Stanley R. Fike Papers
(C3882)

Collection Number: C3882

Collection Title: Stanley R. Fike Papers

Dates: c. 1925, 1941-1985

Creator: Fike, Stanley R., 1913-1989

Abstract: The papers contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, speeches, memoranda, and office notes of the administrative assistant to U.S. Senator Stuart Symington from 1952 until Symington's retirement in 1976. Includes material relating to various Symington campaigns, as well as Fike's personal life.

Collection Size: 6.8 cubic feet, 2 audio cassettes
(384 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor relinquished all their rights in the papers and authorized their release to the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Stanley R. Fike Papers* (C3882); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri on November 4, 1982 (Accession No. CA4467). An addition was made on September 27, 1985 (Accession No. CA4673).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Stanley R. Fike Papers can be found in the following collections:

W. Stuart Symington Papers, (C3874)

Processed by: Processed by Don Radke on July 27, 1993. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on March 4, 2022.

Biographical Note:

Stanley Redfield Fike was born in 1913 in Warrensburg, Missouri. In 1923 his family moved to Independence, where Stanley graduated from East High School and attended Kansas City Junior College.

In 1928 Fike became an apprentice, or printer's devil, at the *Inter-City News* in Fairmont, Missouri, near Independence. He worked his way up to editor of the newspaper, as well as part owner of the Inter-City Press, Inc., which also published the *Jackson County Democrat* and the *Lotawana News*. He was also part owner of the *Lee's Summit Journal*. Fike served as president of the Northwest Missouri Press Association in 1943 and was elected president of the Missouri Press Association in 1949.

During this time Fike was not only an editor but also a community leader, active in the Boy Scouts movement, the Inter-City Kiwanis Club, and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He was also elected to the Kansas City Board of Education.

In 1952 Stuart Symington selected Fike to be, first, manager of his campaign for the U. S. Senate, and then, his administrative assistant, a post Fike held for 24 years. Senator Symington gave Fike the unofficial title of "Missouri's third senator," because of his vast knowledge of the state and personal contacts. As administrative assistant, Fike's duties included managing the daily activities of the Senator's Washington, D.C., office, and coordinating mail, office personnel, and public relations. Fike also travelled extensively on the Senator's behalf, making speeches and gathering information and support. Fike acted as executive director for several of Symington's campaigns, including Symington's 1960 presidential bid.

Stanley Fike remained actively involved with his Missouri interests throughout his Washington years and into retirement, serving as a member of the board of regents of Park College in Parkville, Missouri; a member of the Academy of Missouri Squires; and a committee member of the Boy Scout troop at the Mount Washington Reformed Latter Day Saints Church.

Fike died on September 29, 1989, in Mitchellville, Maryland, after suffering a stroke. He was survived by his wife Mildred Curry Fike (sister of artist John Stuart Curry) and their three daughters.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Personal
Stuart Symington Years
James Symington

Scope and Content Note:

The **Personal** series is arranged into two sections: correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent and subject files arranged alphabetically by topic consisting of mostly of

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newspaper clippings, reports, and speeches. There is relatively little family correspondence; the bulk of the material relates to Fike's personal political interests, his work with the Kiwanis, and the Reformed Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Family matters include the deaths of Fike's mother and sister, the education of his eldest daughter Beth at the University of Missouri, and Beth's marriage to an Air Force officer. Correspondents include James and Stuart Symington, both of whom maintained a deep personal, as well as professional, relationship with the Fikes; long-time friend and Missouri Secretary of State, James Kirkpatrick; U. S. Senator Thomas Eagleton; U. S. Senator Edmund Muskie; various Park College officials; and several former Symington staffers. Topics include the election of new members to the Academy of Missouri Squires, Watergate, campaigns and elections, the artwork of John Stuart Curry, the folk music of May Kennedy McCord, and the activities of the Kansas City Kiwanis organizations.

The personal subject files include articles on abortion, Jimmy Carter's 1976 Presidential campaign, crime, the Democratic Party in Missouri, and Thomas Eagleton's failed nomination as the Democrats' 1972 Vice-Presidential candidate. There are also engagement calendars for the years 1970, 1971, and 1976, and a transcript of an oral history conducted by the Truman Library about Fike's years as a newspaper man in Kansas City.

The **Stuart Symington Years** series is arranged into three sections: chronological files, subject files, and photographs. The chronological material dates from the 1952 Missouri senatorial campaign through Symington's last day in office in December 1976. This material suggests the day-to-day operations of a U.S. Senator's office but does not cover every day for the 24-year period. Instead, it concentrates on the elections in which Symington was a candidate, with the bulk of the material pertaining to the 1960 Presidential and the 1970 Missouri Senatorial elections. It consists of correspondence, speeches, office notes, travel vouchers, campaign office files, and publicists' reports. Campaign materials include lists of campaign workers and contributors, drafts of campaign literature, files on campaign opponents, expenses of the various state campaign offices, newspaper clippings, news releases and speeches.

The subject files are arranged alphabetically by topic and contain memos, news articles, and reports on such topics as agriculture, civil rights, flood control legislation, health care, trade, and the Vietnam War. Special attention is paid to the Pentagon's decision to close the Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in the mid-1970s.

Most of the photographs in the Stuart Symington series were taken around 1970 and present the Senator in a variety of settings. A series of shots documents a 1949 USO Christmas tour to Alaska, in which Symington, as Secretary of the Air Force, travelled with Bob Hope. Other subjects include Symington with unidentified committees, with various constituent groups, at a news conference, and at the 1969 Missouri State Fair.

Extensive coverage of the 1976 Missouri Senatorial Democratic primary constitutes the **James Symington** series. Newspaper articles, memos, correspondence with James Symington and members of his staff, and campaign literature provide an almost day-by-day account of the campaign.

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