Title:  Sam B. Hall, Jr. Papers

Series Description:


Constituent correspondence falls into five subseries: Case Files, District Office Files, Recommendations, Subject Files, and Misplaced Constituent Correspondence Files.

A. Case Files, 1964-1985, undated, 126.5 lin. ft.

The Case files are further divided into Military academy applications, Immigration cases, General cases, County projects and City projects. The County files are alphabetical by county and then further divided by cities in each county. Next are alphabetical files for cities not in Hall's district such as Austin and Dallas followed by out of state files. Both these sections list the individual correspondent and the purpose of the letter. The years covered are from 1975 to 1985 which includes some files carried over from Hall's predecessor, Wright Patman.


Because Hall maintained district offices in both Paris and Marshall, the District office files reflect this division with General Files, Subject files, and Project files from both locations. Of particular interest are the Housing and Urban Development files for each county, U. S. Corps of Engineer projects such as Cooper Lake, the Department of Education involvement with Wiley College, and Department of Energy interest in East Texas. Project files in this section list the name of the constituent and the nature of the project. The years covered represent all years of Hall's service from 1976 to 1985.


This small section is probably only representative of the large number of recommendations made by Hall during his almost ten years on Congress. The arrangement is alphabetical and lists the name of the person sending the recommendation and usually the exact nature of the request.

D. Subject Files, 1968-1985, 2 lin. ft.

This section lists correspondents alphabetically along with the subject of the letter. Organizations, as well as individuals, are found here such as the Associated Milk Producers and the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress. Correspondence from Texas Governor Mark White is also found here. Years covered are from 1976 to 1985.

E. Constituent Correspondence, 1976-1985, 4 lin. ft.
This seemingly misplaced section contains correspondence filed alphabetically by town from Annona to Wolfe City. However, not all of the towns are in Hall's district. In addition to files by city there are also files for Deceased, Requests for tourist information, and Requests for publications.

II. Legislative Files, 1976-1985, 51.5 lin. ft.

Consisting of 51.5 linear feet of correspondence, printed materials, research materials, speeches, and news clippings, the Legislative Files document Hall's activities concerning specific legislation from 1976 to 1985. Activities covered by these files include committee and subcommittee hearings, background research, bill markups, press coverage, interest group lobbying, strategy, and floor debate.

A. General Files, 1978-1985, 7.5 lin. ft.

These general legislative subject files are made up mostly of correspondence and background information on both specific bills and general legislative topics. They generally reflect Hall's interest and activities in various legislative areas outside the realm of his committee memberships.


The largest bulk of this series reflects Hall's membership on the Judiciary Committee from 1976 to 1985. This period was a particularly active and challenging one for the House Judiciary Committee. Documented in the subcommittee files is the consideration of significant and often controversial reform legislation. Among these bills are criminal code reform (Criminal Justice Subcommittee, 1978-1981), immigration reform (also known as the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, Immigration Subcommittee, 1981-1985), and regulatory reform (Administration and Government Operation Subcommittee, 1983-1985). Administration Subcommittee Files during Hall's chairmanship from 1983-1985 are also particularly useful for the insight they provide on the workings of a subcommittee, as well as providing detailed information regarding several significant bills of this period. Files related to Hall's service on the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and the Veterans Affairs Committee are also included here.


Dating from 1978 to 1982, this section consists of 44 linear feet of correspondence with constituents concerning general legislative issues. The original filing system, which arranged incoming mail according to categories assigned by staff, has been preserved. Letters were assigned to a classification number, (e.g., campaign reform was GD204) to facilitate responding
and counting. Categories were apparently developed and assigned on the basis of need; therefore the material is neither alphabetical nor chronological.

Also included within this category is mass printed opinion mail such as post cards. Where the only variation among the mail received was the signature of the individual, only a sample copy has been retained along with a count of the number received.


Arranged by month and year from 1976 to August 1985, these 20 linear feet of correspondence, background material, itineraries, and copies of speeches relate to events attended by Hall. Most of these were speaking engagements such as the Henderson Chamber of Commerce breakfast on August 6, 1980, and the Marshall High School 45th anniversary class reunion on August 24, 1984.


Files on trips consist of 3 linear feet of correspondence, printed material, and news clippings concerning preparations, itineraries, activities, and news coverage. Hall's trips were mostly in association with activities of the Judiciary Committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. Some of the trips taken were to Southeast Asia, Hawaii, Germany, Hong Kong, Lebanon, France, and South Africa.

VI. Committees, 1982-1985, 10.5 lin. ft.

This group of papers deals with general committee/subcommittee materials collected by Hall's office from 1982 to 1985. While Hall was not on most of these committees, these papers do show his interest in a variety of legislation under consideration by Congress.

VII. ALPHA, 1976-1984, 42.5 lin. ft.

General alphabetical files were designated by Hall's staff as the "ALPHA" files. These files, consisting of 42.5 linear feet of general correspondence and subject files from 1976 to 1984 include printed material as well as correspondence. Both organizations and individuals are included here from Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts to Young Conservatives of Texas.


This series is subdivided into six sub-series: Bills, Committees, Issue correspondence, “Dear Colleague” letters, Legislative program files, Projects, and Voting records.
A. Bills, 1975-1985, 5.5 lin. ft.

This sub-series is further divided into two sections: Bills by legislative number and Bills by topic. Many of the bills in the first section were sponsored or cosponsored by Hall. The second section provides information about particular legislation being considered by Hall.

B. Committees, 1973-1985, 1.5 lin. ft.

This small section contains one box each of Ethics Committee, Immigration Committee, and General Committee files.

C. Issue Correspondence, 1977-1983, 2.5 lin. ft.

This small section contains additional constituent correspondence related to specific legislation.


These letters are divided into two sections: Letters by subject and Letters chronological order. Every congressman receives numerous requests from their fellow representatives to cosponsor particular legislation. These files reflect the diversity of interests sent to Hall for his consideration and endorsement.

E. Legislative Program Files, 1978-1985, 44.5 lin. ft.

These files contain daily Legislative Program agenda along with the DSG Legislative Report, the Whip Advisory, and special interest correspondence related to specific legislation scheduled for debate including White House memos. There is a file for each week from July 14, 1978 to September 6, 1985.

F. Projects, 1965-1984, 1.5 lin. ft.

These three boxes contain additional information concerning Cooper, Big Pine, and Cypress Valley reservoirs including information dating back to the 1960's when Wright Patman was congressman. Two bound volumes contain articles, correspondence, and photographs of Red River Bridge History, 1969-1976, and the Northeast Texas Resource Conservation and Development Project, 1973-1974. A third box contains several publications dealing with the Texarkana Urban Transportation Study.


Large bound volumes in these boxes contain Hall's voting records from 1976-1984.

IX. Executive, 1976-1985, 7.5 lin. ft.
These files include some inaugural materials; however, most of these deal with the Reagan budget proposal for 1981.

**X. Media, 1974-1985, undated, 11 lin. ft.**

Media files consist of newsletters, photographs, press releases, radio transcripts, recordings of radio broadcasts, and news clippings photocopied from 21 notebooks. There is also a separate list of radio transcripts by title.

**XI. Politics, 1976-1985, undated, 4 lin. ft.**


**XII. Personal, 1976-1985, undated, 9 lin. ft.**

The Personal Files document activities of a mainly non-official nature. They consist of 9 linear feet of appointment books, guest books, and personal subject files which include the Texas Breakfast Club and the Texas State Society, 1974-1984. Invitations are also listed here, however, only invitations from 1976, 1979, and 1984 have been retained as a sampling of the kinds of invitations a member of Congress receives. The files include an address rolodex and a 4x6" appointment file.

**Series List:**

I. Constituent Files  
   a. Case Files  
   b. District Office Files  
   c. Recommendations  
   d. Subject Files  
   e. Constituent Correspondence  

II. Legislative Files  
   a. General Files  
   b. Committees  

III. Legislative Issues  
IV. Events  
V. Trips  
VI. Committees
VII. ALPHA Files

VIII. Congress
   a. Bills
   b. Committees
   c. Issue Correspondence
   d. “Dear Colleague” Letters
   e. Legislative Program Files
   f. Projects
   g. Voting Record

I. Executive
   a. Inauguration

II. Media
   a. News Clippings
   b. Newsletters
   c. Photographs
   d. Press Releases
   e. Press Files, Radio Transcripts
   f. Publication: Loblolly
   g. Recordings

III. Politics
   a. Democrats
   b. Elections

XII. Personal
   a. Address File
   b. Appointment Books
   c. Guest Books
   d. Invitations
   e. Subject Files