THE JOHN H. BUCHANAN PAPERS

AR 101

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The John H. Buchanan Papers

AR 101

Summary
Main Entry: John H. Buchanan Papers

Date Span: 1938 – 1953

Abstract: John H. Buchanan was a Southern Baptist pastor and denominational leader from Alabama. He served as pastor of the Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The papers cover his period of service on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The collection includes minutes, reports, recommendations, articles, correspondence, budget information, and other material related to the work of the Executive Committee from 1938 – 1947. The papers include information on the work of the Convention, the committee to survey the agencies, the deferment of the meetings in 1943 and 1945, the Hundred Thousand Club (debt payment), the establishment of two seminaries, the establishment of the Western Assembly, war cost on the mission fields, the survey of Theological Education for the SBC, and the World Council of Churches.

Size: 1 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 101

Biographical Sketch

John H. Buchanan served on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1937-1948, and as its President from 1946-1947. While on the Committee, Dr. Buchanan worked on several sub-committees, including the Allocation, Administration, Capital Needs Survey, and Theological Education Survey. In 1945, he received an honorable mention from the United States Treasury Department for his work in the War Finance Program. Dr. Buchanan was also a member of the Foreign Mission Board from 1949 – 1955.

Dr. Buchanan received his Bachelor of Arts from Mississippi College, in 1910, and his Master of Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1921, after returning from serving as an Army Chaplain during World War I in France. He held several pastorates, including Booneville Baptist Church (Mississippi), Finchville Baptist Church (Kentucky), Paris Baptist Church (Tennessee), First Baptist Church (Meridian, Mississippi), First Baptist Church (El Dorado, Mississippi), and First Baptist Church (Lynchburg, Virginia). Dr. Buchanan was pastor of Southside Baptist Church
(Birmingham, Alabama) from 1937 until his retirement in 1957. He worked as a trustee for Union University (Jackson, Tennessee), Ouachita University (Arkadelphia, Arkansas), Averett University (Danville, Virginia), and Howard College (Big Spring, Texas). Both Ouachita and Howard gave Dr. Buchanan honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Born in 1887 in Blue Mountain, Mississippi, Dr. Buchanan died in 1976. He married Ruby Lowery and had four children – Lynn, Jean, John, Jr., and Anne. John H. Buchanan, Jr. served as United States Congressman for Alabama’s Sixth District from 1964 – 1980.

Scope and Content Note

The John H. Buchanan Papers (1938 – 1953) deal with his tenure on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and sub-committees, including the Allocation, Administration, Capital Needs Survey, and Theological Education Survey. The collection contains 1.5 linear feet of materials, in three document boxes, and articles, budgets, reports, financial plans, surveys, and correspondence. Materials are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Much of the collection relates to either Convention finances or finances for other agencies. In addition, some material also covers the Woman’s Missionary Union, World Council of Churches, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the establishment of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Other materials deal with the concerns about the financial impact of World War II on the Convention and its function. Dr. Buchanan corresponded with several prominent Baptist leaders, including E. P. Alldredge, Walter Pope Binns, Austin Crouch, J. E. Dillard, John L. Hill, T. L. Holcomb, John R. Jester, H. G. Lindsay, Duke K. McCall, Charles E. Maddry, Kathleen Mallory, T. W. Medearis, Hight C Moore, Pat M. Neff, Louie D. Newton, M. T. Rankin, Porter Routh, J. W. Storer, and C. C. Warren.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically within subject divisions

Preferred Citation
The John H. Buchanan Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions
None

Subject Terms
Buchanan, John Hall, 1887 – 1976
Gardner, Truman Cleveland, 1888 – 1908
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
World Council of Churches
Southern Baptist Convention.. Executive Committee
Theological education – Baptists

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