Butler Derrick represented South Carolina’s Third District in the United States House of Representatives from 1975 to 1995. At his retirement he donated his congressional papers, along with campaign records and memorabilia, to the University to be administered by the South Caroliniana Library’s Modern Political Collections division.

The library views the Derrick Collection as a keystone in its effort to document government and contemporary society. Derrick’s lengthy tenure in Congress, his role in leadership, and his substantive nature form a rare combination ensuring that his papers will constitute a major historical resource on government and politics. Modern Political Collections also holds the papers of Derrick’s predecessor, Bryan Dorn, and thus documents life in the Third District from 1948 to 1995.

Modern Political Collections was created in 1991 on the announcement that Fritz Hollings would donate his papers to the University. Other holdings include the papers of Sol Blatt, Rembert Dennis, Marion Gessette, Olin Johnston, Isadore Lourie, Dick Riley, John West, and the Democratic and Republican state parties.

To date the University has received over 1,700 linear feet of material from Senator Hollings. Butler Derrick donated approximately 450 feet of papers. The size and complex nature of these collections differentiate them from the library’s typical manuscript collections.

The Modern Political Collections Endowment has been inaugurated with a generous donation from Derrick. He and Congressman Floyd Spence are leading a campaign to raise funds for the endowment which will support student assistants in Modern Political Collections, the publication of finding aids, and the promotion of the study of contemporary government and society.

Herbert J. Harrook is curator of the South Caroliniana Library’s Modern Political Collections.

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DECADES OF CHANGE
by Herbert J. Harrook

"POWER IN A LEGISLATIVE BODY IS NOT JUST CONFERRED ON YOU; IT'S YEARS AND YEARS OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, WHERE PEOPLE KNOW YOU STAND BY YOUR WORD."

Butler Derrick

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Left to right: Mrs. John Palmis, Congressman Butler Derrick, Mrs. Butler Derrick, Sr., Mrs. Butler Derrick, and Dr. John Palmis.