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**TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
RECORDS
1959-1971**

RECORD GROUP 32

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of the Governor's Staff Division for Industrial and Economic Development, 1959-1971, are primarily composed of the Staff Directors' correspondence. Individual letters are arranged in chronological order by subject.

Records of the Industrial Development Division indicate an increasing effort to promote Tennessee's economic advantages. The program began in 1946 with the creation of the Industrial Development Division of the Tennessee State Planning Commission. An independent Tennessee Industrial and Agricultural Development Commission was formed in 1953 to assume the responsibility for organizing and publishing data relating to Tennessee's industrial resources.

The Commission's functions became more diversified, and it merged with the Department of Conservation in 1959 under the name of the Department of Conservation and Commerce. The General Assembly subsequently created in 1963 a Staff division for Industrial Development in the Executive Office of the Governor.

The new agency was to institute policies recommended by the Board of Commissioners of the Industrial and Agricultural Commission. Objectives included an extensive public relations program to facilitate industrial growth. Regional offices were placed in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson. Other divisions include Industrial Development, Promotion Research and Nuclear Energy Development (Box 6, Folder 5).

A new program of economic development was instituted to stimulate a growing and balanced state economy. The Economic Development Division was created and was given the authority of overseeing Industrial Development, Research and Advertising and Promotion, with the recommendation that tourism be incorporated under the new division (Box 3, Folder 15).

An index has been prepared to assist the researcher to locate information about topics and individuals who normally would not be reflected by the subject headings. The bulk of the letters concern James H. Alexander's term as the Governor's Staff Director.

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