South Carolina Political Collections

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Charles Evans Boineau, Jr.

(1923-2005)

Papers, 1934-2003

Volume:	2.5 linear feet
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Biographical Note:

Charles Evans Boineau, Jr., was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on September 27, 1923, to Charles E. and Bessie (Trippett) Boineau. He graduated from Camden High School and entered The Citadel in 1941. As U.S. involvement in WWII escalated, Boineau interrupted his studies and volunteered for the Naval Air Corps in February 1943. Naval aviation training completed, he was ordered to active duty in the Pacific theater, where he served from October 1944 to February 1945 as a fighter pilot aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet.

At war's end, Boineau went to work in the family business, Boineau, Inc., of Columbia, a moving and warehouse company associated with Allied Moving Vans. By 1961, Boineau, vice-president of the company, had distinguished himself as a civic leader, serving as Director of Columbia's Chamber of Commerce, 1956-1958, Director of the Rotary Club, 1951-1954 and 1956-1959, and as a member of the Better Business Bureau.

A growing unease with the liberal platforms of the Democratic Party prompted the young businessman to announce his party affiliation with the GOP in 1960. Denouncing "socialistic programs" and pledging a "real fight for full-time conservatism," Boineau won a special election to the South Carolina General Assembly in August 1961 to fill the unexpired term of Richland County representative Tom E. Elliott, who had resigned to become county treasurer. With his "easy victory," 7,333 to 5,940 votes, over Democrat Joe E. Berry, Boineau became the first Republican elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives since 1900. Boineau's victory attracted national attention as it signaled the emergence of a recognizable two-party system in South Carolina politics. U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater wrote Boineau—"You will go down in history as the first republican to crack the solid ranks of democrats in South Carolina, and some day, whether you know it or not, your victory will mark the turning point in not only the political but the economic direction of your state."

As a member of the House, Boineau championed reform in election laws, served on the Agriculture and Conservation and Labor, Commerce and Industry committees, and defended the conservative party's agenda. Boineau was not able to repeat the success he and the Party had enjoyed in the 1961 special election in his 1962 bid for a full term in the House. The 1961 special election had drawn a small turnout and provided the fledgling Republican Party a rare opportunity. In conjunction with his own campaign, Boineau worked tirelessly for the campaigns of Bill Workman for Senate and Floyd Spence for Congress. In 1964, Boineau again campaigned for the House, but again lost. Serving as a delegate to the 1964 Republican National Convention in San Francisco, Boineau

wholeheartedly endorsed the presidential campaign of Arizona senator, Barry Goldwater. After the 1964 convention, Boineau ended his brief political career.

Scope and Content Note:

2.5 ft. of materials, 1934-2003, chiefly 1961-1964, document more fully the emergence of a viable and active Republican Party in South Carolina than they do Boineau's brief tenure in the South Carolina House of Representatives. The papers are arranged into nine series. In addition to the papers described herein, Mr. Boineau recorded an extensive interview with Modern Political Collections (now SCPC) regarding his education, wartime experiences, and political involvement.

Campaign materials primarily document Boineau's 1961 election victory and consist largely of congratulatory letters. Two folders combine T.V. scripts and other press related materials for both Boineau's 1961 contest and the 1962 Workman for Senate race with campaign advertising materials from the Republican National Committee. Of particular note in the campaign series, is the file "Civil Action, *Boineau, et al v. Thornton, et al*, 1964." While only few items are found, it provides evidence of his unsuccessful court challenge to South Carolina's full-slate election law. Records relating to Boineau's efforts in the 1962 Workman and Spence campaigns are also found in this series. Clippings offer supplementary news accounts of Boineau's 1961, 1962 and 1964 campaigns for office.

Invitations provide a partial record of speaking engagements, insight into the growing number of Republican organizations in South Carolina and Georgia, and evidence of spreading conservative views. Two small pocket calendars document Boineau's activities in late 1961 and 1962. Speeches, although few in number, present Boineau's thinking on issues facing the nation and South Carolina. Most of the speeches collected are those of Robert F. Chapman, Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, c.1961 to 1963.

Topical Files document, in part, Boineau's interests and activities as a member of the South Carolina House, such as his proposed amendment to one of the state's election laws, the "Loyalty Oath." This series, however, is dominated by records which reflect Boineau's association with the Republican Party at the national, state, and local levels. His service as a delegate to the 1964 Republican National Convention, participation in Republican regional conferences and association with the Richland County Republicans is well documented.

Personal papers include Boineau's handwritten notes chiefly relating to meetings and speaking engagements from the campaign trail. These scribbled notes function both as an itinerary for Boineau and as a diary of Republican efforts throughout the state. The notes cover his early campaign efforts, speaking engagements, precinct or club organizations, Republican conferences, and minutes of both state and county executive committee meetings. Records documenting Boineau's military career as a naval aviator during WWII and brief stint in the naval reserves, include his orders, fighter pilot training materials, and separation papers.

Clippings are arranged topically and recount Boineau's campaigns and the activities of the Republican Party at the state and national levels. Printed materials include miscellaneous conservative pamphlets collected by Boineau.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Campaigns: **Box 1**
- General, 1961-1964
- Berry-Boineau Race, 1961
- Correspondence:
  - 1961 [Primarily congratulatory] (4)
  - 1962, 1964
- Civil Action, *Boineau, et al v. Thornton, et al*, 1964
- Finch for Governor Campaign, 1978
- Press:
  - Radio Spots, 1961, n.d.
  - TV Scripts, 1961-1962
- Ward 16, 1964
- Workman and Spence Campaigns, 1962
- Ephemera, 1961-1962 & n.d.

Correspondence:
- 1934, 1962, 1964, 1976
- 1977-1982, 1992, 1999, 2001, n.d.

Invitations, 1961-1962 (2)

Speeches, 1961, n.d.

Topical Files:
- Human Events (Political Action Conference), 1961-1962
- Legislation, 1961-1962
- Loyalty Oath, 1962
- Naugatuck Valley Industrial Council, 1961
- Republican Party:
  - General:
    - 1956-1964
    - 1976-1978, n.d.
  - Republican Congressional Committee Newsletters, 1962
  - Republican National Convention, 1964 (3)
  - Republican Regional Conference-Southern States, 1961
  - Richland County Republicans:
    - 1961-1963
    - 1976-1980

  - South Carolina Republican Party: **Box 2**
    - 1960-1962
    - 1976-1980, 1989-1990, 2003, n.d.
- Richland County Delegation Meeting Minutes, 1961-1963

Personal:
- General, 1960-1962, 1975, 1995, 2003
- Military:
  - General, 1941-1946
  - Maps, 1945, n.d.
  - Navy Reserve, 1946-1948
  - Orders, 1943-1945
  - Separation Papers, 1945
  - Training Materials, 1945, n.d.
- Notes, 1961-1963, n.d.

Clippings:
- General, 1961-1965, 1976-1978, 1991, 1999, n.d.
- Black Bottom Probe, 1962

- Campaigns:
  - 1961:
    - General (2)
    - "Out of Town" Coverage (2)
  - 1962
  - 1964
- Civil Rights, 1962
- General Assembly, 1962
- Republican National Convention, 1964
- Republicans, S.C.:
  - 1961-1962 (2)
  - 1963-1966, 1976, 1980, 1994-2002, n.d.
- World War II, 1945

Audio-Visual Materials:

- Photographs, c. 1924-c. 1963, n.d.
- Audio Cassettes:
  - Tom Anderson Speech, 1964
  - 30-Second Jingle
- DVD, Interview with CEB, WWII Experiences, Calhoun Co Museum & Cultural Center, n.d. (4 min)
- Dictabelt Record, Reps Election Special, July 17, 1961

Printed Materials, 1959-1962, n.d.