures	Bio. Dir. TN Gen. Assembly Lewis Co., Perry Co., Wayne	1967

			Co.	
1	19	Brochures	Meet the Press, Gov. Ellington as guest	Aug 1969
1	20	Brochures	Souvenir guide, TN State Capitol, Gov. Clement	N.D.
1	21	Correspondence	A-L	
1	22	Correspondence	M-Z	
1	23	Newspaper Clippings	Add. 87th Gen. Ass. Farwell 2 Articles (Memphis Press)	Jan 1971
1	24	Newspaper Clippings	Boy Scouts 60 th Anniversary, State House-Ethics Code-Scout	
1	25	Newspaper Clippings	Christmas Seal Campaign, Anne E. Wagner-March of Dimes Sock Hop	1966
1	26	Newspaper Clippings	Democratic Fund-Raising	
1	27	Newspaper Clippings	Ellington Funeral	Apt 1972
1	28	Newspaper Clippings	Ellington, Mrs. Buford press releases	
1	29	Newspaper Clippings	Governor's Mansion-History, Gov.'s Man.'s Echo with Hist, Love, War, Scandal	July 1979
1	30	Newspaper Clippings	Governor's Race/Campaign Trail	1966
1	31	Newspaper Clippings	JFK Assassination, Knoxville News-Sentinel	Nov 1963
1	32	Newspaper Clippings	Miscellaneous Events	
1	33	Newspaper Clippings	Southern Governors Conference	1961
2	1	Other Printed Material	Colonial(colonel) Comm. Awards, Blank Certificates	
2	2	Other Printed Material	Industrial TN/Ind. Devel. Div., Basic Industrial Data	
2	3	Other Printed Material	Old Grand-Dad Club Newsletter	Sept 1965
2	4	Other Printed Material	Strawberry Festival in Humbolt, TN	1970
2	5	Other Printed Material	Tennessee Governors-Pamphlet	1962
2	6	Other Printed Material Other Printed Material	White House Confer. on Health program	Nov 1965
2	7	Plaques and Awards	Eagle Scouts Recognition Dinner program	1962
2	8	Press Release	PR State of the State address by Ellington	Jan 1970
2	9	Reports	Adv. Comm. on Intergovernmental Relations, Letter and budget	Apr 1968

2	10	Reports	Boy Scout Week 1967, Report to the Nation	1967
2	11	Reports	National American Bahi of Human Rights, "Human Rights are God-Given..."	1968
2	12	Reports	Improving the Welfare System, Material Nixon Adm. Proposed Welfare Reform	July 1970
2	13		Manufact. Growth in TN by Industry, Report by Staff Div. Industrial Development Research Secretary	1965-70
2	14	Reports	Survey of Political Climate in TN, Study #360	May 1966
2	15	Reports	TN Highway Patrol Report, Highway Patrol Report & Name List Salaries	1966(?)
2	16	Reports	The Welfare Quagmire, Report by The National Urban Coalition	1970
2	17	Speeches	Emergency Planning, BE remarks/"Guidance for Non-Military Planning"	
2	18	Speeches	Two introductions of LBJ given by Ellington	July 1960 Apr 1961
2	19	Speeches	Notebook of speeches, Memorial Day service address	May 1971
2	20	Speeches	Copy of inaugural Address of President Lyndon B. Johnson	Jan 1965
2	21	Speeches	Notebook of Speeches—Civic Club, "Wake up call to Life"	
2	22	Speeches	Radio speech, Zeno Wall, Jr. on behalf of Ellington	Aug 1958
2	23	Speeches	Remarks concerning W. Dunn by Gov. Ellington	Jan 1971
2	24	Speeches	Rotary Club	1967
2	25	Speeches	Speech given in East TN (first page is missing)	1962?
2	26	Speeches	Cue cards for Ellington speech	
3	1	Subject Files	American Correctional Assoc., Survey of Youth Service Division of TN Dept	Aug 1970
3	2	Subject Files	Bicentennial Council 13 Org/State, Pic Commemorating Sign of Declaration of Independence	

3	3	Subject Files	Board of Governors Address, TN Manufacturers Association	Nov 1970
3	4	Subject Files	Campaign, to-do list and schedule	
3	5	Subject Files	Campaign—Inauguration; schedule, news releases, programs	Jan 1967
3	6	Subject Files	Civil Aeronautics Board, Application of Southern Airways, Inc. Renewal of Authorization	July 1965
3	7	Subject Files	Constitutional Convention	Dec 1965
3	8	Subject Files	Construction Costs, Industrial Buildings	1958
3	9	Subject Files	Correspondence—Nominations, for John C. Davis	1964
3	10	Subject Files	Correspondence—Nominations, miscellaneous	1964
3	11	Subject Files	Democratic National Convention, memorabilia	1976
3	12	Subject Files	Easter Seals, letter to Ellington asking for contribution	
3	13	Subject Files	Election Commission Appoint., list of names by county	1965
3	14	Subject Files	Emergency Planning Comm., Ellington's resignation letter (copy)	1966
3	15	Subject Files	Emergency Planning Comm., miscellaneous	
3	16	Subject Files	Emergency Planning Comm., nominations	1965
3	17	Subject Files	Emergency Planning Office-Rec., Record of calls/Ellington Director of Emergency Planning	1965-66
3	18	Subject Files	Emergency Planning-Senate Nom., Senate hearings on nomination-Ellington	Feb 1965
3	19	Subject Files	Freemasons, honored J. Edgar Hoover	Oct 1965
3	20	Subject Files	4H Brochure	1969
3	21	Subject Files	Gatlinburg Planetarium & Space museum proposal	1964
3	22	Subject Files	Hands Across the Sea (from Japan)	Jan 1970
3	23	Subject Files	Johnson, Lyndon Baines—	1966

			Mementos from visit with the Ellingtons	
3	24	Subject Files	Inauguration to EPC for Ellington; guest list, schedule and resignation letter	1965-66
3	25	Subject Files	Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co.; paperwork for Hulen C. Walker—work inquiry	1964
3	26	Subject Files	Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co., miscellaneous	
4	1	Subject Files	Mid-State Flight School	1965
4	2	Subject Files	Name lists—Christening of the SS Yorkmar	1965
4	3	Subject Files	Name lists—Law License	1968
4	4	Subject Files	National Defense Exec. Reserve; 4 th national conference program	1965
4	5	Subject Files	National Governors' Conference program	1961
4	6	Subject Files	National Governors' Conference, bulletin and congressional box score	1968
4	7	Subject Files	National Governors' Conference, rules of procedure	
4	8	Subject Files	Raytheon Company brochure	Apr 1965
4	9	Subject Files	Resolution letter-TN, Appt. for Adjunct Gen. and Sec. of Labor	1967
4	10	Subject Files	Schedules	July 1964
4	11	Subject Files	Southern Governors' Conference programs	1961
4	12	Subject Files	Southern Governors' Conference	1962
4	13	Subject Files	Southern Governors' Conference	1969
5	1	Subject Files	Toxic Material—bulletin on use of non-toxic paints	May 1969
5	2	Subject Files	Tellico Dam Project	1969
5	3	Subject Files	Tellico Dam Project	1969
5	4	Subject Files	Ten Men from Tennessee report	1959
5	5	Subject Files	Ten Men from Tennessee report	1961
5	6	Subject Files	Tombigbee Waterway report	1968
6	1	Subject Files	State of TN Compensation Plan	1958
6	2	Subject Files	State of TN Compensation	1958

			Plan	
7		Audio/Visual	"The World in Sound" Record	1966
7		Audio/Visual	Ellington campaign music record (2 copies)	
7		Audio/Visual	Ellington's acceptance speech record	
7		Audio/Visual	Ellington's inauguration record	
7		Audio/Visual	Mister Democrat—Pete Quino	
7		Audio/Visual	Puerto Rico film reel	1959
7		Audio/Visual	Tape recording of swearing in at White House	1965
7		Audio/Visual	Tennesseans Salute Oil's Centennial	
7		Audio/Visual	Unlabeled film reel	
7		Audio/Visual	Videocassette from Brian England	
7		Audio/Visual	59th Annual National Governors' Conference	1967
8		Books	Alcoa—Report	
8		Books	Am. White Paper: US Foreign Policy NBC News	
8		Books	Blue Ribbon TN Walking Horse Official Yearbook	
8		Books	Bridges to Understanding Int' Prog. of Am C&U	
8		Books	Dept of Ed. State of TN Report	1969
8		Books	Fifty Years of Primary Elections 1916–66	
8		Books	Fifty Years of Primary Elections 1916–66 (copy 2)	
8		Books	Gibson County: Past and Present	
8		Books	Governors of the American States	1959
8		Books	Guard and Grow 46th Bi-Report TN Dept Arg.	1965-66
8		Books	Hands Across America (by Youth Inc.)	
8		Books	House Journal: TN 1961	1961
8		Books	Lead Me On	
8		Books	Messages of the Governors of Tennessee Vols. 3,4,6	
9		Books	Nat' Life Story: Hist. Of Nat' Life & Acc.Ins.Co	
9		Books	No Retreat from Tomorrow-	

			LBJ's message 90th Congress	
9		Books	On Capitol Hill a Tennessean Examines His State Govt.	
9		Books	Proceedings of National Gov. Conf.	1962
9		Books	Proceedings of National Gov. Conf.	1965
9		Books	Pub. Papers of the Pres LBJ Vol. I, II (2)	1963-64
10		Memorabilia	"Over the Top" Cartoon	1962
10		Memorabilia	10 Original Lithographs by Roland Golden	
10		Memorabilia	Album on Ellington's Visit to Millsaps College	
10		Memorabilia	Appointment book	1965
10		Memorabilia	Beechlawn Farm letterheads	
10		Memorabilia	Buford's & Catherine's Ribbons	1967
10		Memorabilia	Don Whitehead Reports: On the Great Raids	
10		Memorabilia	In Memorium of Ellington from Nashville Banner	
10		Memorabilia	Letters from TN Chamber of Commerce	
10		Memorabilia	National Governor's Conference letterheads	
10		Memorabilia	Posters of Interior of State Legislature building	
10		Memorabilia	Samuel T. Rayburn Bridge cartoon	
10		Memorabilia	Sketch Portrait of Ellington	
10		Memorabilia	Southern Governors Conference	1970
10		Memorabilia	Souvenir from Ellington Inauguration	1959
10		Memorabilia	TN Telephone Association poster	
10		Memorabilia	Yellow banner "Ellington for Tennessee"	
10		Memorabilia	Pers.of the South, The Society of Ama. Chefs, biographical information	
10		Memorabilia	programs	
10		Memorabilia	Music, "A Salute to Lebanon" (signed)	
10A		Memorabilia	Biological Science Building dedication	1968

10A		Memorabilia	Buford Ellington: Statesman, Humanitarian	
10A		Memorabilia	Ellington for Governor: Greenville Sun News	
10A		Memorabilia	Frontier Person	
10A		Memorabilia	Lyndon B. Johnson certificate to Ellington	1967
10A		Memorabilia	Lyndon B. Johnson certificate to Ellington	1965
10A		Memorabilia	Richard Nixon certificate to Ellington	
10A		Memorabilia	Boy Scouts paperweight	
10A		Memorabilia	Cartoon drawing of Ellington	
10A		Memorabilia	Letter from LBJ	
10A		Memorabilia	Man of the Year award	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Photograph	
10A		Memorabilia	Plaque with thermometer	
10A		Memorabilia	Safety paperweight	
10A		Memorabilia	Tennessee plaque—Tennessee Day, Fort Campbell	
10B		Memorabilia	Award	
10B		Memorabilia	Book	
10B		Memorabilia	Boy Scout Award	
10B		Memorabilia	Commemorative plaque—Ellington and American Legion	
10B		Memorabilia	Large, colorful ribbon	
10B		Memorabilia	Name label—Buford Ellington, Governor of Tennessee	
10B		Memorabilia	Name label—Gov. Buford Ellington	
10B		Memorabilia	Plaque—Governor Buford Ellington, Tennessee	
10B		Memorabilia	Tennessee Blue Book	
11		Scrapbooks	Newspaper clippings of TN, Ellington,	

			Clement	
11		Scrapbooks	Scrapbook of TN made by Ann Ellington	
11		Scrapbooks	Southern Governors Conference	1962
12		Scrapbooks	Miscellaneous	
13		Scrapbooks	Miscellaneous	
14		Scrapbooks	Campaign	1958
15		Scrapbooks	Ellington, Governor of TN	1959-60
16		Scrapbooks	Parking Signs/ Scrapbook on Washington D.C.	1964-65
17		Scrapbooks	Ellington, Governor of TN	1961-62
18		Scrapbooks	Gubernatorial Campaign	
19		Scrapbooks	Inauguration/State of State Address/Highlights	1967
20		Scrapbooks	Employment Security/Federal-State Relations	1967
21		Scrapbooks	Law Enforcement and Laws	1967
22		Scrapbooks	Election Parties, Science, Transportation	1967
23		Scrapbooks	Tax revenue, tax study commission	
24		Scrapbooks	Governor's Cabinet/ Federal & Local Gov't	1968
25		Scrapbooks	Dedications, Proclamation Awards	1968
26		Scrapbooks	Election and Politics	1968
27		Scrapbooks	Employment Security, Health, Welfare, Laws	1968
28		Scrapbooks	Personal/News Media/State Government	1969
29		Scrapbooks	Legislature and Laws	1969
30		Scrapbooks	Education/Colleges/Youth Groups	1969
31		Scrapbooks	Agriculture/Art & Music/Health	
32		Scrapbooks	Personal/News Media/State Government	1970
33		Scrapbooks	Law Enforcement and Correction/Elections	1970
34		Scrapbooks	Elections and Politics	
35		Scrapbooks	Health/Education	1970