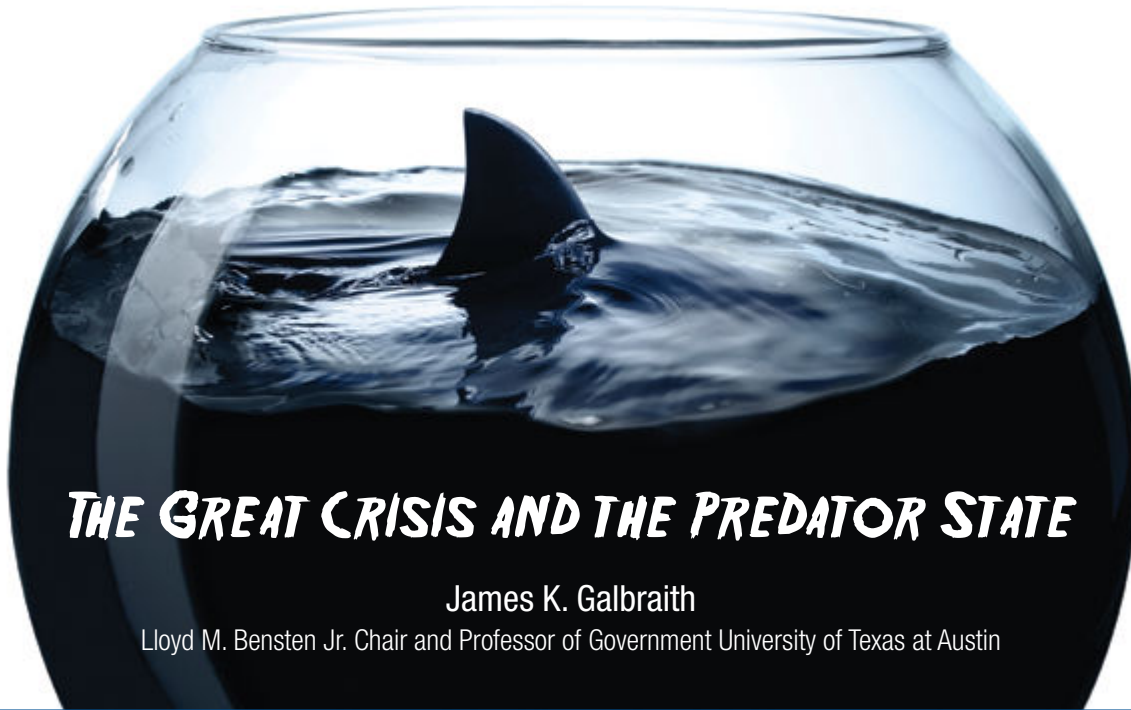


CLIFFORD & VIRGINIA Durr
Lecture Series



THE GREAT CRISIS AND THE PREDATOR STATE

James K. Galbraith

Lloyd M. Bensten Jr. Chair and Professor of Government University of Texas at Austin

Clifford Judkins Durr was born and raised in Montgomery and Virginia Heard Foster in Birmingham. He attended Montgomery schools and the University of Alabama and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. Virginia attended Birmingham schools and Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

They moved to Washington, D.C., in 1933 when Clifford was appointed legal counsel to the Reconstruction Finance Corp. He later served as counsel to the Defense Plant Corp. Their home on Seminary Hill was a center of lively political discussion with distinguished guests.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Clifford to the Federal Communications Commission, where he distinguished himself as a strong advocate

for public television and was instrumental in obtaining for Alabama the first public educational channel. Virginia became active in the fight to eradicate the poll tax and was a founding member of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

While at the FCC, Clifford challenged J. Edgar Hoover by protecting the free speech rights of those with alleged communist connections, which included such innocent activities as belonging to wartime committees headed by Supreme Court justices and the vice president. Clifford refused reappointment to the FCC rather than implement a loyalty oath he believed violated the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court later declared the loyalty oath to be unconstitutional, but Clifford's career as a public servant was over.

The Durr family returned to Montgomery in the midst of the challenges and divisiveness of the civil rights struggle. One night E.D. Nixon called on Clifford and Virginia to come post bail for Virginia's friend, Rosa Parks, who had refused to give up her bus seat. Later, Clifford loaned his legal expertise to a young lawyer, Fred Gray, in bringing lawsuits that successfully challenged discrimination in public accommodations and education. Despite their travails, Clifford and Virginia were devoted to Alabama and to their family and many friends here.





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Noted economist Dr. James K. Galbraith brings to AUM's Durr Lecture Series his insights about the political and corporate forces that shape the American economy. His presentation will draw heavily from his research on the measurement and understanding of inequality in the world economy – research that also is the basis for his latest book: *The Predator State: How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too* (2008).

Galbraith holds the Lloyd M. Bensten Jr. Chair in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and directs the University of Texas Inequality Project, an informal group researching economic inequalities. In addition, he is a senior scholar of the Levy Economics Institute and chairman of the Board of Economists for Peace and Security, a global professional network.

He holds degrees from Harvard and Yale and studied as a Marshall Scholar at King's College, Cambridge in the 1970s. He later served in several positions on the staff of Congress, including executive director of the Joint Economic Committee. He was a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution in 1985 and directed UT's Ph.D. Program in Public Policy from 1995 to 1997.













A prolific writer, his books include *Balancing Acts: Technology, Finance and the American Future* and *Created Unequal: The Crisis in American Pay*. His book *Inequality and Industrial Change: A Global View* is co-edited with Maureen Berner. He also co-authored two textbooks, *The Economic Problem* with the late Robert L. Heilbroner and *Macroeconomics* with William Darity Jr. In addition, Galbraith writes a column for Mother Jones and provides occasional commentary in many other publications, including *The Texas Observer*, *The American Prospect* and *The Nation*.



THE GREAT CRISIS AND THE PREDATOR STATE

Presented by the Clifford J. and Virginia F. Durr Lectures and Auburn University at Montgomery

7:30 p.m.  Saturday, April 17

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Welcome – Dr. Keivan Deravi |  |
|  Greetings from Durr Family – Ann Durr Lyon |  |
|  Introduction of Speaker – Dr. Keivan Deravi |  |
|  Lecturer – Dr. James K. Galbraith |  |
|  Questions and Answers |  |
|  Closing Remarks – Dr. Keivan Deravi |  |

Auburn University at Montgomery is pleased to honor the memory of Clifford and Virginia Durr with the Durr Lecture Series on civil liberties. As the metropolitan campus of a land-grant university, AUM blends the traditional view of the university as a community of scholars with the contemporary view of the university as an integral part of the surrounding community, state and region. AUM's mission is to foster and exemplify excellence in education through instruction, research and service to provide academic programs that are characteristic of the finest traditions of the liberal arts, business, sciences, nursing and education. AUM encourages open and free inquiry and seeks to instill in its students ways of thinking, communicating and learning that will be of enduring value.

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