Betty Glad
(1927-2010)
Papers, 1966-2009

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Biographical Note:

University of South Carolina professor Betty Glad is remembered as a teacher, writer, political scientist, historian, researcher, and mentor. Her publications on political leaders Charles Evans Hughes, Key Pittman, Ronald Reagan, and Jimmy Carter gave her the reputation for being a top authority on American politics and leadership.

Glad was born September 27, 1927 in Utah, and graduated from the University of Utah magna cum laude with a B.S. in Political Science. Coincidentally, she received her wings from United Air Lines Stewardess Training School in Cheyenne, Wyoming and Phi Beta Kappa award on the same night in 1949. It was during her time as a stewardess that Glad, working on night flights, pursued her Ph.D. in Political Science. It is mentioned in economist Julian Simon’s autobiography that it was Glad who inspired his idea for the volunteer incentive plan used on overbooked airlines. Glad received her doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1962 and taught at several universities, including Mount Holyoke College, Brooklyn College, Purdue University, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before coming to the University of South Carolina in 1989.

Although her first book, Charles Evans Hughes, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, Glad is more notably recognized for her work on Jimmy Carter. In her 1980 book, Jimmy Carter: In Search of the Great White House, Glad evaluates the Carter Administration by considering Carter’s early political career, southern politics, and strategies used during his campaign. Glad revisited Carter in her 2009 book An Outsider in the White House, providing an in-depth study into Jimmy Carter’s presidency while evaluating his success as a foreign policy president.

Glad’s awards and honors include the Frank D. Goodnow Award from the American Political Science Association for a lifetime of contributions and service to the discipline, the Harold Lasswell Award from the International Society for Political Psychology for a lifetime of outstanding contributions to political psychology, and the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award from the Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science. She served as President of the International Society for Political Psychology, President of the Presidency Research Section of the American Political Science Association, Vice-President of the American Political Science
Association, and was the Olin D. Johnston Professor of Political Science and Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of South Carolina.

Glad was among the first women to earn a Ph.D. in Political Science and subsequently teach at a Ph.D.-granting institution as well as was the first woman chair of the University of Illinois Department of Political Science. She is remembered as not only a leader but also a pioneer for women in the field of Political Science. She passed away August 2, 2010.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Comprising 5 linear feet, Glad’s papers provide insight into her distinguished career as a researcher and historian. The collection chiefly contains interview notes and transcriptions for her published works as well as clippings that highlight her success. Also present is research material for her 1980 book, *Jimmy Carter: In Search of the Great White House*, including the famous *Playboy* interview and transcripts of her interviews with various politicians, community leaders, and Carter’s family and friends. Of particular interest are interviews from Carter’s high school classmates and his mother, Lillian Carter. The articles and transcripts in the research series, arranged by author then chronologically, cover various topics concerning Carter’s campaign, politics, family and opposition. Included among this series are the 1976 transcripts for Jimmy Carters interview on CBS’s “Face the Nation” and Bill Moyers interview with Jimmy Carter on PBS’s special edition of “USA: People and Politics.”

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**Series List:**

- General
- Biographical Information
- Articles
- Book Reviews
- Books
- Research
- Clippings
Box Inventory:

General
Biographical
Articles:
“The Psychological History of a Tyrant,” 1974
“Black-and-White Thinking: Ronald Reagan’s Approach to Foreign Policy,” 1983
“Charles Evans Hughes, Rationalism, and Foreign Affairs,” 1985
“Multidisciplinary studies and the Relationship of Scientific Research to Public Policy Making,” 1988
“Reagan’s Midlife Crisis and the Turn to the Right,” 1989
“Dilemmas of Deterrence: Rational and Non Rational Perspectives,” 1990
“Political Psychology: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?,” 1991
“Figuring Out Saddam Hussein,” 1993,
“Presidential Personality and Improvisational Decision Making: Eisenhower and the 1956 Hungarian Crisis,” 1993
“Charles Evans Hughes and the Campaign of 1916,” 1994
“Key Pittman,” 1995 [Encyclopedia of the United States Congress]
“Passing the Baton: Transformational Political Leadership from Gorbachev to Yeltsin; From de Klerk to Mandela,” 1996
“President Nixon’s Inner Circle of Advisors,” 1996
“When Governments Are Good,” 2000
“Political Leadership: Some Methodological Considerations,” 2002
“Sidestepping the Hawks: Eisenhower, the Solarium Study, and the Hungarian Crisis of 1956,” 2002
“Why Tyrants Go Too Far: Malignant Narcissism and Absolute Power,” 2002
“Bill Clinton: The character Issue Revisited,” 2004
“Psychobiography in Context: Predicting the Behavior of Tyrants,” n.d.
“Reagan and the INF,” n.d.

Book Reviews:
The Enigma of Felix Frankfurter, by H.N. Hirsch
JFK and LBJ, by Tom Wicker
The Unfinished Presidency, by Douglas Brinkley
Working in the World: Jimmy Carter and the Making of American Foreign Policy, by Robert A. Strong

Books:
Charles Evans Hughes and the Illusions of Innocence: A Study in American Diplomacy, 1966 [Partial Copy]
Psychological Dimensions of War, 1990 [2 partial copies, bound volume]
The Russian Transformation: Political, Sociological, and Psychological Aspects, 1999:
Book Reviews
Chapters
Striking First: The Preventive War Doctrine and the Reshaping of U.S. Foreign Policy, 2004 [Galley print]
Key Pittman: The Tragedy of a Senate Insider, 1986

Research (Carter, Jimmy): Box 2
General (3)
Articles and Transcripts:
By Author:
K
Q
R
S (2)
T
U, V
W
Author Unknown (2)
Chronological:
1974, 1975
1976:
Jan., Feb.
March
April
May
June
July
August
Sept
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.
1977:
Jan. - May
June - Oct.
Nov. - Dec.

1978
1979, 1980
n.d.

Interviews:
General (3)
Alston, Philip A.
Anderson, Patrick
Andrews, Joe
Andrews, June
Ashworth, Helen
Bacon, Charles
Bacon, Joseph
Ball, Steve
Barber, James David
Bauserman, Evelyn H.
Beazley, Mary
Blair, William
Blanton, A. L.
Bolton, Arthur
Bock, A.E.
Bond, Julian

Bourne, Peter
Braswell, T. ED
Braunstein, Elizabeth
Brenner, Thomas E.
Brophy, Tom
Brooks, Edward
Brown, Brian
Brown, Harold Bush
Cuttis, Beau
Caldwell, Sam
Callahan, Francis
Callaway, Howard
Campbell, Charles
Carter, Hugh, Jr.
Carter, Lillian
Cato, Marguerite Wise
Cheokas, Arthur
Clark, Ellery
Clendinning, B.A.

Box 3
Colegrove, Warren
Coletta, Paolo E.
Cowdrey, Roy
Crown, John
Cruz, Eloy
Darden, William
Dennison, E.H.
Dolvin, Emily Francis
Dunn, E.D.
Dutton, D.W.
Edwards, Henry L.
Eizenstate, Stuart
Fitch, Lowell
Flanagan, Joseph
Folsom, H.F.
Forbes, James H.
Forrest, Rosalind
Fortson, Warren
Freeman, Rev.
Gambrell, David
Garrett, Doris
Gellarstedt, L. L.
Godwin, L.W.
Gordy, Fannie Surasky
Groves, Seli
Grubb, H.V.
Hadden, Robert
Hafif, Herbert
Hall, Robert
Hardin, Richard
Harper, William
Harris, Julian H., J. Robin, Roy V.
Hays, Brooks
Hendrix, James
Harrington, Louise
Hess, Carolyn
Hicks, Charles
Holloway, Al
Holley, John
Horne, J. William
Hudson, Evelyn
Jacobs, R. Kenneth
Jackson, Theodore
Johnson, Richard
Jordan, Clarence
Karr, Rebecca
King, C.B.  
Kirbo, Charles  
Kittelson, James  
Klemm, Fred  
Lalor, William  
Lamb, Rudy, W. C. Sr.  
Laning, Richard  
Law, John  
Leddick, Roth S.  
Lemieux, C.P.  
Lippert, Wayne R.  
Lipshutz, Robert  
Logan, Bob  
Loggins, J.E.  
Lowery, Thomas  
Lorentzson, Bettie Timmerman  
Lucas, J.H.  
Mandus, George  
Marriott, McKim  
Marshall, Tom  
McBee, Louise  
McCoy, Grace  
McDevit, John  
McDuffey, Pete  
Merritt, Janet  
Miller, Gary E.  
Moler, Robert  
Moore, Frank  
Morris, Kaye  
Murray, Bill  
Myers, J. Frank

Nixon, William  
Norton, Howard  
Ostertag, Carl  
Osborne, Doris  
Pattillo, Daniel  
Pennington, Brooks  
Peterson, Tom  
Pettys, dick  
Pippert, Wes  
Pope, Bill  
Rafshoon, Jerry  
Reed, W.A.  
Riley, John  
Riner, Duane

Box 4
Robinson, Hoyt
Roper, Bill
Rowan, Robert
Rusher, Albert
Rutland, [?]
Samuels, Rita
Sanders, Carl
Saylor, Miriam
Schulz, Foster R.
Schrum, Robert
Scott, Robert
Seckinger, Al
Shaddeau, C.H.
Shaw, Robert
Sheffield, [?]
Shipp, Bill
Simon, Paul
Singeltary, Jack
Smallwood, Roy
Smith, Allie
Solomon, Alma and Walter
Spann, Gloria
Spicer, William
Spivey, Glen
Starnes, George
Stembler, John
Strickler, [?]
Sullivan, R.E.
Sutherland, A.H.
Tanner, Lottie
Thomas, Kenneth
Thomas, MaryAnn (2)
Thompson, Fletcher
Thornton, Russell
Timmerman, Ida Lee
Towson, Lambuth
Trottier, Albert
Turner, Ernest
Underwood, Norman
Vaughn, C.J.
Wagner, Martin
Walters, Nelle
Walton, Hanes
Way, Harold
Wilkie, Curtis
Williams, Frank and Virginia
Wise, William
Wishard, B.T.
Wood, Dot
Wright, Leonard
Yarborough, L.E.
Yoder, Delmar
Young, Andrew
Unidentified

Speeches, Carter’s

Clippings