The establishment of the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Endowment was announced at a reception held at the University of South Carolina’s South Caroliniana Library on June 29, 1998. The Endowment will benefit the Library’s division for Modern Political Collections.

Dorn represented South Carolina’s Third District in the United States Congress for thirteen terms between 1947 and 1974. Dorn also served in the South Carolina House, 1939 to 1940, the South Carolina Senate, 1941 to 1942, and as chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party, 1980 to 1984. An eloquent advocate of South Carolina’s interests, Dorn was particularly effective in the areas of agriculture, industrialization, and highway construction. Dorn helped organize the informal House Textile Committee around 1961 and served as its secretary. Dorn is perhaps best remembered as the strongest advocate in Congress of the interests of America’s veterans.

The W.J.B. Dorn Collection is among the finest and most complete congressional collections preserved anywhere. It is the most heavily used collection open for research in Modern Political Collections and among the largest manuscript collections ever accepted by the University. The papers document Mr. Dorn’s campaigns for office, his life and career in public service, his terms as chair of the Democratic Party, and his interests outside of government. In addition, his collection, like many legislative collections, documents in a very personal way the lives and concerns of his constituents. Modern Political Collections also holds the papers of Butler Derrick, Dorn’s successor, and thus documents life in South Carolina’s Third District from 1948 to 1993.

The Dorn Endowment will help fund expensive preservation work on the Dorn Collection, a research awards program, and an annual Bryan Dorn Graduate assistantship in Modern Political Collections. The Endowment goal is $150,000. Contributions and pledges totaling $106,000 have been received to date, chiefly from leaders and foundations associated with the Textile Industry.

**Standing behind Mr. Dorn and his sister, Mrs. Grace Cochran, are Herb Hartsook, Steve Griffith, Carol Benfield, Director of Library Development, and George Terry, Dean and Vice Provost of Libraries and Information Services.**

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