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Coleman, James P. collection CPRC.381

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Mississippi State University Libraries

P.O. Box 5408

Mississippi State 39762

sp_coll@library.msstate.edu

URL: <http://library.msstate.edu/specialcollections>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Mississippi State University Libraries
Title:	Coleman, James P. collection
ID:	CPRC.381
Date [inclusive]:	1949-1985
Physical Description:	2 Cubic Feet 1 cubic foot container, 1 oversized box, and 1 oversize folder.
Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical / Historical

James Plemon Coleman was born in Ackerman, Mississippi on January 9, 1914. He attended the University of Mississippi and joined the staff of U.S. Representative Aaron Ford from Mississippi. While working for Ford, Coleman attended the George Washington University School of Law, graduating in 1939. After returning to Ackerman to practice law, Coleman was elected district attorney and in 1946 he won a race for circuit judge. Four years later, Coleman became the youngest member of the Mississippi Supreme Court, but less than a year later, he accepted a job as the state attorney general. Coleman's firm stance on narrow interpretation of the law helped him in his campaign for Democratic nomination for governor in 1955.

Coleman was sworn in as Governor of Mississippi on January 17, 1956. Perceived to be a "moderate" segregationist, Coleman supported legal means of resisting desegregation while disavowing extremist rhetoric or tactics by white supremacists. While Coleman was governor, the legislature fought back against integration by creating the State Sovereignty Commission and installing a law legalizing interposition, allowing for the state to challenge *Brown v. Board of Ed.* Coleman attempted to convene a state constitutional convention in 1957 to reframe the Mississippi constitution in light of recent federal laws regarding racial issues, but the legislature defeated his efforts.

Due to a clause preventing consecutive terms, after his four year term as governor was over, Coleman ran and was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served from 1960 to 1964. Coleman ran for governor again, but his connections with President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson helped lead to his defeat in the Democratic primary.

In 1965, President Johnson nominated Coleman as judge to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth District. The Senate approved Coleman's nomination on July 26, 1965. Coleman ascribed to a narrow

constitutionalist interpretation of federal law during his time on the bench. In 1984, Coleman retired from the bench to practice law with his son. Coleman died on September 28, 1991 and is buried in Ackerman, MS.

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Scope and Contents

Speeches, public statements, newspaper clippings, campaign advertisements, government documents, scrapbooks, oral history interviews, M.A. thesis and seminar paper concerning the public career of J.P. Coleman, Mississippi governor (1956-1960) and judge of U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

This collection consists of gifts and copies from the following collections: Allen Eugene Cox, Wilson Minor, John C. Stennis, Kenneth Toler, and Mississippiana Vertical file.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Box 1	box 1
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Cubic Feet	
General Political Speeches, 1956-1957	box 1 folder 1

General

Speeches made by James P. Coleman while serving as governor. Includes his Inaugural Address and a speech entitled "Origin of the Constitution of 1890."

Messages as Governor to Legislature, 1956-1960	box 1	folder 2
Campaign Speeches, 1955	box 1	folder 3
Clippings (C-0), 1955	box 1	folder 4
Clippings (C-1), 1956-03-01-1956-07-18	box 1	folder 5
Clippings (C-2), 1956-08-1956-12-31	box 1	folder 6
Clippings (C-3), 1957-01-03-1957-03-18	box 1	folder 7
Clippings (C-4), 1957-04	box 1	folder 8
Clippings (C-5), 1957-05-1957-06-30	box 1	folder 9
Clippings (C-6), 1957-07-1957-10-26	box 1	folder 10
Clippings (C-6), 1957-07-1957-10-26	box 1	folder 10
Clippings (C-7), 1957-11-1957-12-31	box 1	folder 11
Clippings (C-8), 1958-01-03-1958-02-27	box 1	folder 12
Clippings (C-9), 1958-03-1958-04-30	box 1	folder 13
Clippings (C-10), 1958-05-1958-12-19	box 1	folder 14
Clippings (C-11), 1959-01-1959-05-30	box 1	folder 15
Clippings (C-12), 1959-06-1959-08	box 1	folder 16
Clippings (C-13), 1959-09-1959-12-31	box 1	folder 17
Clippings (C-14), 1960-1960-12-22	box 1	folder 18
Clippings (C-15), 1961-1961-08-16	box 1	folder 19
Clippings (C-16), 1962-01-04-1962-12-20	box 1	folder 20
Speeches, 1963-04-09-1963-05-11	box 1	folder 21

General

Speeches by James P. Coleman during his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1963.

Campaign Advertisements, 1963-05-1963-08-23	box 1	folder 22
Anti-Coleman Campaign Booklet, 1963-08	box 1	folder 23

General

This booklet was produced by opponents of Coleman's 1963 bid for the Democratic nomination for the governor's seat by

detailing issues and concerns with Coleman's actions during his first term as governor.

Clippings (C-17), 1963-03-14-1963-05-22	box 1	folder 24
Clippings (C-18), 1963-07-12-1963-07-31	box 1	folder 25
Clippings (C-19), 1963-08-1963-08-08	box 1	folder 26
Clippings (C-20), 1963-08-09-1963-09-03	box 1	folder 27
Clippings (C-21), 1965-05-02-1965-08-29	box 1	folder 28
Clippings (C-22), 1966-1970	box 1	folder 29
Clippings (C-23), 1981-1984	box 1	folder 30
Public Statements, 1949-1960	box 1	folder 31
Clippings (C-24), 1984-1985	box 1	folder 32
Oral History-John C. Stennis and James P. Coleman, 1977-08-22	box 1	folder 33
General		
Interview by Jim Shoalmire		
Oral History-James P. Coleman, 1981-10-30	box 1	folder 34
General		
By Connie Lynnette Cartridge		
Seminar Paper, 1981	box 1	folder 35
General		
By Connie Lynnette Cartridge		
Oral History-James P. Coleman, 1981-10-30	box 1	folder 34
General		
Interview by Connie Lynnette Cartridge		
Interview with James P. Coleman, 1983-10-01	box 1	folder 36A and 36B
General		
Interview by Michael Ballard and Connie Lynnette Cartridge		
Letter from Sam J. Ervin, Jr., 1982-10-05	box 1	folder 37
M.A. Thesis: "James P. Coleman: Moderate Politician in an Age of Racial Strife, 1950-1965", 1983	box 1	folder 38

General

By Connie Lynnette Cartridge

Photograph of J.P. Coleman	box 1	folder 39
U.S. Senate Nomination of James P. Coleman for U.S. Circuit Court, 1963-07-12-1963-07-13	box 1	folder 40
Recollection of J.P. Coleman Regarding Medgar Evers' Attempt to Integrate the University of Mississippi in 1954, 1985-06-10	box 1	folder 41
Scrapbooks, (bulk)	box 2	

General

Two scrapbooks from James P. Coleman, one covering the years 1955-1956 and the other from 1955-1957 and 1963.

1963 Campaign Advertisements, 1963-07-1963-08-26 folder 3

Oversize Folder:

Oversize Folder

The folder may be labelled FF 9 in OS 13 of Special Collections, but its location is currently unknown.