



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

July 2004

### From the Chair

*L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin*

Appropriate for a Roundtable, here are some circular thoughts: I am always appreciative of the work of our great communicators, Katie Senft and Glenn Gray. Not only do they edit and distribute the newsletter, they maintain the membership e-mail list and use it to relay interim news and queries for our Roundtable. In recent months, we've been notified of a relevant book review of *Women Transforming Congress* (Congressional Studies Series. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2002), surveyed about availability of travel funds to support congressional research, EVited to a tour at the Moakley archive, and solicited for contributions to this newsletter. In the absence of SAA supporting an "official" e-mail list for us (because we are not a Section), please remember that you can ask Senft & Gray to distribute relevant news and queries to CPR members. And, if you want to share responses to anything communicated that way please remember to REPLY ALL. That keeps us well rounded. The other steady leg of our communication tripod is Sarah Keen, who maintains our Web site and welcomes your input for content.

*Continued on page 2*

### Association of Centers for the Study of Congress 2nd Annual Meeting

Thirty-five members of The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) met May 5 - 6 at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC for their second meeting. Lee Hamilton gave a lively keynote address on the topic of the "problems of Congress." Nancy Beck Young, author of a biography on Wright Patman and who is currently working on a history of Congress during WW II, stressed the central role that archival sources play in her research. Lawrence C. Dodd, author of *Congress Reconsidered*, enumerated several things that Centers could do to assist political science research. Chief among these was to capture documentation on how members interact with constituents, stressing that big changes often begin at the local level. Sessions on the Archival Mission of Centers and Guidelines for Congressional Repositories provided concrete advice and models. A *Foundations of Freedom* learning model was shown. The

DVD explores various themes like popular sovereignty, federalism, representative government, etc., using multiple perspectives and formats and encourages students to explore the themes, research the issues, and then write about them. There also were demonstrations of the Senate's OnBase document management system and of the Muskie Legislative Record, a research tool created by the Muskie Foundation aimed at high school and college students. The group adopted by-laws and elected officers. Next year's conference is scheduled to be held at the Center for Legislative Archives, and the Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut has offered to host the 2006 conference. The Association hopes to attract new members and developed criteria for admittance.

*Karen Paul*

*For the full minutes of the meeting, see page 8. For transcriptions of talks given at the conference, see the ACSC web site at <http://www.congresscenters.org/conference2004.htm>.*

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## Chair (cont. from page 1)

Keen recently added Jim Cartwright's bibliographic essay on *Reference Works for Congressional Papers Repositories* and Jean Bischoff's good list of institutions that sponsor travel and research grants to use congressional collections in their repositories. Bischoff caught the list idea punted to the Roundtable by our new best team mate in the wild game of congressional research, political scientist Sean Kelly, who will introduce us to a whole new set of professional acronyms, beginning with an article on page 5 of this newsletter. Kelly (Niagara University) and his colleague Scott Frisch (California State University, Channel Islands) have reached across their discipline and begun an exciting dialogue with us about the untapped data to be found in congressional collections – what political scientists should know about potential sources and how archivists can help find them. This is an exciting outreach opportunity as well as an educational one for us to talk directly with a user group to find out what they are looking for in our collections. Imagine how this can improve our archival work in description, appraisal, and even acquisition. Kelly is already passing more balls for us to catch, initiatives for Congressional Archival Research in Political Science: a session on archival research at the Northeastern Political Science Association meeting in Boston in November, and perhaps an APSA Short Course at their August 2005 meeting in D.C. Kelly is working on that idea with Center for Legislative Archives Director

Richard Hunt, who he met at the ACSC meeting in May.

ACSC is one of “our” acronyms, as Karen Paul will report in this newsletter (see page 1). Working in concentric circles with us, the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress promotes the study of Congress, the collection of archival sources supporting the study of Congress, and the development of educational initiatives and public programs related to Congress. The program part of our Roundtable meeting in Boston will include a panel discussing the archival benefits of building a research center identity. Please join us on Thursday, August 5 at 5:30 p.m.

And if your travel plans suit, please join a Wednesday, August 4, afternoon tour of the Joe Moakley papers hosted by Beth Bower at Suffolk University Law School. Thank you, Jan Zastrow, for volunteering to set up this “unofficial” event for us. I know chair-elect Naomi Nelson will welcome more volunteers to participate and plan for New Orleans 2005 and beyond – with task forces, projects, Web sources, news, another tour?, and session proposals. Thanks to Jeff Suchanek for compiling this year's steering committee slate. I'll have his job next year, so help me to help you find something to do with the Roundtable – get in touch.

See you 'round, LRJM



## Institutional News

### University of South Carolina, South Caroliniana Library

The University of South Carolina's South Caroliniana Library has inaugurated a new summer archival internship program, with stipends. The Library's Modern Political Collections division recently hosted intern Barbara Heck, from North Carolina State University, who assisted with processing invitations and scheduling files from the collection of United States Senator (formerly Congressman) Lindsey Graham (R-SC). The invitations series, which originally comprised 27.5 linear feet of materials, has been weeded, arranged, and rehoused, and now stands at 16.5 linear feet. Processing continues on other portions of the

Graham collection, which documents Graham's service in Congress and particularly his work on the House Judiciary Committee.

Modern Political Collections also recently received the papers of Congressman Floyd Spence, who represented South Carolina's Second District from 1971 until his death in 2001. Spence was instrumental in the development of the modern Republican Party in the state and rose to national prominence as the three-term chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Approximately 170 linear feet of materials have been received.

*Dorothy Hazelrigg*

## **Center for Legislative Archives**

### **Hunt Selected as Director**

Richard H. Hunt was selected as the new Director of the Center for Legislative Archives, effective May 16, 2004. Hunt began his archival career at the Center for Legislative Archives in 1989 and has served as assistant director, congressional outreach specialist, and archivist. Before coming to the National Archives in 1989, Hunt was a lecturer and visiting assistant professor for five years at the University of California, San Diego and at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he taught courses in United States history and modern European history.

Hunt had been acting director of the Center after Michael L. Gillette left the position in June 2003. Gillette, who had been Director since 1991, took a position as Executive Director of the Texas Council for the Humanities.

### **Congressional Collections at Archival Institutions**

The Center for Legislative Archives added a new feature to the Congressional Collections at Archival Institutions website. In addition to searching by repository and member's name, one can now search for members' papers by state location. The website can be accessed at [www.archives.gov/records\\_of\\_congress/repository\\_collections/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/records_of_congress/repository_collections/index.html)

If you would like to add your repository to the list or you have new collections to add, please contact Kate Mollan at 202-501-5350 or by e-mail, [Katherine.mollan@nara.gov](mailto:Katherine.mollan@nara.gov). Include the name of your repository, the name of the member of Congress whose papers are held, the body of Congress (House or Senate), service dates, the member's home state, the URL for the repository, and the URL for any online finding aids.

*Katherine Mollan*

## **Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, UGA Libraries**

### **Power to the People! Rural Electrification in Georgia A New Exhibit Opening February 2005**

Archivists at the Russell Library are hard at work on a new exhibit and documentation project designed to capture and present the history of rural electrification and the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in

Georgia. Initially, materials and information gathered for the project will enrich the Library's exhibition content. Subsequently, much of this material and information will become a resource for students and researchers in the Library. The documentation strategy for the project includes identification of material already deposited in archival repositories, as well as material still held by private individuals and organizations. The chief emphasis employed by the Russell in locating material held privately has been to work closely with electrical membership cooperatives in the state, many of which have retained historically significant records. To complement these records, the Russell Library has also developed and distributed a series of questionnaires designed to gather individual memories and perspectives from people who experienced the transition from life without electricity to life with electricity.

The impetus for the project is twofold. Senator Russell, the library's namesake, was a strong supporter of REA early on and served as a floor manager for the 1936 bill. His senate files from this period include some remarkable material. Not surprisingly, issues associated with REA also appear regularly in many other collections. Secondly, the subject of rural electrification is eminently consonant with the Russell Library's mission and documentation interests precisely because REA's historical development exists at the intersection of public policymaking and political action. Hailed by many as a hallmark of government at its most noble and compassionate that would lead America out of the Great Depression, and decried by others as a communistic act of an interventionist federal government, the history of REA, and that of New Deal programs in general, express the often contentious and usually complex relationship of American politics and policy, as well as their relationship to broader social and economic forces. For more information about the project contact Jill Severn at [jsevern@uga.edu](mailto:jsevern@uga.edu).

*Jill Severn*

## Arizona State University Libraries

### Arizona's Statesman: Congressman John. J. Rhodes

The John Rhodes website (<http://info.lib.asu.edu/lib/archives/rhodes/welcome.htm>) is both a tribute to the life and accomplishments of Congressman John Rhodes as well as an educational tool for students, researchers, and the public. Because



*Congressman Rhodes in his office. Capitol Dome in background. (ACC 1995-01634, 1/13 - Arizona Collection, Arizona State University Libraries)*

Mr. Rhodes's congressional career spanned three turbulent decades in U.S. history (1953-1983), the site provides an insider's perspective on such topics as Watergate, the Cold War, and the economy, to name but a few.

The site utilizes both past and recent writings by Mr. Rhodes, as well as newspaper articles, photographs, and ephemera from his papers, which are housed at the Arizona State University Archives, to illustrate Mr. Rhodes's career and the part he played in both national and Arizona politics.

Through this website we hope to raise awareness about John Rhodes's remarkable career and achievements, and make site users aware of the vast amount of useful material that is available in the Rhodes Collection in the Arizona Collection at ASU.

*Rose Minetti*

### OnBase Pilot Project in Senate

A few Senate offices are participating in a pilot project using OnBase. This system uses commercially off-the-shelf content management software. Documents are scanned or up-loaded into a database, which can be accessed and searched by authorized personnel. OnBase is especially effective in managing files that constitute an easily recognizable series, such as newspaper clippings or press releases. As an end product documents on this system can be transferred to microfilm. This digital project meets current National Archives requirements.

*Cynthia Pease Miller*



### USE GOOGLE TO SEARCH THE BIOGUIDE DATABASE

You can search the Bioguide database using the Google Advanced Search function. This facilitates a global search of the database.

For example, you can find all collections listed in a certain repository. Or develop a list of all members who attended West Point.

- (1) Go to [google.com](http://google.com)
- (2) Click on Advanced Search (or go to [http://www.google.com/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en))
- (3) Fill in your search term in the first space, and fill in the word senator in the third space (to avoid getting reps as well as senators).
- (4) Fill in the URL -- <http://bioguide.congress.gov> -- in the last space, for domain.
- (5) Hit enter or click search.

*Betty K. Koed*

## Louisiana State University Libraries

The Louisiana State University Libraries' Special Collections will receive the papers of retiring Louisiana Senator John Breaux this fall. Breaux has served in the Senate since 1986 and served ten years in the House of Representatives before that.

*Faye Phillips*

## University of Delaware Library

The University of Delaware Library has recently acquired the scrapbooks of William F. Allen, a Democrat who served a single term representing Delaware in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1937 to 1939. The research value of scrapbooks is often overlooked, but the "scraps" they hold are often the only remaining documentation of interesting lives and events. As in the case of the Allen scrapbooks, the two volumes compiled by him and his family provide scarce source material for information about Allen's political career and personal history. The scrapbooks were donated by his grandson William C. Allen, architectural historian of the United States Capitol.

William F. Allen was born in Bridgeville, Delaware, in 1883, and died in Lewes, Delaware, in 1946. A Democrat and firm believer in President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal policies, in 1936 he was elected to the Seventy-fifth Congress. He was defeated in his re-election bid of 1938 in a national Republican landslide. Following his defeat, Allen removed himself from politics and focused on his petroleum business.

Allen's single term in Congress capped his political career as a lifelong Sussex County Democrat. The scrapbooks primarily chronicle his term in Washington,

though clippings, correspondence, and personal ephemera reveal details about Allen's business ventures and earlier civic and political activities. Throughout, the scrapbooks document Democratic party politics at the local and state level.

When the brief finding aid for the collection is posted online, the Library will notify the Center for Legislative Archives as well as the House Office of the Clerk to update the scant biographical sources available for this one-term representative.

L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin

## Political Scientists: Strangers in a Wonderland

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"Political scientist...hmm...I can't say we've ever had a political scientist in here. You might be the first one!" That is the typical response we have gotten when visiting congressional papers collections. For the past four years we have traveled to the archived papers of House members. Twenty-three collections in all; we have physically visited 20 of them in 25 trips, racking up more than 40,000 air miles and too many days away from our families.

What booty were we seeking? requests for House committee assignments that are submitted by individual House members to party leadership committees that make committee assignments.<sup>1</sup> What impelled us? the richness of the data available in members' papers. These data have allowed us to reconsider, and raise a significant challenge to, what has become the conventional wisdom about members' committee assignments.<sup>2</sup> In our on-going research we are seeking similar data for the Senate, especially for Senate Republicans; we are also seeking data on appropriations earmark requests made to Appropriations Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs.

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<sup>1</sup> The names of the leadership committees have changed over time: the Democratic Committee on Committees before 1974, the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee since 1974; the Republican Committee on Committees until 1995 and the Republican Steering Committee since 1995.

<sup>2</sup> We have recently finished a manuscript entitled *Committee Assignment Politics in the U.S. House*, largely based on these data, which will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Following the publication of an article titled "Don't Have the Data? Make Them Up!" (<http://faculty.niagara.edu/sqkelly/workingpapers.htm>) in one of our disciplinary journals we were able to identify a small, ragtag, underground movement within our discipline that is doing archival research, but it is small. While it is exciting to be blazing trails for political scientists in congressional papers, our work has left us wondering why political scientists have not done a better job of exploiting these resources, and what *we* can do about it. As a result we have reached out to the archival community to partner in an effort to spur interest in our discipline and, hopefully, provide some benefit to the archival community (to which we owe a great deal!).

### **Congressional Archival Research in Political Science (CARPS)**

The archived papers of former members of Congress represent a significant, but underexploited, research resource for congressional scholars in political science and students of American politics. Political science does not have a strong archival research tradition. Developing a tradition is hindered by practical and sociological barriers in the field. Graduate faculties in political science programs generally are not familiar with the rich data that are available in paper collections. They do not train or encourage their students to exploit paper collections. Ironically some of the top political science programs are at universities that have or are close to major congressional collections, e.g., the University of Michigan (Gerald Ford), the University of Texas (Lyndon Johnson, Sam Rayburn), and Harvard University (Tip O'Neill, John McCormack, Joe Moakley,

to name just a few). Access to ready datasets – public opinion surveys, roll call votes – discourages dissertation-bound students from collecting significant new data from congressional collections. Finally, there is significant uncertainty about potential funding and publication opportunities, which are uppermost in the minds of graduate students facing a lack of funding and a tight job market.

CARPS is aimed at expanding the use of archival research by American politics scholars, particularly congressional scholars. We have proposed to enter into an alliance with the Congressional Papers Roundtable in an interdisciplinary collaboration between political scientists and the archival community through a series of advocacy, networking, and training initiatives. It is our hope that such an alliance will have benefits for both disciplines.

**Advocacy.** Advocacy initiatives are aimed at promoting the use of congressional papers by political scientists in their research through cross-disciplinary dialogue between political scientists and archivists. Our first step is a roundtable composed of both archivists and political scientists in Boston at the Northeastern Political Science Association this November. We hope to follow this with similar sessions at the national conventions of the Society of American Archivists and the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 2005.

**Networking.** Through CARPS we also seek to improve disciplinary and cross-disciplinary communication as a means of improving the ability of political scientists to exploit paper collections in their research. First, we are seeking an appropriate means for uniting political scientists and archivists through an e-mail listserv that will promote dialogue between political scientists who are already doing research in congressional papers, between active researchers and prospective researchers, and between the political science and archival community. We would also like to establish a web site for cross-disciplinary information sharing including databases of available collections and funding sources for archival research, announcements of new collections, introductory materials, and suggested resources. Finally, we are working on establishing strategic partnerships with organizations (e.g., the Legislative Studies Section of APSA, the Society of American Archivists, the Association of Centers for the Study of

Congress, and The Dirksen Congressional Center) that enjoy broader and more established audiences in their disciplines and on the Internet.

**Training.** One of the major barriers to greater use of congressional papers collections is the lack of archival training and experience among political science faculty and graduate students. CARPS seeks to better prepare political scientists to do archival research that enriches research and teaching about Congress. Our first initiative is a Short Course at the 2005 APSA annual meeting in Washington, DC. The short course will unite political scientists and archivists in helping to train political scientists in the mechanics and challenges of archival research. In this effort we have already teamed with the Center for Legislative Archives at the NARA, who will serve as our hosts. In addition to this training we hope to produce a short edited book aimed at the political science community tentatively titled *Archival Research for Political Scientists* that can be used by potential researchers and by faculty in their methodology and substantive political science seminars.

So far we have had a uniformly enthusiastic response from archivists from across the country to our initiative. This is no surprise to us as we have found archivists to be helpful and interested in advancing our research in any way they can.

**Benefits to the Archival Community.** One question remains: What are the benefits of this collaboration for the archival community? We see at least two benefits. The first is practical. In this time of tight budgets increased demand for services at archives from political scientists can provide ammunition with university administrations in budget fights. Second, viewing your collection from a political scientist's perspective can provide a different insight into elements of your collection. For instance, at a recent meeting we were discussing the ever-thorny issue of constituent mail (keep it? toss it? sample it?) with a group of archivists. An enduring question in political science is how members of Congress decide to cast their votes in the House or Senate. The conventional wisdom suggests that if constituents are paying close attention to an issue members will "vote their constituency" and if they are ignoring an issue, members will "vote their conscience." From a political scientist's point of view constituent mail could be used as a measure of local opinion on

important issues facing the Congress and be correlated with members' roll call votes, thus addressing a major puzzle in congressional studies in a more satisfying way than it has in the past. Tossing these letters or sampling them would foreclose this research strategy. This may not be enough to cause your collection to keep constituent mail but it may be a perspective that had not been previously considered in your internal discussions. Political scientists bring a different perspective that some may find valuable.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## SAA Annual Meeting – Boston, MA

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### **Tour of the Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers**

Wednesday, August 4, 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Please make your SAA travel plans so that you can join us for a free, unofficial pre-conference tour of the Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers (<http://www.joemoakley.org>) at Suffolk University on Wednesday, Aug. 4, from 3-5 p.m.!

We will meet in the Boston Park Plaza Hotel lobby at 2:30 and walk the short distance across the Boston Common to the John Joseph Moakley Library at Suffolk University Law School. Moakley archivist Beth Bower will host us on a tour of the repository and discuss their bustling processing project, public programming, traveling exhibits and oral history projects.

There will also be a gallery exhibit--"Campaigns, Conventions & Cartoons"--displaying editorial cartoons from a number of political cartoonists in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention taking place in Boston the week before.

All this is FREE ... but we're limited to only 30 attendees, so if you haven't already RSVPed on the EVite website, please e-mail event coordinator Jan Zastrow at [zastrow@hawaii.edu](mailto:zastrow@hawaii.edu).

#### **About Congressman Moakley**

John Joseph "Joe" Moakley represented the 9th District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973 until his death in 2001. After his first term in Congress, Moakley was appointed to a seat on the powerful House Rules Committee, a seat previously

held by his mentor in Congress, former speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.

Moakley was appointed Chairman of the Rules Committee in June 1989. The House Rules Committee controls legislation that comes to the floor and the debate time on it. While not a household name (as is typical of House leaders) Moakley wielded power within the House. Those were the years of a dynamic Massachusetts Delegation: McCormick, O'Neill, Boland, Conte, and Frank (still serving). When control of the House of Representatives turned over to the Republicans in 1994, Moakley's position shifted from chairman of the Rules Committee to Ranking Member.

Moakley is also known for his work concerning the abuses of human rights in El Salvador. The "Moakley Commission" issued a report, which revealed the involvement of several high-ranking Salvadoran military officials in the murders. This report resulted in the termination of U.S. military aid to El Salvador and is often credited with helping to end the brutal civil war in that country.

Joe Moakley was a "bread and butter" politician, caring first and foremost for the people he represented in Massachusetts. He lived by Tip O'Neill's old adage--"all politics is local," used his remarkable political clout to push through numerous pieces of legislation for many Massachusetts' projects, promoted high tech businesses, and created countless jobs throughout the Commonwealth.

## **CPR Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, August 5, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM, location TBA**

This meeting will include discussions on topics related to congressional papers. Also, panelists from the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress will discuss repository benefits from establishing identity as a center for study and research.

## **Candidate Bios**

### **Vice Chair-Chair Elect**

*Alan H. Haeberle*, Archivist, Office of Senator Orrin Hatch/Senate Committee on the Judiciary, since 2001. Archivist, Office of Senator Connie Mack, 2000. National Agricultural Library, 1997-1999. Univ. of Maryland, National Public Broadcasting Archives/Library of American Broadcasting, 1996, 1999-2000. George Meany Memorial Archives, 1995-1996. World Bank, 1994-1995. Consultant, 1991-1993. Field archivist and editor, Cornell Univ., NY Historical Documents Inventory, 1980-1984, 1989-1991. MLS Univ. of Maryland; AB Cornell Univ. Memberships: SAA, Co-editor CPR Newsletter, 2000-2003; CPR Steering Committee, 2002-2004. MARAC. Winner, MARAC Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award, 1999.

## **Steering Committee**

*Jan Zastrow*, M.L.I.S., Head, University Archives & Manuscripts, Hawaii Congressional Papers Archivist at the University of Hawaii Library since 2002; prior to this, Jan worked at the Hawaii State Archives, Iolani School Archives, the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library (Mission Houses Museum), and consulting archivist in the Office of the President of the University of Hawaii. Member (since 1989) and past president (1997-1999) of the Association of Hawaii Archivists, member of the Society of American Archivists, the Congressional Papers Roundtable, and the Academy of Certified Archivists (since 2002).

*Dorothy Hazelrigg*, Curator of Modern Political Collections at the University of South Carolina's South Caroliniana Library; University of Hawaii's Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection, contract archivist for the Senator Hiram L. Fong collection (2003); graduate assistant, Modern Political Collections and Senator Ernest F. Hollings Project Archivist 2000 to 2002; staff member in the Washington, D.C. and Columbia, South Carolina offices of Senator Hollings from 1996 to 1998. M.A. in history from the University of South Carolina. Member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, Society of American Archivists and of the South Carolina Archival Association, for which she serves on the editorial staff of the SCAA newsletter.

## **ACSC Minutes**

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**Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars  
Washington, DC  
May 5-6, 2004**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**

*Keynote: Lee Hamilton, 10:30 a.m.*

Problems with Congress: emphasis on winning, toeing the party line; too timid, giving all the initiative to the White House; oversight lacking, ethics in decline (standard has become criminal law). No one wants to serve on the Ethics Committee (LHH was on it for six years, following Tip O'Neill request on picking him up in the rain).

*Trends in Scholarship on Congress, 11:15-12:30 p.m.*

**Nancy Beck Young** (historian, biography of Wright Patman, working on book on Congress in World War II): **Call for more historical inquiry, harmonizing with new political science work and policy study.** Social and cultural history of 1960-70s pushed attention away from political actors, need to refocus on politics in that enriched context.

Recent work:

**Biographical:** Cradle-to-grave biographies, partial biographies, biographical studies addressing larger questions.

**Topical:** Merging Presidential focus with how Congress functions would be fruitful, roles of MCs in building larger movements.

Problem for historians is that they don't think of themselves as contributing to the literature on Congress.

Her session with Richard McCully (NARA) at AHA a couple of years ago tried to address this. Her style: archives first, put reading list aside. Her current book is about Congress in WWII, looking at the political transformations within government that made the other transformations possible; examination of the partisanship that supposedly disappeared in the face of war, also of the role of a Congress supposedly eclipsed by the executive. Congressional accomplishments include modernization of government but with bickering at the intersection of mobilization with domestic views/prejudices (racism). The book is important because it is part of the rediscovery of political history since 9/11, tracking the roots of polarization.

**Lawrence C. Dodd** (political scientist, *Congress Reconsidered; Citizen Democracy*, with Leslie Anderson. on Nicaragua): Tribute to Don Wolfensberger as head of Congress Project at WWIC, bringing academics and political actors together.

His link to centers for study of Congress is via Dirksen Center (Frank Mackaman), which had a strong grant program, and the Carl Albert Center.

### Political science literature:

*How we got to where we are re polarization*: Looks at

- (1) reforms, especially in 1970s, and crippling power of committee chairs, e.g. David Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*; and
- (2) realignment, e.g. Black and Black on rise of the Republicans.

*Where we are*: Rise of omnibus bills, polarization, e.g. *Roll-Call Polarization, Congress and the Presidency*.

*Aspects of System*: e.g. Larry Evans' work on changes in the whip system over time.

### What centers could do/needs for political science scholars:

(1) Literature on Congress is extensive but limited to DC and national focus; need to learn about local politics, how locals think, how newspapers cover Congress, local polling, surveys, debates (e.g. Richard Fenno, *Home Style*) documenting what a member of Congress experiences when s/he goes home.

(2) Relationships to state in terms of politics - *The State Roots of National Politics* is the only study.

(3) Communications revolution in Congress (e.g. Jim Thurber and Colin Campbell on the Internet revolution in Congress). E-mail is swamping House offices and changing the character of contact from distance and formality to immediacy and continuity and the sense of having one's own "pal" in Congress. Retention of files is also a problem.

(4) Shifting nature of congressional careers and overall career experience, including among their constituents, e.g. number of trips home (e.g. Fenno book again, also Theda Skocpol trying to study associations to test her thesis about elite associations); bear in mind the peripheral materials that provide context.

(5) Oral histories.

(6) Studying minority members - saving their papers, local minority politics, immigration policy; we're close to a female speaker, African-American chairs of committees are just ahead.

(7) Support for young scholars, money for masters and Ph.D. students - hard because internships tend to go to home undergrads; need also to provide opportunities at the pre-dissertation stage before writing styles and perspectives are set - could have a major impact on the direction research on Congress could take.

Q from Connell Gallagher: **Does sampling constituent correspondence and casework harm scholarship?**  
There's definitely a risk.

### *The Archival Mission of Centers, 1:30-3:00*

**Gary Copeland** (Carl Albert Center), chair: Asked panel members to address five questions in turn:

**(1) What is the archival responsibility to the scholarly community?**

**Tom Wilsted** (Dodd Center, U. of Connecticut): Is this the right question to ask? Depends on the mission of the institution: a university will be driven by its own scholarly community, even while considering the wider scholarly community. Non-scholars are also an audience. Need to provide all possible access, with no privileges given by donors, but also protecting privacy of researchers and their work.

**Terry Birdwhistell** (Wendell Ford Center, U. of Kentucky): Agrees with Tom regarding individual collection policies; emphasis on importance of finding

aids, being able to adequately process collections, balance in collections.

**Richard Hunt** (NARA): Emphasis on providing a place to do research, collections from Congress, and a Congressional historian on site. Scholars are often important sources for what is in the records.

**Sean Kelly** (political scientist, Niagara University): Introduced the CARPS (Congressional Archival Research in Political Science), which is the brainchild of him and Scott Frisch, trying to build bridges between archives and political science communities (connection is already there with historians).

## (2) How to promote effective use of collections?

**Sean Kelly:** Advocacy is a need: archivists can bring it into political science circles. Networking is another need, via e-mail and web sites, training and outreach.

Also, getting students to see archival research as viable.

**Richard Hunt:** ACSC will be key in promoting effective use, also in getting word out to APSA.

**Terry Birdwhistell:** Use depends on processing, cataloging, web, digitization, archivist knowledge (the archivist is still an important gatekeeper), making contacts to support collections.

**Tom Wilsted:** Finding aids are now online, next step is making them searchable (EAD/XML) - researchers want to be able to zero in. Question is how to respond to that kind of researcher. Other ideas: copy the things you have the most demand for, use online and in-person exhibits, conferences and speaker series on congressional topics, programs for secondary school students. Undergrads using collections via electronic reserves (no copyright issues because is a closed system).

**Gary Copeland:** Do we need training in using finding aids?

**Terry Birdwhistell:** Need to combat the Google-search mentality.

**Tom Wilsted:** New history grads need training in how archives work, much like that provided in the two booklets on using Presidential libraries (e.g. using oral histories); need a booklet on archives (APSA had something similar in its "Set-Ups" series).

**Chris Beam** (Muskie Archives): We should view archival research as the "lab work" for history undergrads and grads.

**Tom Wilsted:** Teaches a First-Year Experience Program with curators from the art and natural history museums, introducing students to the literature, other archives,

and museums; also teaches a graduate history class (10+ students) on using archives; has intern programs in history, English, political science.

(Question 3 postponed; see below)

## (4) What does a contemporary archivist do?

**Tom Wilsted:** Good development and fundraising (30-40% of time), is a visionary leader, has a team orientation, electronic skills, good donor relations, and a grounding in archival theory; can place collections in historical context.

**Terry Birdwhistell:** Electronic skills are especially important.

**Richard Hunt:** Young archivists don't necessarily see it as a life career, so need to help them contribute to the team even as temporary archivists. Best finding aid is a good archivist, with knowledge of the history of Congress, communications skills; someone who is a well-rounded individual.

**Sean Kelly:** Political scientists can help archivists understand political science researchers.

## Extra question from Gary Copeland: What should we do programmatically?

**Tom Wilsted:** Aim for a vibrant institution with lots of activities that people know. What you do with public programs is as important as what you do with archives.

**Terry Birdwhistell:** The facility itself is important. Be careful to maintain focus. Oral histories are important.

**Richard Hunt:** Responsibility of archivists regarding Senate and House regulations is important (committee papers, restrictions).

**Sean Kelly:** Oral histories are good, but records from the office are what are basic. Problem is that staff don't have the sense that they are making history.

**Frank Mackaman (Dirksen Center):** We should ask "to what purpose" is our mission?

**John Brademas:** Should we be doing something by law or admonition regarding congressional papers as was done for Presidential papers in 1974?

**Tom Wilsted:** We need to think about how to decide what and how much, e.g. are three Congressmen from Connecticut enough, especially if one covers it all? [n.b. no follow-up discussion of what "covering it all" might mean].

Brief discussion of Brownell Commission and the split on whether congressional papers should be public.

**Gary Copeland:** His experience with an office that was breaking up, with staff tossing strategy plans, which they thought were unimportant.

### **(5) What is the ACSC role in developing practices for electronic records?**

**Tom Wilsted:** NARA is the top resource on electronic records issues; need to work with them and disseminate information to archivists. Possible conference with archivists and users of electronic records in congressional offices, could begin to develop a consortium on this.

**Terry Birdwhistell:** University electronic record experience doesn't encourage a lot of optimism because of the problems of capturing and archiving.

**Richard Hunt:** NARA handout. E-Government project is online at NARA website.

**John Constance:** NARA has found a way to make data independent of software (timeline for development on handout).

### **(3) What are preservation priorities?**

**Tom Wilsted:** Getting things into repositories is the first priority.

**Richard Hunt:** Tapes and electronic records.

*Foundations of Freedom DVD Demonstration, 3:15-4:30*

**Ray Smock (Intro):** High school audience, information about the Constitution, lots of documents, has a teacher's guide. Presentation's purpose is to show both content and how to create a DVD on one's own collections (including oral histories).

**Jeanne Finstein:** Project began in 1990 as NASA-supported Classroom of the Future focused on K-12 math and science; has own curriculum and video designers, had done largely science before this project, which was Senator Byrd's idea. Goal was to create a project similar to the science ones but on the history of the Constitution. Supported by US DoE. Plan is to send out 150,000 copies, one to each public and private school in the country. Has taken 3 years to develop, cost about \$2 million, much of it for intellectual copyrights because of the large number of copies planned. Projected cost for the luxury DVD is \$29.95.

**John Baro (Tour through the website):** Divided into 12 challenges to the Constitution (e.g. ERA, civil rights), with access by themes, arranged on a timeline like a

typical history text, with social and cultural context information for each challenge. Opening menu offers:

Orientation

Challenges

Current Challenge

Archive [major resource, all searchable by name and key words, cross-indexed; includes 450 expert video clips, 600 documents, the complete Federal Papers, all state Constitutions]

Origins of Constitution [introductory video, 90 minutes, over 1,000 video clips]

Importance of History [experts]

What Historians Do [experts]

Doing Historical Research [experts]

Students on Constitutional Themes [several students addressing a theme, followed by an expert on the same theme]

Challenges are developed on the Problem-Based Learning model. Multiple perspectives on each challenge are included to meet national standards for that dimension of the study of history. Each challenge has an archive, starting with the core documents for that challenge, also a glossary. There is an online student notebook that students can use to cut and paste, and there are questions to push them to write. An activity log under the notebook captures what students have actually done (what parts of the site have been visited). Seven themes run through the challenges (popular sovereignty, representative government, federalism, separation of powers, judicial review, amendment process, fundamental rights).

Website has illustrative clips.

### **Discussion:**

Q: How will teachers use this? A: One way would be to have separate groups work on each challenge.

**Richard McCully (NARA):** Working on something similar on the development of the powers of Congress, aimed at secondary students and teachers.

**John Brademas (NYU Center for the Study of Congress):** Planning something on Congress as a policy-making institution.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

*Guidelines for Congressional Papers Archives, 10:30-12:00*

**Karen Paul** (Senate Historical Office), Intro: Rate of mutation in Congress is increasing, we need centers to explain the changes to constituents and members, and archives to document them. Presentation has 3 parts:

- (1) Two projects that are guidelines
- (2) Three practitioners (with combined experience of 75 years!)
- (3) Two demos of electronic tools:
  - (a) A peek at the future, namely the Senate electronic records management system being piloted in three Senators' offices (Frist, Leahy, Daschle)
  - (b) A tool for promoting access electronically.

Handouts by the Congressional Papers Roundtable:

- Background on CPR, with definition of a Congressional papers repository and a checklist
- Acquisitions guidelines

Summary of historical development as contained in the first handout.

New projects:

- (1) CPR is now compiling a roster of repositories. Karen's vision is for possible new links with members' offices via archival interns to do records management (Faye Phillips' idea).
- (2) Edited volume to be published by Scarecrow Press, working title is *Collecting and Managing Political Papers*; editors are Karen, Cynthia Miller, and Glenn Gray at Fresno.

**Sheryl Vogt** (Richard Russell Library, UGA): Russell Library collects per the *Documentation of Congress* guidelines, synchronically and diachronically for the period 1900 to the present, for the purpose of getting a picture of the member, the function of the office, and representation of Georgia. Once the decision is made for papers to come to the Russell Library, they hold a whole-staff interview to identify what the library is after and to stop destruction, then they draft a retention schedule with categories, description, and retention guidelines. A liaison is identified in each office. Russell Library becomes an extension of the member's office;

there is contact also with his/her state level organization.

Reference to the 2001 Forum, "Improving Archival Practices on Capitol Hill."

Appraisal is the area of least consensus, around the following questions (with Sheryl's answers):

- (1) Should we collect only Senators or also members of Congress?  
A: Both, and state legislators also because of differing perspectives and involvement, e.g. in agriculture).
- (2) Are artifacts of value?  
A: Yes, they are powerful symbols, carriers of meaning, and highlight the museum function of congressional collections.
- (3) To what extent is issue mail of value if at all?  
A: It's among the most heavily used, is essentially the heartbeat of the nation.

Sheryl showed the postcard-size business card of the library, mentioned an upcoming exhibition on rural electrification in Georgia.

**Rose Diaz** (U. of New Mexico Political Archives): Focus on donor solicitation and acquisition, since they have made a 10-year effort to collect, and there is only one New Mexico collection outside of the state.

She did a study in response to her dean's question, "Why Would Anybody Care?" to build a base, have moved from a 30-year to a 20-year backlog, with 4,500 cu. ft, 1,000 of which will be finished in the next three years. They are doing outreach with sitting members of Congress and see them as a cohort group and client base, leading them to understanding of how Congress works in DC and in the field. Work with Peter Domenici's archivist (Eileen Winkelman) led to moving 900 feet from the locker and 5,000 feet of photos; are trying to work with other Senators, also developing oral history projects with short-term people within the office.

House members have different views of field offices, often with a field director, where the archives places interns to get that different perspective.

She emphasizes to congressmen/senators that it's a long-term process of both legacy and education, also has a ripple effect on family, staff, and others.

Steps:

- Bring clients to this understanding.
- Educate within the institution (how much to cut, setting policies)
- Administration - budget responsibilities.
- Pros of this approach: Can provide training for donors, the library is neutral, collections link to the state story. Cons consist largely of the administration fears of access.

**Karen:** ACSC should have a role in articulating the importance of congressional papers and eventually lobbying.

**Connell Gallagher** (U. of Vermont): Presentation based on five topics:

**(1) Nature of the collection:** They have 15 Senators, 19 members of Congress, but those papers are only part of the overall Vermont Collection. They also have activist curators collecting e.g. the papers of challengers.

**(2) Contact with Congressmen:** Advice: write a letter to each member to show interest, wait a while, then follow up until you get a response, offer to go to DC and/or the state office and talk with staff.

Split collections are to be avoided, but often the member of Congress will choose a small alma mater. Don't compete, sit down with the small school and figure out what they really want (possibly personal papers, photos, pre-DC papers), offer to share the papers needed for courses on their campus, make copy policies liberal in the relationship with them, perhaps via digitization. This approach has proved to be important even though U. of Vt. is the biggest show in town.

**(3) Receiving documents:** If possible, go to the office so that the papers come out in better form; they've been getting Stafford's since 1988.

**(4) Appraisal:** Start with Karen's manual. Huge volume of case files and mail can be sampled, e.g. at 1 file per month but always including "fat" files (single correspondent writing frequently) and anything on major issues.

**(5) Outreach:** Need to talk with faculty, package materials so students can do limited projects, work 1-to-1 with faculty member. Some may teach the whole course in the library; there are starting to be master's theses coming out of this at U. of Vt.

Aiken lectures endowed by his widow, annual conference with sitting politicians, are among other outreach activities.

(**Colleen Mason**, Senator Leahy's archivist was there as well.)

**DEMO of Onbase system:**

**Bill LaPorte:** Being piloted in Senator offices (Frist, Leahy, Daschle), is an electronic records management system based on different categories of records, with full security: there are not even pointers to documents except when the user has authorization. Has full search capability, base files are always protected, revisions constitute new files. Documents are scanned in, a cover sheet carries the metadata and that includes the pointer to the actual document. System can generate microfilm, build in retention schedules, download to disk or tape. An office could also integrate e-mail into it. System is not software-dependent, per NARA standards. It's available through the Sergeant-at-Arms office but only through 90 days after leaving office. Scans 120pp./min. in color.

**Karen:** Committees are slower in adopting this -- their culture is not so cohesive.

**DEMO of Access Tool for Muskie collection:**

**Anita Jensen** (ex-staffer for Muskie): Working in WordPerfect and starting with the Congressional Record online, she's indexing Muskie's speeches, statements, etc. by subject, year-by-year, linked to a breakdown of his career year by year. Links go to full text (if relevant) with small descriptive added text in which the link is embedded providing context. Can also link to folder numbers.

**The ACSC Website: What Do Members Want?, 1:45-3:00**

**Frank Mackaman:** Intro to the architecture of the website. Will add conference papers, can also add links to websites to it, divided into three categories:

- Association members' websites
- Sites about Congress
- Archival sites

Discussion of possible improvements to site, including beefing up the description of what the organization is.

**Richard Baker:** Maybe an online collective sampling of primary documents to reflect our diversity -- maybe on a theme.

***Organizational Meeting, 3:15-5:00***

Revision and approval of by-laws draft

Election of new officers: Ray (pres.), Karen (secy), Gary (treas.)

**Business meeting with Ray presiding**

Sites for next year: John Constance volunteered NARA, dates tentatively set for May 4-5.

Site for 2006: Tom Wilsted volunteered Storrs, CT.

**Ideas for future sessions:**

- Training that's available regionally (Diaz)
- Researchers (like Dodd and Young this time)
- Seminars: possibly one in DC for researchers, one out at a center
- Valuable books dealing with Congress on website (Brademas)
- Congressional Visitor Center exhibition themes
- Development workshop (fundraising)
  - Rebecca Melvin of the Congressional Papers Roundtable suggested making this a separate joint ACSC-SAA thematic conference, using registration to fund-raise for ACSC; would appeal to CPR members, for instance, drawing in a wider range of people interested in Congressional papers.

*Kathleen Cruikshank*