DAVID L. CAMPBELL COLLECTION

(Mss 123)

Inventory

Earl K. Long Library
University of New Orleans

September 1979

Contents

Summary

Container List

Index Terms

Procedures for Requesting Special Collections Materials

Summary

Size: 3 linear feet

Geographic locations: New Orleans, Louisiana

Inclusive dates: 1968-1976

Summary: Legal files compiled by David L. Campbell as president and attorney of the Peniston-General Taylor Association. Primarily concerned with the proposed location of a Mississippi River bridge in the vicinity of Peniston and General Taylor Streets (New Orleans), but including some material on zoning in the area. Consists of correspondence; bridge and transportation planning studies; legal briefs, motions, affidavits, and judgments; newspaper clippings; resolutions; reports; maps; notes; and other miscellany.

Related
collections: Marta B. Lamar Collection (Mss 62) and Addenda 1-3 (Mss 69, 76, 77); Mark P. Lowrey Collection (Mss 47); Suzanne L. Ormond Collection (Mss 59)

Source: Gift, March, June 1979

Access: No restrictions

Copyright: Physical rights are retained by the Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans.

Citation: David L. Campbell Collection, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans

**Historical Sketch**

David L. Campbell amassed these documents in his role as president and attorney of the Peniston-General Taylor Association, which vigorously opposed plans to construct an Uptown Mississippi River Bridge. Prominent in the collection are correspondence and lawsuit paperwork generated by the community leaders of both neighborhoods, protestors, and the proponents of the proposed Riverfront Expressway, to which the bridge would have connected if both had been built.

The Mississippi River Bridge Controversy began in 1964 with protests against the Riverfront Expressway, which transportation pioneer Robert Moses proposed in his 1946 “Arterial Plan for New Orleans.” Criticism emerged when, in October 1964, funding in the amount of $25 million was allocated to the 3.5-mile freeway project sponsored by the Mississippi River Bridge Authority (MRBA), a semiautonomous governmental body with the authority to build bridges. The MRBA reviewed three proposals for bridge sites prior to settling on one which would cross through Uptown New Orleans. The controversy centered around where the bridge should be located and what neighborhoods would be affected.

Race and class issues were inherent in the clash, as well as community welfare and preservation of the French Quarter’s culture and history. Mostly residents of either the white, middle class Napoleon Avenue or the black, low-income General Taylor Street, the protestors voiced concerns about the negative collateral damage of building an expressway through their neighborhoods that would result inevitably in uprooting of long-time residents of both areas. Originally the expressway was to pass only through Napoleon Avenue, but this was changed in a futile attempt to appease the white residents, who remained opposed to a bridge anywhere in the uptown area. Another group of opponents to the bridge joined the fray, also staunchly against the Vieux Carré and Riverfront Expressway proposals because of the large-scale displacement of
residents and the neighborhood environmental deterioration that would occur in what remained of the neighborhoods.

The freeway was to straddle the Mississippi Riverfront between Elysian Fields Avenue and the Pontchartrain Expressway. The opposition finally won out July of 1969. The plan was scrapped mainly because it would have ruined the French Quarter by bringing unwanted traffic into the area and taking away from the timeless essence of the oldest and most historic part of New Orleans by placing an elevated expressway in front of Jackson Square. This controversial case shows the potential potency of standing in solidarity for a cause by groups that otherwise probably would not have worked together. They did so to shape the political process for the good of their communities.

Sources:

List of Series

**Series I.** Newspaper clippings, 1968 – 1976

**Series II.** Conradt Engineering Report, Peniston—General Taylor vs. A. P. Tugwell, et al., 1969

**Series III.** Zoning problems, 1972 – 1976

**Series IV.** Lawsuits, 1969 – 1970

**Series V.** Correspondence, 1970 – 1975


**Series VII.** Publications, 1962-1970
Container List

BOX 1

Series I. Newspaper clippings, 1968 - 1976

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings and some correspondence, 1968-1976, rezoning problems in Uptown New Orleans and the controversy over the proposed Uptown Mississippi River Bridge (originally filed as Peniston—General Taylor Assn. Newspaper Clippings file D, T 8-7-72)

123-3 February 26, 1970 - April 28, 1970
123-4 May 1 - June 30, 1970
123-5 July 2, 1970 - September 17, 1970
123-6 October 20, 1970 - December 16, 1970
123-7 1971-1972
123-8 Miscellaneous materials originally filed with Newspaper clippings
   Correspondence, 1968-1969
   News release, 1968
   Subpoena, 1969
   Bill of lawyer fees
   Form opposing passage of Amendment 26, New Orleans Election, November 1968


Report and materials associated with a related lawsuit (originally filed as Peniston—General Taylor Assn. File E, T 78-7-72).

Series III. Zoning problems, 1972 - 1976


123-10 Correspondence and notes, n.d., September 9, 1972 - April 22, 1976

123-11 Zoning reports of the New Orleans City Council, October 5, 1972 - April 12, 1973

123-12 Lawsuits originally filed with Zoning problems
   Clement Darfaw vs. Parish of Jefferson et al, 1967
   Claude Robler et al vs. City of New Orleans and New Orleans Zoning Board, 1974
   Agreement, 1972

123-13 Miscellaneous materials originally filed with Zoning problems

BOX 2

Series IV. Lawsuits, 1969-1970

Zoning problems in Uptown New Orleans and proposed Uptown Mississippi River Bridge (originally filed as Peniston—General Taylor Assn. 70-99-0202)

123-14 Correspondence, July 24, 1969 - May 12, 1970

123-15 Sierra Club v. Volpe
   Citizens Committee for the Hudson Valley, the Sierra Club and the Village of Tarrytown, New York vs. John Volpe, Walter J. Hichel, Stanley S. Resor, William F. Cassidy
   Nos. 428-33 (U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, September 1969). Brief for petitioner

123-16 Lawsuits
   State of Louisiana ev. Louise S. Korns vs. Board of Zoning Adjustment, May 5, 1969
   State of Louisiana ex rel.—Peniston—General Taylor Assn. vs. Board of Zoning Adjustments of the City of New Orleans


123-19 Proposed Uptown Mississippi River Bridge Controversy, January 1968-May 12, 1970

Series V. Correspondence, 1970-1975

Chiefly correspondence and notes pertaining to zoning problems in Uptown New Orleans and proposed Uptown Mississippi River Bridge (originally filed as Peniston—General Taylor Assn. 1970-70-99-0202T)


123-21 Correspondence, notes, February 13, 1970 - March 30, 1970

123-22 Correspondence, notes, April 1970

123-23 Correspondence, notes, May 7, 1970 - December 30, 1970


123-25 Resolutions passed by New Orleans City Council re proposed Uptown Mississippi River Bridge, February 17, 1970 - April 22, 1971

123-26 Address by David Campbell to New Orleans City Council, re Uptown Mississippi River Bridge, April 24, 1970

123-27 Phil Trice vs. City of New Orleans et al.
Bill of complaint


Suit vs. Gov. McKeithen et al. (originally filed as (Peniston—General Taylor Assn.—B. Suit vs. Gov. McKeithen et al., 70-99-0202-B)
Correspondence and notes, November 12, 1970 - April 7, 1971

Reports and resolutions, 1968-1970
- Resolution by Councilman Eddie Sapir, April 9, 1970
- Newspaper clipping New Orleans States-Item, December 9, 1970


Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana 516-433
- Div. G Docket 5, November 16, 1970
- Div. G Docket 5, December 7, 1970

Peniston—Gen. Taylor vs. McKeithen et al.
- Motion to dismiss proceedings, December 4, 1970; correspondence, December 29, 1970
- U.S. District Court and Civil District Court and Press Release

Claude L. Robler et al. vs. John J. McKeithen et al., # 516-433,
- December 16, 1970

BOX 3


Subseries VII.1. Reports


Subseries VII.2. Maps


Index Terms

Bridges—Louisiana—New Orleans
Bridges—Mississippi River
Campbell, David L.
Highway planning—Louisiana—New Orleans
Louisiana Mississippi River Bridge Authority
Peniston-General Taylor Association
Urban planning—Louisiana—New Orleans