

S0392 Slavin, Alberta (1930- 2008)

Papers, 1965-1978

227 Folders, 3 Audio Tapes, 10 Microfilm Rolls

MICROFILM

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Alberta Slavin donated her papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in increments from November 22, 1977 to May 21, 1982. She has been active in consumer affairs and citizen campaigns since 1965 when she helped form Save Our Symphony (SOS), a campaign to keep the symphony in St. Louis. In 1967 she founded and headed Housewives Elect Lower Prices (HELP), a consumer advocate group that surveyed and published food prices in St. Louis area retail stores for nine years. The group also worked on legislation to ban non-returnable containers and participated in meat boycotts in April 1973.

In 1970 Alberta Slavin founded the Utility Consumers Council of Missouri (UCCM) and became its first president. UCCM helped make public utilities more responsive to complaints by publishing service errors and offering testimony at public hearings to curtail utility rate increases, a goal shared by Slavin in her unsuccessful campaign for lieutenant governor in 1976. In 1974, UCCM helped gain for consumers the right to use telephone equipment not manufactured by Southwestern Bell. Slavin resigned from UCCM in June 1977. From 1974-1976 Slavin served as national vice president of the National Consumers Congress, an association of consumer groups resulting from the 1973 meat boycotts. She also served as a member of the Consumer Affairs Advisory of the Federal Energy Administration from 1976 to 1980 and as president of the Committee for Environmental Information from 1972 to 1977.

In July 1977 Governor Joseph Teasdale appointed Slavin to the Missouri Public Service Committee. As a commissioner issues. She was appointed chair of the commission. As a commissioner, she worked to curb utility rate increases and championed pro-consumer issues. Slavin was appointed chair of the commission in 1979 and removed as chair by Governor Christopher Bond in January, 1981. She resigned shortly thereafter.

She was hired as a consumer editor and reporter by KMOX-TV.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Alberta Slavin's papers of 1965-1978 document her involvement with the Clayton School District, the Clayton sales tax controversy and other personal campaigns; the founding of Save Our Symphony; the work of Housewives Elect Lower Prices, the Utility Consumers Council of Missouri, and the National Consumers Congress; the 1976 Lieutenant Governor campaign and Slavin's term on the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Included with the collection are public reports, correspondence, speeches, histories, mailing lists, newsletters, press releases, questionnaires, survey sheets, tax and grant documents, public testimony, memoranda, publications, campaign literature, newsclippings, position papers, photographs, and statistical information.

The collection is divided into eight series: (1) personal files; (2) Save Our Symphony; (3) Housewives Elect Lower Prices; (4) Utility Consumers Council of Missouri; (5) National Consumers Congress; (6) Lieutenant\Governor campaign; (7) Missouri Public Service Commission; (8) Tapes.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1-Personal Files, 1967-1978 Folders 1-13

The personal files series includes memoranda, correspondence, public plans and reports and speeches. Subject headings arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 2-Save Our Symphony, 1965-1976, Folders 14-22

The Save Our Symphony series include articles of incorporation, bylaws, correspondence, minutes, progress reports, and notes, Subject headings arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 3-Housewives Elect Lower Prices, 1967-1976, Folders 23-150

The bulk of the Housewives Elect Lower Prices series consists of survey sheets and tallies from St. Louis area grocery stores. The series also includes correspondence, histories, mailing lists, newsletters, press releases, questionnaires, and reports. Subject headings arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 4-Utility Consumers Council of Missouri, 1970-1977, Folders 151-205

This series includes grant documents, correspondence, press releases, progress reports, conference and seminar material, public testimony, and memoranda. Subject headings arranged alphabetically under the following sub-series: Organizational, 1970-1977; and subjects, 1970-1977.

SERIES 5-National Consumers Congress, 1971-1976, Folders 206-211

Includes correspondence, reports, memoranda and publications. Subject headings arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 6-Lieutenant Governor Campaign, 1976, Folders 212-237

Includes campaign literature, strategy notes, correspondence, and endorsements. Subject headings arranged chronologically.

SERIES 7-Missouri Public Service Commission, 1977-1980, Microfilm rolls 1-10

Microfilm reproduction of holdings of the Missouri State Archives of material documenting

Alberta Slavin's term on the commission. Loosely organized alphabetically.

SERIES 8- Tapes

Series includes three recording of radio programs concerning Alberta Slavin. Arranged Chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

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2. Clayton Master Plan, n.d.
3. Clayton Sales Tax, 1969
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6. Personal Correspondence, 1967-1968
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10. Proposition 1, 1976-1977
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12. State Energy Conservation Plan, 1977
13. Worker Ethics, 1978

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16. Correspondence, 1966
17. Correspondence, 1967
18. Correspondence, 1968
19. Correspondence, 1969-1970
20. Living With the Arts Conference, 1969
21. Minutes and Progress Reports, 1965-1969
22. Notes and Unfinished Business, n.d. c. 1966

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24. Federal Trade Commission Food Survey Statement, 1973
25. Food Price Correspondence, 1967-1970
26. Food Survey Sheet Tallies, 1968
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28. Item Pricing Bill Correspondence, 1976-1977

29. Kroger Price Control, 1975
30. Mailing List. n.d.
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33. Newsletters, 1973-1976
34. Press Releases and Editorials, 1968-1969
35. Price Control Information, 1971
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T696 Intermission Facets, "Is Culture Possible in Missouri", Panel discussion with Missouri Arts Council Director, Clark Mitze, Greater St. Louis Arts and Education Council Director Michael Newton and Save Our Symphony Committee Chairman, Alberta Slavin, broadcast on KFUE, October 6, 1966.

T697 Interview with Reverend Sam Soule about the Missouri Public Service Commission and Southwestern Bell broadcast on KTTS-FM, April 27, 1980.

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