of 1846 Congress engaged in an extended and bitter debate over Polk’s proposed inclusion in tariff duties, Vice-President George M. Dallas feared his veto on the bill’s third reading in the Senate.

In the 1846 filibuster, Northern Democrats suffered defeat at the polls. Although the outcome of fighting in Mexico was at this moment uncertain, the movement of retreating slavery into territory acquired in the war heightened sectional tensions. Other political issues included changes in cabinet personnel, patronage difficulties within the party, and sectional concerns for the future. Polk addressed it in 1846, granting Catholic influence and stemming nativism, and Monroe settlement in the Great Salt Lake Basin. More private matters related to acquiring additional slaves for his cotton plantation in Mississippi and purchasing a residence in Nashville for his retirement years.

To add to the tens, scores, and anecdotes, the editors have calendared all of the documents for 1846. Entries for unpublished letters include the document's dates, addresses, classifications, repositories, and précis.

WAYNE CUTLER, research professor of history at the University of Tennessee, earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington, his master’s degree from the University of Alabama, and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He served as a graduate research assistant for his dissertation at the University of Tennessee. He served as a graduate research assistant and associate professor of history at Auburn University at Montgomery.

JAMES L. ROGERS II, associate editor of volumes eleven, received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Lynchburg and his master’s and doctor’s degrees from the University of Tennessee. He served as a graduate research assistant for his dissertation at the University of Tennessee, earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington, his master’s degree from the University of Alabama, and his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He joined the Polk staff in 1982 and served as associate editor until 2005, when he left to take his present position as an assistant professor of history at Auburn University at Montgomery.

To Louis McLane, January 28, 1846

The Oregon question is necessarily approaching a crisis, and should the subject be authorized by Congress, I do not doubt it will be in some form, it must be adjusted within the year, or will never fail.

To Colonel J. P. John, May 16, 1846

The truth is we had house and home &c so long with that distracted people &c as numerous and immense from that, no alteration was left, when she also changed American Blood of the Union to say she was dissatisfied with the Union.

From Brigham Young, etc., August 9, 1846

Slavery feeling which is opposed to acquiring new territory for slavery, combined with the high tariff, for the annexation of California, and the reduction of the tariff on Texas, the remonstrating bill, the Constitutional Treasury, and above all the settlement of the Oregon difficulty.

From Laura Wilson Polk, September 10, 1846

We all know our dear brother that all Roman Catholics priests are governed by false principles. The highest authority we have is the Bible. If they do not make Roman Catholics of our children they will corrupt them with religious and moral influences of which we are convinced.

From Robert Armstrong, November 8, 1846

I received your letter and am glad to hear from you.

From Robert Campbell, Jr., November 16, 1846

In regard what is due to my Negroes, I wish you to pay them liberally and in specie. They do not require any other kind of money but specie.

From Francis M. Wilkes, November 30, 1846

I deeply regret to see that the great states North have gone again on the same evil, having failed to pass a law for the support of education, which is necessary for the support of the young generation. The young people are advised to the Bible as the supreme law of the land.

JAMES K. POLK
Associate Editor

Volume XI
1846

Correspondence of JAMES K. POLK

Wayne Cutler, Editor

James L. Rogers II

Benjamin H. Severance