

“New Directions in Historical Scholarship on the United States Congress”

Researching NY 2007 Conference - Closing Plenary

Friday November 16, 2007, 4:00, Recital Hall. Performing Arts Center, University at Albany

If you have questions about attending the event, please contact Brian Keough 518-437-3931 or bkeough@albany.edu



Speaker of the House Thomas "Tip" O'Neill at Congressman Gerald Solomon's swearing-in ceremony, 1980. Gerald Solomon Papers, University at Albany Libraries

In recent years scholars have noted that the historical analysis of public policy, and the institutions that formulate laws, has had profound effects on the study of the United States Congress—and the development of related archive collections. As historians continue to produce important new work, political scientists have rediscovered the tradition of historically informed scholarship and taken a renewed look at the history of the legislative branches of government. The 2000 *Report of the Congressional Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress* endorsed the development of academic library centers in each state to insure the long-term preservation of the papers of members of Congress and since that time the University at Albany Libraries has acquired the official papers of more than 25 former members of Congress to complement its long-standing political archive. What can we learn from studying Congressional papers? How are political scientists and historians using Congressional archives to further their research? Panelists will discuss their use of Congressional archives and will explore recent scholarship and new directions in Congressional history and research. The panel discussion will include:

Lawrence Evans is Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary and is an authority United States institutions. He is the author of *Congress Under Fire: Reform Politics and the Republican Majority* with Walter Oleszek, and *Leadership in Committee: A Comparative Analysis of Leadership Behavior in the U.S. Senate*, as well as numerous articles and book chapters about Congressional politics.

Robert David Johnson is Professor of History at Brooklyn College, CUNY and the author of numerous books and articles on politics, Congress, and the presidency including *Congress and the Cold War*, *Ernest Gruening and the American Dissenting Tradition*, *The Peace Progressives and American Foreign Relations*. He has also co-edited volumes two and three of the presidential recordings of Lyndon Johnson.

Richard Nathan, Co-Director of the Rockefeller Institute and Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University at Albany. He has written widely on American federalism and the implementation of domestic public programs in the United States. He served as Assistant Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and Deputy Undersecretary for Welfare Reform at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Sponsored by the University at Albany Libraries' M.E. Grenander
Department of Special Collections & Archives and the Department of History