

Fall 2010

The Rise of a Gulf Coast Legislator

Charles V. Waite

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, charles.waite@utrgv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/hist_fac



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Waite, C. (2010). The Rise of a Gulf Coast Legislator. *Journal of South Texas*, 23(4), 54–69.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in History Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

The Rise of a Gulf Coast Legislator

Charles Waite

Price Daniel held more public offices than any other figure in Texas history. He served as a state representative from 1939 to 1943 and as speaker of the Texas House of Representatives during the 1943 session. After serving in the army from 1943 to 1946, Daniel won election as Texas attorney general, a position he held until 1953. From 1953 to 1957, he represented Texas in the United States Senate. After winning the gubernatorial election of 1956, Daniel served three terms as governor, from 1957 to 1963. Although he lost the governor's election of 1962, Daniel went on to serve in the cabinet of President Lyndon Johnson. Finally, he held a seat on the Texas Supreme Court from 1970 to 1979.¹

Most historians of Texas politics focus on the later part of Daniel's political career, especially his tenure in the United States Senate and as governor of Texas. His activities as a legislator from the southeast Texas town of Liberty in the 1930s and 1940s, however, tell us much about the man who went on to hold so many higher offices. During these formative years, Daniel developed his core political beliefs—those of a southern business progressive. Business progressives in Texas and other southern states did not abandon the traditional states' rights beliefs of the Democratic Party, but they believed that state and local governments should strive for efficiency in the interest of economic growth. Better roads, schools, and agriculture would help business and benefit all citizens in the long run. Daniel and other business progressives also favored state government protection for small businesses and consumers. Throughout his tenure in the legislature, Daniel represented a typical business progressive.²

Daniel's family background reflected strong southern and Texas roots. His maternal ancestors had long been established in southeast Texas. One of his grandmother's ancestors, Matthew G. White, moved to Texas from Amite County, Mississippi, in 1824. He served as alcalde of the Atascosita district. White's son-in-law, Hugh B. Johnston, participated in the founding of Liberty, a settlement on the banks of the Trinity River. Johnston served as the first alcalde of Liberty and later represented the town in the Republic of Texas Congress.³

James Young Leonard Partlow, Daniel's maternal great grandfather, moved to Liberty County from South Carolina during the Civil War, settling at Moss Hill. Partlow's son, William Samuel, moved to Liberty in the early 1870s and became a storekeeper. He married Ellen Beard in 1876 and the couple had six children, including Daniel's mother, Nannie Branch Partlow, born in 1884.⁴

Daniel's paternal great grandfather, George Mayfield Daniel, grew up in Macon, Georgia, and served in the Confederate Army throughout the Civil War. After the southern defeat, George joined thousands of fellow southerners in moving to Texas. He settled in Montgomery County, became a Baptist minister, and married Sarah Lowery in 1870. Price's father, Marion Price, was born to the couple in 1881. The family called him M.P., the name he used all of his life.⁵

M.P. pursued a career in journalism. In 1906, Daniel and P.H. Le Seur formed a partnership as owners and editors of the *Willis Progress* in Montgomery County. The partners moved to Dayton in Liberty County in 1909, where they published and edited the *Daytonite*. Daniel soon met Nannie Partlow, and after a short courtship they married at Liberty's Methodist church. The newlyweds set up housekeeping in Dayton, a few miles from Liberty and within easy distance of Nannie's family. On October 10, 1910, Nannie had her first child. Marion Price, Jr., was born at five o'clock in the morning and weighed eleven pounds. Nannie decided that the initials M.P. stood for "Mother's Pet". The couple later had two other children, Ellen and Bill.⁶

The Daniels moved frequently during the next few years, as M.P., Sr. tried out different venues for his publishing activities. In 1912, the family moved to Teague in Central Texas. M.P., Sr. formed a partnership there with J.P. Yantis, founding the *Teague Daily_Herald*. After a few months, Daniel abandoned this project and returned to Liberty County, where he opened the M.P. Daniel Real Estate Company and served as postmaster of Dayton. Daniel got in on the booming Texas oil business, investing in the Hardin field north of Liberty. For a brief period in 1914, he published the *San Jacinto Times* at Cold Spring in Montgomery County. Soon tiring of that venture however, Daniel and his family returned to Liberty after six months.⁷

M.P., Sr. participated actively in Democratic Party politics. He campaigned for controversial Senator Joseph Weldon Bailey. While Bailey represented a reactionary force in Texas politics, Daniel also supported Governor Pat

Neff. That governor, who served from 1921-1925, exemplified the business progressive outlook that Price Daniel held in the 1940s and 1950s. Daniel remembered hearing Neff give a speech at the Liberty County courthouse when he was a small boy. The governor shook his hand and picked him up, saying “This young man may be governor himself someday.” Daniel later recalled “Of course, I’m sure he said that to thousands of young boys as he campaigned over the state.”⁸

The Daniels moved to Forth Worth in 1923, when M.P., Sr. decided to become a minister and enrolled in the Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. M.P., Jr. finished grammar school in Forth Worth and went on to attend Central High School. Following his father’s lead, Daniel took part in class politics and edited the school newspaper, the *Fort Worth-High School Student*. He graduated in 1927, at the age of sixteen and decided to return to Liberty. The rest of the family followed M.P., Jr. as his father had given up on the ministry and decided to resume his business ventures in Liberty County.⁹

As he pondered his future that summer, M.P., Jr. considered the idea of becoming a Baptist minister, as he had been a devoted church member since childhood. Daniel rejected this idea, however, and instead opted to attend Baylor University in Waco, where he would study journalism and history. He entered Baylor in the fall of 1927, hyperactive and too short to play any sports. Although physically small, he had a large ego. On the first day of the semester, he announced to a crowd of students that he was running for president of the freshman class. Daniel won election to that position and remained active in campus politics and activities throughout his college career. He also served as editor of the *Daily Lariat*, the student newspaper, and of the *Round-Up*, the Baylor yearbook.¹⁰

College life also led Daniel to change his first name. He often told his friends of his ambition to run for political office. During one of these conversations, a close confidant, Fred Hartman, asked Daniel what M.P. stood for. Upon learning that the “M” stood for Marion, Hartman convinced his friend that he could never win elective office in Texas with a feminine name. Hartman suggested that Daniel go by Price instead. The future governor liked the idea and called himself Price for the rest of his life, although he never formally changed his name.¹¹

In addition to his work on campus issues for the *Lariat*, Daniel got his first close-up look at party politics when he attended the 1928 Democratic Convention in Houston as a “cub” reporter representing four Texas

newspapers. Daniel and his father sat in the press box behind comedian Will Rogers. The Houston convention reflected the cultural division within the Democratic Party between northern, urban “wets” and southern, rural “drys.”—Most southern Democrats favored Prohibition and fiercely resisted the nomination of New York Governor Alfred E. Smith. Southerners preferred William G. McAdoo to the “Happy Warrior” of Tammany Hall, as Smith’s Catholicism, as well as his anti-Prohibition stance, provoked the religious biases of many Protestants. These intra-party disputes resulted in Texas voting for Republican candidate Herbert Hoover in the general election. Although most Texas voters temporarily abandoned their loyalty to the Democratic Party, Daniel voted for Smith.¹²

Daniel graduated in 1931, receiving a bachelor’s degree in journalism and history. The new lawyer soon moved back to Liberty to begin his practice. Daniel formed a partnership with Thomas J. Hightower, a Liberty native and graduate of Cumberland University. The partners opened an office in downtown Liberty. Price quickly established himself as an active participant in civic life. He joined the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce and taught a men’s Bible class at the Baptist church. Daniel also became a Mason. These activities kept him in the public eye, an important consideration for an aspiring politician.¹³

Later that year Daniel made his first bid for political office. The local state representative, John Ross, resigned, necessitating a special election on December 16th. In his campaign announcement, Daniel stressed his local roots and enunciated a conservative ideology. The candidate identified himself as Jeffersonian Democrat and stated that legislators should avoid wasting time and money. Daniel failed to mention any specific examples of waste, instead stating that the legislature should not write laws “that our Constitution never intended for us to have.”¹⁴

Alfred “Alf” Roark, a school teacher in nearby Cleveland, challenged Daniel for this position. Although the country remained mired in the Great Depression, neither candidate discussed economic issues. Instead, the special election revolved around personalities. The contested district consisted of Liberty and Hardin counties. Roark had strong family ties in Hardin while Daniel represented Liberty. As the campaign progressed, M.P., Sr. sent a letter to Roark’s principle, asking the candidate’s “friends” to convince him that the elder Daniel could not “possibly see” how Roark could win. M.P., Sr. suggested that Roark withdraw from the race and support Price. Not surprisingly, Roark ignored this advice. He went on to

win the election by a margin of 136 votes from a total of 1, 615.¹⁵

Although the loss to Roark discouraged Daniel, he remained active in Democratic politics. He became an important figure in the local party over the next few years. In 1936, Daniel represented Liberty at the Democratic State Convention in San Antonio. He won election as vice-chairman of the convention and served as representative of the younger delegates. Daniel spoke at a luncheon honoring Governor James V. Allred and participated in the convention's endorsement of the Roosevelt-Garner presidential ticket. M.P., Sr. also attended the convention as Liberty County chairman of the Roosevelt campaign. The support of the popular liberal governor and the architect of the New Deal by the younger Daniel indicate that he tempered his conservative ideology with a pragmatic business progressive approach to politics.¹⁶

The next two years brought great changes for Price. His father died on December 7, 1937, leaving a \$100,000 trust fund for Baylor students. After coping with the loss of M.P., Sr., Daniel turned his attention to civic matters. Price used his position on the Chamber of Commerce, which had elected him president in 1937, to boost the economic potential of Liberty. He and other community leaders promoted plans to improve navigation along the Trinity River to make Liberty a viable port. Although these plans were probably unrealistic, Daniel and other boosters hoped that Liberty would someday rival Houston and Beaumont as Gulf Coast ports.¹⁷

On October, 26, 1938, Daniel made an address to the Trinity Improvement Association meeting in Fort Worth, calling for massive spending to turn the Trinity into a major commercial artery. He urged that the federal government use army engineers to dredge the lower reaches of the river, thus making Liberty an export center for local oil producers and rice farmers. He called for turning the entire river from Gulf Coast to Fort Worth into a canal which would free "the Trinity River Valley from the shackles of transportation and industrial discrimination.": The contradiction of a states' rights Democrat calling for a huge federal construction project represented a typical attitude of American politics during the New Deal period. Southern politicians of every stripe favored federal spending in their states provided local officials administered the programs. Business progressives in particular had few objections to locally controlled public works projects.¹⁸

As he spoke in favor of economic development, Daniel prepared to embark on his political career. Earlier than year, Roark had decided to

leave the legislature and run for a Hardin County judgeship. Daniel now benefited from his past campaign work for Allred and Roosevelt, as he was well-known to Democratic voters in the district. He won both the primary and general elections with no opposition. The Texas Young Democrats also selected him as the executive committeeman for the fourth senatorial district, comprising Liberty, Hardin, Orange, and Jefferson Counties.¹⁹

During the 1938 election, Daniel endorsed Ernest Thompson, one of the leading candidates in a wide-open race, for governor. To the surprise of most politicians, a Fort Worth flour salesman, W. Lee O'Daniel, soon emerged as the leading candidate. O'Daniel took advantage of his wide name recognition, a result of his popular "Hillbilly Flour" radio show, which provided fans across Texas a mixture of religion, self-promotion, and hillbilly music. "Pappy" O'Daniel promised voters full retirement pensions, reform of government corruption, and support for industrialization. He also offered the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments as his campaign platform. With this mixture of economic promises and religious sentiment, "Pappy" easily won the Democratic primary and stumped "sophisticated" political observers.²⁰

Daniel traveled to Austin early in 1939 to take part in his first legislative session. The freshman lawmaker got seats on several committees—Judiciary; Oil, Gas, and Mining; Privileges, Suffrage, and Elections; and Public Lands and Buildings. Although these assignments represented valuable experience for Daniel, he, like other legislators, worried most about taxes. The governor's promise of complete funding for old age pensions meant that the state would have to develop a new source of revenue.²¹

O'Daniel addressed the legislature on January 18, outlining his ideas for financing of pensions. He proposed that the state guarantee all Texans over sixty-five a monthly income of thirty dollars through a combination of state and federal Social Security payments. O'Daniel admitted that he did not know how much revenue the state needed to pay for this program. He believed, however, that a 1.6 percent transactions tax on wholesale, production, and retail sales would solve any financial problems. The governor also proposed eliminating the ad valorem school tax, although he did not offer a replacement.²²

This proposal gained little support from law makers, and the session soon turned into a bitter debate over how to finance old age pensions. On January 30, Representative Grover Morris introduced a bill, which O'Daniel opposed, to raise the tax on natural gas production as an alternative to the

transactions tax. After weeks of legislative bickering the governor finally announced support for a straight sales tax of 2.5 percent. O'Daniel had earlier opposed a sales tax, but he now called for submitting to the voters a constitutional amendment to authorize a sales tax, Senate Joint Resolution 12. The governor explained his shift on the sales tax in a radio address, saying "in a free democracy we must all give and take".²³

Daniel opposed the governor's proposals on both the transactions tax and S.J.R. 12. He objected to the concept of a sales tax and to provisions which would limit future taxes on the oil and gas industries. Many other legislators came out against the resolution, arguing that the governor was attempting to delude elderly voters that he was looking out for their interests. In reality, O'Daniel's critics believed, the governor catered to powerful businessmen who wanted to keep taxes on natural resources low.²⁴

S.J.R. 12 came up for a vote nine times during the 1939 session, but each time a core of determined opponents defeated it. Daniel joined those who objected to sending a constitutional amendment to the voters, a group that began calling itself the "Immortal 56" and consistently rejected pressure from the governor. O'Daniel denounced these legislators in his weekly radio addresses from the Governor's Mansion, claiming that they sought to keep retirees in poverty. In a May 4th speech to the House, the governor claimed that any vote cast against his bill represented "a vote to kill the whole old age pension and social security system."²⁵

Daniel and other members of the "Immortal 56" refused to give in to O'Daniel's attacks. As the debate dragged on through late spring, they sported "56" buttons on the House floor, openly defying the governor. These legislators represented the last holdouts, as the Senate had already approved S.J.R. 12. O'Daniel began calling the names of opponents from a "Blacklist" during the Sunday radio broadcasts, claiming that they were thwarting the will of the people. Daniel and other opponents received angry letters from constituents who supported "Pappy.": Despite all these pressures, O'Daniel supporters failed to muster the necessary two-thirds vote for a constitutional amendment, thus ensuring the final defeat of the resolution in June.²⁶

As the legislature debated tax issues, Daniel and other representatives from Gulf Coast counties worked on legislation to clear up ambiguities in land ownership laws. Representative Paris Smith of Matagorda County joined Daniel in offering a bill designed to end what they called the "land vacancy

racket.”—This technique involved oil lease-hunters using old documents, such as Mexican land grants from the 1820s, to question the legitimacy of property titles. The lease-hunters then brought suit against the ostensible owner in a state court, which often found “vacancies” on which the litigant could drill for oil. Daniel and Smith hoped to end this practice by amending the law in favor of the current landowner and allowing trials to be held in the local county rather than in Austin.²⁷

The House passed the Smith-Daniel measure, House Bill 9, after several weeks of amendments and sent it to the Senate, which added an amendment protecting “good faith” claimants who had occupied vacancies for at least ten years. This amendment and others caused one Senate sponsor, Rudolph Weinert of Seguin, to call on the governor to veto H.B. 9. Daniel and Smith insisted that a possibly flawed measure was better than no bill, however, and continued their support.²⁸

When he spoke in favor of H.B. 9, Daniel stressed the issue of landowners being able to fight lease-hunters in local courts. He argued that the current rules requiring trials in Austin placed undue hardships on landowners from other parts of the state, asking “How would you like to be forced to go to Washington to defend the title to the land you had owned and claimed in good faith?” He attacked lease-hunters who extorted “blood money from Texas farmers and land owners, every time an oil excitement arises in a neighborhood.”²⁹

The Smith-Daniel bill attracted opposition from some public school teachers, who argued that the state should encourage lease-hunters, as the revenue from these vacancies went into the school fund. Daniel charged that Travis County (Austin) lawyers had duped these teachers into believing that local courts would not recognize their interests, arguing “if we do not protect our landowners, we will have no money to run the schools.” The bill received strong support from oil companies that sought protection for their leases. H.B. 9 went to O’Daniel in June. Despite his initial reluctance to approve a bill cosponsored by one of the “Immortal 56,” the governor signed it into law.³⁰

Daniel faced a tough reelection campaign in 1940, now that he ranked as an opponent of the popular governor. He started his next campaign in February, proclaiming his legislative accomplishments and telling voters that fellow House members had mentioned him as a possible speaker. The candidate, true to his business progressive outlook, stressed the benefits he had brought to the district, including the land vacancy bill and state aid

for improvements to Highway 146 through Liberty County. Daniel defended his opposition to any sales tax on the grounds that the O'Daniel plan represented the efforts of "certain special interests and big corporations" to shift the tax burden from themselves to ordinary working people.³¹

R.A. Richardson of Kountze, an O'Daniel supporter, challenged Daniel in this race. "Pappy" vowed to defeat members of the "Immortal 56" that year, and traveled the state campaigning against them while urging his own reelection. The governor visited Liberty and held meetings of retirees to increase support for his pension plan. Daniel responded by attacking the sales tax proposal as a regressive effort to protect big business rather than retirees.³²

Whether to raise load limits on trucks represented the other big issue of the 1940 campaign in Texas. Supporters of increased loads, including Richardson, argued that doubling current limits would boost the state's economy and accused opponents of catering to railroad interests, which naturally favored restrictions on their rival industry. Daniel opposed raising load limits on the grounds that this would damage county roads and that larger trucks would mean fewer drivers and increase unemployment. Ultimately, neither the pension nor the truck load issue crippled Daniel, for he won the July Democratic Primary by a margin of 1,342 out of 7,488 votes.³³

In between the politics, Daniel found the time to court and marry Jean Houston Baldwin, a great-granddaughter of Sam Houston. Price and Jean met while she was working at a Houston law firm which he had beaten in a case. They soon began dating, but Jean insisted "I won't marry a politician." Her grandmother responded "Nonsense, Price looks like the men in our family." They married June 28, 1940, at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Houston. Jean's misgivings about marrying a politician proved correct, as she spent their honeymoon helping Price campaign. During one appearance in Liberty, Jean had a nice talk with Mrs. O'Daniel while the governor lambasted Price from the courthouse steps.³⁴

After settling into married life, Daniel returned to Austin in early 1941, as a member of the Forty-seventh Legislature. As they had two years earlier, lawmakers again dealt with the question of how to finance old age pensions. The Morris proposal to raise oil and natural gas taxes, House Bill 8, came up again. Daniel cosponsored the measure, which passed both houses with strong support in March.³⁵

In addition to his work on the Morris bill, Daniel introduced legislation

to involve the state government in production of rice, a substantial crop in coastal districts. He authored a bill to levy a two cent tax on every hundred pounds of milled rice to finance an advertising campaign aimed at convincing Americans to eat more of the product. House Bill 136 stated that its provisions would go into effect when the other major rice-growing states, Arkansas and Louisiana, enacted their own advertising plans. The Daniel bill gained the support of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association, one of whose members lamented that “[even] with all the rice that is thrown at newly married couples . . .” Americans lagged far behind other cultures in its consumption.³⁶

Although most Gulf Coast legislators backed the Daniel bill, Representative Jimmy Phillips of Angleton attacked the tax on behalf of those rice farmers who thought it enabled the state to extract “blood money” from producers. Phillips illustrated what he saw as absurdity of trying to convince northerners to eat rice and gravy with a facetious proposal to levy a tax on steers and use the money to tout the superiority of Texas over Kansas City steaks. This debate grew more farcical when the governor of Louisiana and the lieutenant governor of Arkansas traveled to Austin to support rice advertising by eating a rice and gravy lunch with O’Daniel. This publicity stunt paid off, however, by helping win passage of the bill.³⁷

Daniel’s political future seemed bright. As lawmakers debated who should be speaker of the House for the Forty-eighth Legislature, he emerged as the leading challenger to incumbent Homer Leonard of McAllen. Sixty representatives, mostly younger members, signed a petition urging the House to elect Daniel. When other contenders dropped out of the race, this number grew to eighty and Daniel represented the only threat to Leonard. Although the House did not make a final determination of this race until after the 1942 elections, Daniel seemed well-placed to become a prominent figure in state politics.³⁸

Daniel had no challenger in the 1942 election. In early 1943, Leonard withdrew from the speaker’s race, citing the need for “harmony” during this wartime session and assuring the election of his challenger. With Daniel as speaker, ultra-conservative Coke Stevenson as governor, and like-minded John Lee Smith as lieutenant governor, the Forty-eighth Legislature presented a solid conservative front. While Daniel retained a progressive outlook in some areas that Stevenson and Smith lacked, all state leaders agreed that the legislature should avoid raising taxes and conduct business

as quickly as possible. In a January 12, 1943, address to the House, Daniel called on Texans to support President Roosevelt while guarding against erosion of states' rights. The speaker illustrated his conservatism by stating that he looked forward to "the day when our land may be free of government by federal bureaus, regimentation and regulation."³⁹

Given the attitudes of its leaders, the Forty-eighth Legislature accomplished little. Daniel quickly appointed committee chairmen who shared his outlook. Most importantly, he appointed J.E. Winfree chairman of the Revenue and Taxation Committee. Winfree and Daniel agreed that, because of the new taxes enacted in 1941 and high wartime federal taxes, the chairman would allow no tax bills to pass his committee.⁴⁰

The legislature adjourned in May after a record short session. Shortly thereafter, the speaker waived his legislative draft exemption and enlisted in the army. Daniel finished basic training and served as an enlisted man in military intelligence for one year. The army assigned him to the Security Intelligence Corps, a unit that investigated people who applied for service commissions or worked in munitions factories. The investigators conducted their inquiries in civilian clothes, much like police detectives. During this assignment, Daniel worked in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. In 1944, Daniel received training at the Judge Advocate General Officers School, earning a second lieutenant's commission. He then served as an instructor at the Army School for Personnel Services in Lexington, Virginia, where he taught laws relating to servicemen and veterans. In September, 1945, the army "loaned" Daniel to the Marine Corps, which sent him to Sasebo, Japan for four months to set up a Marine Personnel School. After returning to the United States, Daniel received citations from the Army and Marines as an "outstanding authority" on military and civil law and received his discharge in May, 1946.⁴¹

While waiting for his discharge from the service, Daniel decided to enter his first statewide political race. When Texas Attorney General Grover Sellers announced plans to retire, Daniel seized this opportunity by getting friends from the publishing business and the legislature to prepare the ground for his candidacy. His opponent, Pat Neff, Jr., the son of a former governor, had worked for Sellers. Daniel made his formal announcement on May 18, from Austin and set up a campaign headquarters in Dallas.⁴²

Daniel opened his campaign at a June 17, rally in the Houston Music Hall. The candidate stressed his experience as a lawyer and speaker of the House, promising "aggressive thought and fighting action" if elected. He

promised to focus on maintaining state control of the tidelands, a “fair deal” for veterans, and vigorous enforcement of state anti-trust laws. For the next several weeks, Daniel campaigned across the state, making up to ten speeches a day in the summer heat, Price and his brother Bill divided up the state, with Bill covering the East Texas counties where Daniel had a base of support and Price covering the rest. The brothers relied on typical small town campaign tactics of the 1940s Texas politics. Each had a sound truck that was pulled into the courthouse square, and which then played some music to attract a crowd to hear the speeches that followed.⁴³

As the race grew more intense in July, Price made the family connections of his opponent an issue. Daniel campaign ads announced that the candidate stood “on his own qualifications and not another’s name”. In a radio broadcast from San Antonio, Daniel stated that he was an “average country lawyer” and that the race had become “Pappa’s name versus Price Daniel.” He ended this speech with some maudlin politicking, saying “My name is Daniel – - spelled just like Daniel in the Lion’s Den,” and that he came from Liberty, “Just like ‘Give me Liberty or give me death.” Daniel’s campaign tactics paid off in late July, when he beat Neff in the Democratic primary by 571,354 votes to 557,774.⁴⁴

His activities from 1938 to 1946 had prepared Daniel for a new role as a statewide figure in Texas politics. He entered the postwar period with a business progressive ideology, evident in his opposition to the transactions tax, reform of real estate law, and state support for rice farmers and better roads. As speaker of the house during a wartime session, Daniel expressed conservative views on states’ rights, but did not oppose the Roosevelt administration. Daniel’s army service meant that he missed the bitter intra-party fight over the Texas Regulars in 1944 and returned to the state untainted by the liberal versus conservative divide that had already begun to define the Texas Democratic Party two years later.

Endnotes

1. *The New Handbook of Texas*, volume 2 (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), 504-505.

2. George Brown Tindall, *The Emergence of the New South, 1913-1945* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967), 224, 233; Norman D. Brown, *Hood, Bonnet, and Little Brown Jug: Texas Politics, 1921-1928* (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 1984), 7-8; Robert A. Calvert, Arnolde De Leon, and Gregg Cantrell, *The History of Texas* (Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, 2007), 306-307.

3. Miriam Partlow, *Liberty, Liberty County, and the Atascosito District* (Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1974), 66, 77-78, 82; Interview, Price Daniel by Dr. Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967, University of North Texas Oral History Collection, Number 349.

4. Partlow, *Liberty*, 292-293; David Rupert Murph, "Price Daniel: The Life of A Public Man" (Ph.D. Diss., Texas Christian University, 1975), 5.

5. Murph, "Price Daniel," 3-4; Dabney White and T.C. Richardson, eds., *East Texas: Its History and Its Makers*, Volume IV (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1940) 54-56; Partlow, *Liberty*, 156-157.

6. Murph, "Price Daniel," 3-4; White and Richardson, *East Texas*, 55-56; "About M.P., Jr., Thurs. Oct. 20, 1910," clipping in possession of Daniel family, *Liberty*, Texas (Hereafter cited as Daniel family clippings).

7. Murph, "Price Daniel," 10-11,"; White and Richardson, *East Texas*, 55-56; Paul Rosenfield, "Price Daniel: Life and the Pursuit of happiness in Liberty," *Sunday Magazine, Dallas Times-Herald*, Daniel family clippings.

8. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967, OH 349, University of North Texas Oral History Collection.

9. Ibid.; Rosenfield, "Price Daniel,"; Fort Worth Central High School, Baccalaureate Sermon, Class of 1927, Daniel family clippings.

10. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; Paul F. Healy, "The Case of the Bumptious Young Texan," *The Saturday Evening Post*, January 2, 1954, 30, Vertical File, Price Daniel, Sr., Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin; Undated clippings, *Daily Lariat, Liberty Vindicator*, June 8, 1932, Daniel family clippings.

11. Murph, "Price Daniel," 37.

12. Norman D. Brown, *Hood, Bonnet, and Little Brown Jug: Texas Politics, 1921-1928* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1984), 395-397; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Houston Press*, June 22, 1928, Daniel family clippings.

13. White and Richardson, *East Texas*, 56; *Liberty Vindicator*, December

8, 1932, January 19, June 22, 1938; Duncan Howard, "In Memorium: Price Daniel, Former Governor of Texas, Mason, and Statesman," *The Texas Freemason*, Fall 1998, Vol. XXVI., Number 4, 2-4.

14. *Liberty Vindicator*, December 7, 1933.

15. *Ibid.*, December 14, 21, 1933; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gann, February 25, 1967; Letter, M.P. Daniel to W.B. Alexander, November 13, 1933, Letter, Price Daniel to Alf Roark, Jr., December 13, 1933, Alfred Roark Archives, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty, Texas, Box 1.

16. *Liberty Vindicator*, June 6, 1936.

17. *Ibid.*, January 19, October 26, 1938; White and Richardson, *East Texas*, 56; Unidentified clipping, May 20, 1938, Daniel family clippings.

18. *Liberty Vindicator*, October 26, November 16, December 14, 1938; *Dallas Morning News*, October 20, 1938; "Liberty Enters Bid as Gulf Port," *East Texas*, December, 1938, Daniel family clippings; Bruce J. Schulman, *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt: Federal Policy, Economic Development, and the Transformation of the South, 1938-1980* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), 112-113.

19. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Liberty Vindicator*, February 2, May 25, August 3, September 14, 1938.

20. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; Seth Shepard McKay, *W. Lee O'Daniel and Texas Politics, 1938-1942* (Lubbock: Texas Tech Press, 1944), 14-23, 32-53; George Norris Green, *The Establishment in Texas Politics: The Primitive Years, 1938-1957* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 22-25.

21. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Texas House Journal*, volume 1, 164-166.

22. Green, *Texas Politics*, 26; McKay, *O'Daniel*, 135-136; *Dallas Morning News*, January 19, 1939.

23. McKay, *O'Daniel*, 181-182; *Dallas Morning News*, January 31, March 20, 1939.

24. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; Green, *Texas Politics*, 26.

25. *Texas House Journal*, 1939, Volume 3, 2835; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967.

26. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Austin American*, May 29, June 12, 21, 1939.

27. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Houston Post*, May 10, 1939, *San Antonio Express*, May 12, 1939, clippings in Price Daniel Papers, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty,

Texas.

28. *Galveston Tribune*, May 10, 1939, *Port Arthur News*, May 10, 1939, *San Antonio Express*, May 12, 1939, clippings in Daniel Papers.

29. *Silsbee Bee*, May 18, 1939, clipping in Daniel Papers.

30. *Ibid.*, *Anahuac Progress*, May 19, 1939, *Dallas Morning News*, June 3, 6, 1939, *El Paso Herald-Post*, June 7, 1939, clippings in Daniel Papers; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967.

31. *Liberty Vindicator*, February 21, 1940.

32. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967.

33. *Liberty Vindicator*, July 17, 28, 1940; 1940 Campaign Pamphlet, Daniel Papers; *Green Texas Politics*, 31.

34. *Liberty Vindicator*, no date, clipping in Daniel Papers; Anita Brewer, "First lady," *The Alcalde*, October 1958, 10-11, Price Daniel, Sr. Vertical File, Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin; *Houston Chronicle*, January 6, 1963, Daniel family clippings.

35. McKay, *O'Daniel*, 371, 383-384; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967.

36. *Austin Tribune*, January 15, 1941, *Hull-Daisetta News*, February 14, 1941, clippings in Daniel Papers; *Texas House Journal*, 1941, 3875.

37. *Fort Worth Press*, January 30, 1941, *Beaumont Journal*, January 31, 1941, *Houston Post*, February 25, May 28, 1941, clippings in Daniel Papers.

38. *Houston Post*, May 4, June 10, 1941, *Austin Tribune*, May 4, 1941, clippings in Daniel Papers.

39. *Dallas Times-Herald*, January 3, 1943, Daniel family clippings; *Austin American-Statesman*, December 20, 1942, clipping in Daniel Papers; *Liberty Vindicator*, January 14, 1943; *Dallas Morning News*, January 13, 1943.

40. *Dallas Morning News*, January 27, 1943; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967.

41. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Liberty Vindicator*, July 20, 1944, September 13, 1945; *Veteran's Magazine*, January 1947, Price Daniel, Sr. Vertical File, Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin; *Houston Chronicle*, May 11, 1946, Daniel family clippings.

42. Seth Shepard McKay, *Texas and the Fair Deal, 1945-1952* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1954), 133; Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; Letter, J.H. Manthey to "Fellow Editor," April 19, 1946, Daniel family clippings; *Austin American*, April 12, 1946; *Liberty Vindicator*, May 2, 23, 1946.

43. Interview, Price Daniel by Fred Gantt, February 25, 1967; *Liberty*

Vindicator, June 13, 20, July 25, 1946; *Abilene Reporter-News*, June 30, 1946, Daniel family clippings.

44. Radio Speech of Price Daniel, July 2, 1946, Daniel Papers, Box 60; McKay, *Fair Deal*, 133-134; *Dallas Morning News*, July 3, 24, 29, 1946.

Copyright of Journal of South Texas is the property of Journal of South Texas and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.