Biographical Note

Avery Leiserson was born in 1913 and died February 14, 2004 at the age of 90. He was a native of Madison, Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1934 with a B.A. degree and in 1941 from the University of Chicago with a Ph.D in Political Science. Early in his career and before the second World War he taught briefly at Princeton University. Then from 1946 until he came to Vanderbilt University in 1952, he taught at the University of Chicago. He was at Vanderbilt until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1978. He was a nationally known scholar of American politics who was instrumental in building Vanderbilt’s Political Science department to a position of national prominence.

Professor Leiserson’s great mentor and influence was Charles E. Merriam. In an introduction to a program in 1975 of the American Political Science Association of which Professor Leiserson was president at the time, Samuel Patterson introduced Avery Leiserson as one of the most important leaders in the field of Political Science and noted especially his seminal work “Problems of Methodology in Political Research.” Avery Leiserson is known in addition to his work on methodology in political science “for his concern about values, his devotion to scientific inquiry, and his emphasis on realism all of which were guided by his sense of the value of democracy.”

In the 1960’s Professor Leiserson was active in Civil Rights work, and he was one of a group of Vanderbilt professors who first proposed a Black Studies Program in the College of Arts and Science, which later became the African American Studies Program.

Professor Leiserson was honored with the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Service Award in 1967 and with an “Avery Leiserson Day” on November 1, 2003 to recognize his many accomplishments during his long life and career.

His published books include:

Administrative Regulation: A Study of Representation of Interests (1942)
Parties and Politics: An Institutional and Behavioral Approach (1958)
The American South in the 1960’s (1964)

With these contributions to others:
Perspectives on the South: Agenda for Research (1967)
Political Research and Political Theory (1968)

Leiserson served as editor of the Journal of Politics and as book review editor of The American Political Science Review.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is 3.34 linear feet, 8 Hollinger boxes which consist of correspondence, articles and book reviews by Avery Leiserson as well as materials relating to his academic career at the University of Chicago (1946-1952) and at Vanderbilt University.
(1952 -1978). Other series in this collection include reprints, book reviews, magazine and newspaper articles written by others. The materials cover the years 1936 until his death in 2004.

Container List

**BOX 1**

**Correspondence - Outgoing**

1. Dec. 8, 1953 to Dean Ewing P. Shahan  
   Feb. 19, 1969 to Prof. W.S. Livingston  
   July 14, 1970 to Harry H. Ransom

**Correspondence – Incoming**

2. Bhambhri, C. P.  
   Biemiller, Andrew J.  
   Bryant, Mavis
3. Edwards, Richard A.  
   Henning, John F.  
   Livingston, William S.  
   Lynch, G. A.
4. Naqqi, S.A.H.  
   Parthemos, George S.  
   Truman, David  
   Ulmer, S. Sidney  
   Weiner, Myron
5. ?, Ruth, letter dated May 19, 2001 with photos

**Academic Career – University of Chicago**

6. War Assets Administration materials, 1946

**Academic Career – Vanderbilt University**

8. Political Science 251 “The Arrow General Impossibility Theorem”
9. Political Science 336 (Mr. Dorsey) “Comparative Study of Public Administration” Spring 1970 – Course description
11. Department of Political Science, Graduate program reading list, 1975
12. Political Science Course information
13. Program – Southern Political Science Association, Nov. 7 – 9, 1968; Program –
Fifty-seventh Annual meeting – Southern Political Science Association, Nov. 7 –
9, 1985, signed by Manning Dauer.
14. V.O. Key, Jr. – A.Leiserson’s research notes, 1958; Bibliography, 1931 – 1964;
“Old V.O.” Student – Faculty Colloquium at Vanderbilt. Jan. 1979
16. Legal document of petition Faculty appointments, filed April 6, 1951 in the
District Court of Appeal of the State of California
17. University of Delhi, Department of Sociology, Annual Report, 1965 – 66; 1966 –
67; Syllabus for the M.A. Examination in Sociology and University of Delhi,
1969
19. Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, 1995 -96; Obituary of Prof.
B. Ahmed, Sept. 14, 1976
20. American Political Science Association Memorandum on support for Political
Science program, 1973; Social Science Research Council – Fellowships and
Grants for Training and Research to be offered in 1986 -87; Citizens’ Research
Foundation Brochure
21. Education Budget and Bills
22. Papers for research
23. Research notes
24. Research notes
25. Research notes

Academic Career – Vanderbilt University – Photographs

26. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952, # 427 - 447
27. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 448 - 457
28. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 464 - 473
29. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 474 - 486
30. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 487 - 496
31. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 497 - 513
32. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 514 - 523
33. Building of Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt Campus, 1952 # 524 - 540

BOX 2

Writings by Avery Leiserson – Articles and reprints

1. “Political Limitations on Executive Reorganization,” in American
Political Science Review, Vol. 41, Feb.1947
2. “Organized Labor as a Pressure Group” (pp. 108 – 117) in Labor in the
3. “Organized Labor as a Pressure Group” reprinted from The Annals of the
American Academy of Political and and Social Science, Philadelphia, March
1951 with accompanying research notes
5. “Science and the Public Life” Address at the Southern Political Science Association, November 11, 1966
6. “India’s Political Culture and the State of its Political Science” November 1968, typescript
7. “India’s Political Culture and the State of its Political Science” November 1968, multiple copies of the typescript

**Writings by Avery Leiserson – Reviews**


**Writings by others – articles and reprints**

   Ahmed, Aqueil “Progress in the Science of Science with Special Reference to India” Center for the Study of Social and Cultural Change, University of North Dakota, May 1969
18. Almond, Gabriel A. “Psychology, Numbers, and Political Science: Merriam’s Prophecy Fulfilled and Unfulfilled” an address at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1974
   Ashmore, Harry S. “The Strange Case of Kim Dae-Jung” a dialogue discussion
paper presented in Seoul, South Korea, May 21, 1974
Bawa, Vasant Kumar “Changing Indian Attitudes Towards the Developing Political and Economic Situation in Asia” address given to Nashville Committee on Foreign Relations, Sept. 29, 1970
Birkby, Robert H. “Politics of Accommodation: The Origin of the Supremacy Clause” reprinted from the *Western Political Quarterly*, March, 1966
Boulware, L.R. “Politics …The Businessman’s Biggest Job in 1958” address before the Annual Meeting of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, May 21, 1958
22. Brodie, Bernard “Some Strategic Implications of the Nuclear Revolution,” Institute of International Studies, University of Utah
23. Campbell, Angus; Gurin, Gerald, Miller, Warren E. “Television’s Campaign Audiences” Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, March 10, 1953

**BOX 3**

**Writings by others – articles and reprints**

1. Dahl, Robert A. “The Concept of Power” reprint April 1957
Dragnich, Alex N. Review of To End A War by Richard Holbrooke, 1998 Accompanying letter, Sept. 7, 1999 with two letters to the editors
5. Eby, Kermit “Labor’s Emerging Role in the Political Economy” for the Conference on Science, Philosophy, and Religion
12. Grady, Robert C., II “Property and Natural Political Virtue: the Implications of Locke as a Liberal” reprinted from Polity, Vol. X, No. 1, Fall 1977

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16. Hancock, M. Donald “Comparative Public Policy: An Assessment” prepared for delivery at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Denver, Colorado, September 2 – 5, 1982
17. Hardin, Charles M. “A Political Interpretation of Agricultural Issues” an address at the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on December 8, 1954; “To Make Our Case – and Expand our Base,” August, 1981
18. Heard, Alexander “A University and Its Community” remarks made in a talk before the Rotary Club of Nashville, February 25, 1963
25. Kothari, Rajni “Changing Nature of Human Conflict in Our Times” and “Choices Facing a Divided World” Dyason Memorial Lectures, 1974, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India
BOX 4

Writings by others – articles and reprints

1. Kothari, Rajni “Implications of Nation-Building for the Typology of Political Systems” address before the International Political Science Association Seventh World Congress, September 18 – 23, 1967
7. Landau, Martin “The Classroom and Political Science, or, Teaching is Not a Political Act” preliminary draft of paper for Iowa Conference, October 1974
8. Leiserson, Michael “Economic Interests and Foreign Policy: The Case of Britain and the European Movement” a senior thesis submitted to the Department of Politics, Princeton University, April 19, 1961
9. Leiserson, William “Industrial Fluctuations and Unemployment” address delivered at forty-third annual meeting of the American Economic Association, Cleveland, Ohio, December 30, 1930; Right and Wrong in Labor Relations, the Barbara Weinstock Lecture on the Morals of Trade Delivered at the University of California, April 8, 1937


**BOX 5**

**Writings by others – articles and reprints**

Neumann, Sigmund “Conservatism: New and Old” foreword reprinted from *Germany’s New Conservatism*, 1957
11. Prasad, R.C. “The Indian Political Scientist: His Dilemmas and Responsibilities” reprinted from *Political Scientist*, Jan.-June 1965, with accompanying letter dated May 2, 1967
14. Ranney, Austin and Berdecio, Marion Davis “Activities of the Committee on Governmental and Legal Processes, 1964-72
17. Rustow, Dankwart A. “Agreement, Dissent, and Democratic Fundamentals”
Simon, Herbert A. “Notes on the Observation and Measurement of
Political Power” in the *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 15, 1953
20. Somit, Albert “Reports of Two Key SSRC Committees: Back to the Board?”
23. Toulmin, Stephen “From Form to Function: Philosophy and History of Science in the 1950’s and Now”
25. Waldo, Dwight “Education for Public Administration in the Seventies” prepared for meetings of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, first draft January 1974
27. Westfeldt, Wallace “Settling a Sit-in” and “A Report on Nashville” reports prepared for the Nashville Community Relations Conference with accompanying letter from Alma Gault, Chairman of the NCRC, dated November 15, 1960
29. “Memorandum on the Organization of the Du Pont Company, April, 1952
30. “The Structure of the Soviet Foreign Propaganda Organization” (A summary);
   “Program for Improving the Conduct of Government Affairs” August 14, 1952

**BOX 6**

**Writings by others – book reviews**

   Albritton, Claude “A Call for Unity” review of *Science: Growth and


Ferkiss, Victor “Present Discontents” review of An End to Political Science by Marvin Surkin and Alan Wolfe in Science, Vol 171


Hacker, Andrew “Up for Grabs” review of The United States in the 1980’s by Peter Duignan and Alvin Rabushka; Setting National Priorities: Agenda for the 1980’s by Joseph A. Pechman; Human Scale by Kirkpatrick Sale; The Third Wave by Alvin Toffler; The Microelectronics Revolution edited by Tom Forester; The 1980’s: Countdown to Armageddon by Hal


13. Lemann, Nicholas “Justice for Blacks” reviews of *Race, Crime, and the Law* by Randall Kennedy; *Search and Destroy: African-American Males in the Criminal Justice System* by Jerome G. Miller; *Malign Neglect: Race,
Lund, Michael S. “A Most Popular Conspiracy” review of Policymaking for Social Security by Martha Derthick in The Public Interest


Scully, Michael “Capitalism’s ‘Moral Hazard’”’ review of Wealth and Poverty by George Gilder in The Public Interest

22. Searle, John “The Storm Over the University” review of Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Corrupted Our Higher Education by Roger Kimball; The Politics of Liberal Education edited by Darryl L. Gless and


Stade, George review of *Dimentions of a New Identity* by Erik H. Erikson; *Civilized Man’s Eight Deadly Sins* by Konrad Lorenz in *The New York Times Book Review*


Writings by others – magazine and newspaper articles

Bouvy, Larry J. “Knowledge of tax law unknown to lawmakers” letter to the Editor in The Tennessean
Broad, William J. “ Australians Create a Deadly Mouse Virus,” January 23, 2001


30. Chavez, Tim “Readers ask, What’s happened to me? I ask, What’s
happened to Democrats?” in The Tennessean
Clymer, Adam “PAC Money’s Role in Congress Raises Suspicions” in The New York Times
Coughlin, Ellen K. “Many Political Scientists are Unhappy about Their Jobs, Salaries, Students” in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 11, 1978


BOX 7

Writings by others - magazine and newspaper articles

Frankel, Charles “The Nature and Sources of Irrationalism” in Science, Vol. 180, June 1, 1973

Gellner, Ernest “Hegel’s Last Secrets: From Marx to Expressivism in Men and Ideas”
Graham, Hugh Davis “Vanderbilt community speaks out on Clinton” in Vanderbilt Register, Sept. 21 – 27, 1998


4. Kemble, Penn “The Democrats and Their Rules”
Kline, William “Ashcroft’s views reflect those of nation” letter to the editor in The Tennessean
Klinkenborg, Verlyn “Hearing the Echo of Earthly Music: Science Again Discovers How Much We Resemble the Rest of Creation”
   Ladd, Everett Carll, Jr. “The Life of 2 Parties”
   Lekachman, Robert “Training a Pleasant Demon” in Saturday Review, March 6, 1971
   Lenkowsky, Leslie “Inside the New Right” in Fortune, Sept. 22, 1980
   Livingston, J.A. “Hedges for the Prudent Man” in The Saturday Review, March 6, 1971
   Lockman, Norman “Big red flag on Ashcroft is Pentecostalism” in The Tennessean, Jan. 22, 2001
   Marchant, Pierre “Why I Still Carry A Card” as told to Pierre Marchant by a member of the French Communist Party in Realities
   Marsh, Jeffrey “Evolution and Its Discontents” in Commentary, Nov. 1982
   Miller, Arthur “Religion and Politics: A Question That Defies Solution”
8. Nie, Norman “The Decline of Parties”
Nuechterlein, James “George Will and American Conservatism” in *Commentary*, October 1983

   Reich, Robert B. “Toward a New Public Philosophy” in *The Atlantic Monthly*, May 1985

    Rosenbaum, David E. “20 Years Later, the Great Society Flourishes” in *The New York Times*,

    Ryerson, Andre “Capitalism and Selfishness” in *Commentary*, Dec. 1986
    Schrag, Peter “Who Owns the Environment?” in *Saturday Review*, July 4, 1970


Wicker, Tom “An Unwinnable War” in *The New York Times*
Wilson, Dru “Keeping Family Heirlooms Safe” in *Toronto Star*, January 10, 1999

**Articles on the C.I.A.**


**Articles on India**

16. Articles on INDIA
   - “5 Killed, Scores Hurt As India Elections Start” in *The Tennessean*, March 2, 1971

**Articles on Iran-Contra**

17.

18.
   - Brinkley, Joel “Plan for Peace, or Arms? White House Sees President’s New Offer As a Way to Win Approval on Contra Aid”
   - Buchwald, Art “Minority, minority report on Iran-contra affair sees it a little differently”
   - Cruz, Arturo, Jr. “One Hundred Years of Turpitude” in *The New Republic*, Nov. 16, 1987
   Johnston, David “Poindexter is Found Guilty of all 5 Criminal Charges for Iran-Contra Cover-Up” in The New York Times, April 8, 1990
    Safire, William “Of Meese and Men”
    Safire, William “This Bud’s for You Iran-Contra Who’s guilty of what?”
    Wicker, Tom “War Ain’t Peace Yet”
    Christian, Shirley “The Other Side”
    Radosh, Ronald “Darkening Nicaragua”
    Tucker, Robert W. “Their Wars, our Choices”

Articles on Social Security

Articles by others – miscellaneous

   “Science Policy and Political Modernization”
    March 6, 1945; “Text of Civil Rights Bill . . .” Aug. 31, 1957; “University
    Presidents are Found Living in World of Ambiguities” Dec. 24, 1973;
    “Reagan Goes Left…”; “Nixon Backed”; “Censorship Code Issued for
    Press”
    of Sociobiology” in Science, Vol. 192, April 30, 1976;
    “Beck and Reuther, the Teamsters . . .” in The Reporter, July 5, 1949; “Up
    from Crisis” in The New Republic, December 10, 1984; “The Price of a
    Daughter” in The Economist, September 14, 1985; “Time of suggestions
    on state’s busted budget”; “Hannah Arendt – Inspiration, Provocateur,
    in February”
27. From the Opinion” Supreme Court of the United States, United States V.
    White”; Article in The Atlantic Monthly, March 1985

BOX 8

Publications

1. “Some Basic Readings in Social Security” 1936 with accompanying
   letter, August 4, 1960
2. Report of the President’s Committee, Administrative Management, January
   1937
3. Executive Office of the President, Bureau of the Budget
   Staff Orientation Manual, February 15, 1945
   Staff Professional Roster, June 15, 1945
   Two Years of Progress Under the Federal Reports Act, March 1945
   Functions and Organization, November 1, 1958
   Act) and Comments Thereon
5. Final Report in the article on The Causes of Industrial Peace Under
   Collective Bargaining, July 11, 1952
   1955?
7. Public Education in Tennessee, Nov. 18, 1957, Digest of a Report
   Prepared by Herman H. Long and Vivian W. Henderson, December 1962
   Highlights of Department, Board and Agency Reports, April, 1966
10. *Fourth Five Year Plan, Draft Outline*, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India
16. *STPP News*, May 1975 (Dept. of Political Science, Purdue University)
21. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, order of service, May 27, 2001