JOHN SCHWEGMANN, JR. COLLECTION

(Mss 225)

Inventory

Earl K. Long Library
University of New Orleans

May 1991

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Summary

Size: 0.25 linear feet

Geographic Locations: Primarily New Orleans, La.

Inclusive Dates: 1966 - 1978

Summary: File of clippings and correspondence compiled by John Schwegmann, Jr. in his opposition to the Louisiana Superdome.

Source: Gift, May 1991

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Historical Note

The Superdome was embroiled in tremendous controversy from its very inception -- a building in New Orleans to be financed by funds generated in part from the northern part of the State. The concept of a domed stadium was attacked, and the method of financing provoked numerous lawsuits from such as John Schwegmann, the supermarket king. Almost every day there appeared a story on television or in the newspaper about the Superdome. The man who prevailed in this turmoil was David Dixon, who proposed the building in the first place. He derived his authority and power from then-Gov. John J. McKeithen, to whom Dixon initially sold the idea for the Superdome.

There was still unbelievable pressure from architects, not only in Louisiana, but nationwide. Political pressure was intense until Dixon transferred the problem of architect selection to a Committee of Deans from the Tulane School of Architecture, the Louisiana State Engineering School, and the Louisiana State University School of Environmental Design. The Committee, after extensive televised interviews, selected Curtis and Davis to lead the design team for the building. Two firms were forced onto the design team by Mayor Victor Schiro and others, and a violent argument as to who would be in charge of the project ensued. The argument was settled by then-Gov. McKeithen, Dave Dixon, and Theo Cangelosi, a Baton Rouge attorney.


Container List


Index Terms

Louisiana. Legislature. Senate—Constituent communication
Louisiana—Politics and government—1951-
New Orleans (La.)—Buildings, structures, etc.
NIMBY syndrome—Louisiana
Schwegmann, John, Jr.
Sports facilities—Louisiana—New Orleans
Superdome (New Orleans, La.)