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Summary Information

Repository:	Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives
Title:	Strom Thurmond Collection, Commission on the Bicentennial of the US Constitution
ID:	Mss.0100.35
Date [inclusive]:	1987-1992
Physical Description:	1 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-2

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Historical note

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, also known as the Bicentennial Commission, was created and commissioned to promote the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution. The United States of America, a comparatively young country, has the world's oldest written constitution. In 1787, this Constitution was a striking innovation, a breakthrough in the establishment of republican self-government. Since 1787, this Constitution has been the preeminent symbol of American nationhood and a practical instrument of free government (popular government limited by law to protect the liberty and security of individuals). Only 14 of the world's 160 written constitutions predate World War II, and none compares with the US Constitution in longevity. Furthermore, this Constitution has had an enormous influence on governments around the world. According to Albert Blaustein, a specialist in the comparative study of constitutions, "The United States Constitution is this nations' most important export." The bicentennial of the Constitution provides a special opportunity for renewal and improvement of education on basic values and principles of American constitutional government, which are essential elements of national unity and cohesion in a pluralistic society. These ideas are relevant and valuable to all Americans, regardless of their social differences, and must be understood and used by all who would exercise fully their rights and responsibilities of citizenship. During the 99th Congress (1985-1986) Congressional Bills, from the House and Senate, authorized and established various celebrations, commemorations, and commissions associated with the 200th anniversary of the US Constitution. Senate Resolution 352 and Senate Joint Resolution 33 established a Commission to plan for the 200th anniversary celebration of the birth of our Constitution. House Resolution 106 authorized September 17, 1986, as Constitution Day. House Resolution 3261 established commemorations of

the Bicentennial with exhibits and programs and established Democracy Hall. House Resolution 3415 authorized the minting of coins and the striking of medals. House Resolution 3559 amended the Act establishing the Commission to clarify the status of employees of the Commission. Senate Concurrent Resolution 104 urged the States & Territories to establish their own Bicentennial Commissions. Senate 1631 established a Presidential Commission on the Bicentennial of the US Constitution. And Senate 2303 designated September 17th of every year as Constitution Day. Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, when asked to Chair the Commission said, 'We can best honor our Constitution by giving ourselves a civics and history lesson on its origin and meaning.' Commissioners included Frederick K. Biebel, Lindy Boggs, Herbert Brownell, Lynne V. Cheney, Philip N. Crane, Dennis DeConcini, William J. Green, Edward Victor Hill, Cornelia G. Kennedy, Edward M. Kennedy, Harry McKinley Lightsey Jr., William Lucas, Betty Southard Murphy, Thomas H. O'Connor, Phyllis Schlafly, Bernard H. Siegan, Ted Stevens, Obert C. Tanner, Strom Thurmond, Ronald H. Walker, Charles E. Wiggins, and Charles Alan Wright. Mark O. Hatfield later replaced Ted Stevens on the Commission. Mark W. Cannon was Staff Director and Ronald Trowbridge was Acting Staff Director thereafter. The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution was comprised of several committees. These committees and their members were as follows: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Warren E. Burger, Chairman Herbert Brownell, Vice Chairman Ronald Walker, Vice Chairman Frederick Biebel Lynne Cheney Edward Kennedy Betty Southard Murphy Ted Stevens COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Herbert Brownell, Chairman Frederick Biebel William Green Edward Hill Ronald Walker ADVISORS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE Lindy Boggs Philip Crane Dennis DeConcini Edward Kennedy Ted Stevens Strom Thurmond ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS Philip Crane, Co-Chairman Charles Wright, Co-Chairman Cornelia Kennedy Harry Lightsey Thomas O'Connor Phyllis Schlafly Obert Tanner ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LIAISON Frederick Biebel, Co-Chairman Lindy Boggs, Co-Chairman Herbert Brownell Philip Crane Strom Thurmond Charles Wiggins ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL LIAISON Betty Southard Murphy, Chairman Frederick Biebel Edward Kennedy Thomas O'Connor Bernard Siegan Ted Stevens

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEDIA Lynne Cheney, Co-Chairman Edward Kennedy, Co-Chairman Lindy Boggs Philip Crane Edward Hill Bernard Siegan Ronald Walker Charles Wright ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION Phyllis Schlafly, Co-Chairman William Lucas, Co-Chairman William Green Betty Southard Murphy Ronald Walker Charles Wiggins ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS Edward Hill, Co-Chairman Obert Tanner, Co-Chairman Dennis DeConcini William Lucas Phyllis Schlafly Charles Wright ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROJECT ENDORSEMENTS AND SUPPORT Cornelia Kennedy, Chairman Frederick Biebel Thomas O'Connor Phyllis Schlafly Charles Wiggins ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL LIAISON William Green, Co-Chairman Phyllis Schlafly, Co-Chairman Dennis DeConcini Harry Lightsey William Lucas

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Scope and Content

SCOPE AND CONTENT The papers of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution document the process of planning, developing, and coordinating the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the US Constitution and Senator Strom Thurmond’s role in this process. The papers of the Commission also document the educational and promotional activities of the Commission. These papers consist of correspondence and meeting material generated by the Commission and Senator Thurmond from 1987 to 1992.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Collection Inventory

Commission on the Bicentennial of the US Constitution Series 35, 1987 - 1992

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100th Congress, 1st Session - 1987

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence	box 1	folder 1

100th Congress, 2nd Session - 1988

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence - Part 1	box 1	folder 2
Correspondence - Part 2	box 1	folder 3
Meeting of the Commission – September 17, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 1	folder 4

101st Congress, 1st Session - 1989

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence	box 1	folder 5
Educational Material	box 1	folder 6
Meeting of the Commission – January 21, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 1	folder 7
Meeting of the Commission – April 28, Vista International Hotel, New York City, NY	box 1	folder 8
Meeting of the Commission – September 15, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 1	folder 9

101st Congress, 2nd Session - 1990

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence	box 2	folder 10
Meeting of the Commission – March 3, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 2	folder 11
Meeting of the Commission – June 16, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 2	folder 12
Meeting of the Commission – September 21, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 2	folder 13

102nd Congress, 1st Session - 1991

Title/Description	Instances	
Bicentennial Commission Proposed Funding Assistance – The James Madison Foundation	box 2	folder 14
Bicentennial Educational Grant Program – A Report (1985-1991)	box 2	folder 15
Correspondence – Part 1	box 2	folder 16
Correspondence – Part 2	box 2	folder 17
Proposal... for Co-sponsorship of An Exhibition on the Bill of Rights	box 2	folder 18
Meeting of the Commission – March 16, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC – Part 1	box 2	folder 19

Meeting of the Commission – March 16, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC – Part 2	box 2	folder 20
Meeting of the Commission – September 14, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 2	folder 21
Meeting of the Commission – December 14, Vista International Hotel, Washington, DC	box 2	folder 22

102nd Congress, 2nd Session - 1992

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence	box 2	folder 23