

PUBLIC LIAISON, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF: Records, 1981-1989 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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PUBLIC LIAISON, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF: Records, 1981-1989

Office History

The Office of Public Liaison was first formalized during President Gerald Ford's administration in 1974. Its responsibilities are to communicate the President's policies and agendas with various interest groups, ethnicities, religious, cultural, and economic associations and groups. It serves as the first place these groups present their interests to a President's administration. The Office was expanded during the 1990s to include liaison to intergovernmental entities. The office has currently been renamed to the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Five different individuals directed this office during the Reagan Administration. Elizabeth Hanford Dole was the first Assistant to the President for Public Liaison working from January 1981-March 1983 when she left to become Secretary of the Treasury. She was followed by Ambassador Faith Ryan Whittlesey. Whittlesey served as Reagan's Ambassador to Switzerland and then was Assistant to the President for Public Liaison from April 1983-March 1985. She was reappointed US. Ambassador to Switzerland and served until June 1988. Linda Chavez followed Whittlesey after working as the Staff Director of the US Commission on Civil Rights. Chavez remained as Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and director of the Office of Public Liaison until April 1986. Mari Maseng, a former Reagan White House speechwriter, returned to the White House in May 1986 as Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and remained until June 1987. Maseng left the White House again and returned in 1988 to the Office of Communications and Planning. The final individual to lead this office was Rebecca Range, (now Rebecca Cox). Range joined the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and Director of the Office of Public Liaison in September 1987 and remained until the end of the administration.

During the Reagan Administration, the Office of Public Liaison was one of the largest offices within the White House and the Library currently has 64 additional individual collections from this office.

The Public Liaison office structure and specialties reflected the changing interests and administrative habits of the different directors of the office. Mrs. Dole was interested in broad policy issues for specific groups – women, blacks, conservatives, etc. She was also involved in assisting with budgeting issues for the federal government and helping the administration pass tax and budget bills. Her office was run with a deputy director, Red Cavaney. The original structure had two Special Assistants, Jack Burgess and Diana Lozano, reporting to Cavaney on the work and production of their groups. Burgess was focused on business, labor and economic

issues and Lozano's group had the responsibility for ethnic groups, women groups and social issues. This structure lasted for less than six months, and was revised to have all assistants report directly to Cavaney. Lozano took over liaison for Hispanic groups and Burgess worked primarily with business groups.

Dole's office was tasked with trying to deal with the "gender gap." This involved Reagan's lesser popularity with women as compared with men voters. The country was then involved in the final efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment for women. President Reagan had taken a stance against the ERA stating laws were already on the books to guarantee women's equality. Dole created a project to make sure these laws were on the books and state discriminatory laws were removed. The project was called the "50 States" project and it passed from Thelma Duggin and Catherine Bedell (outside consultant) onto Trudy Morrison and Eliza Paschell in later years.

When Dole left in March 1983, many of her staff also left including Red Cavaney. Mrs. Whittlesey focused the office much more on social issues of interest to her including the right-to-life, religious issues, and the fight against communism in Central America. Under Whittlesey, the Office of Public Liaison became heavily involved in the Outreach Working Group on Central America and the public diplomacy efforts of US foreign policy. She specifically hired writers to publish "The White House Digest" which included numerous articles on the plight of Central Americans and why the United States should be involved in the area.

Linda Chavez was Director of Public Liaison for a relatively brief time, and appears to have maintained most of Whittlesey's office structure. Chavez was close to Patrick Buchanan, the Director of Communications, and Public Liaison was involved with assisting a coordinated message through Buchanan's office. Under Chavez, the move to place more emphasis on "groupings" of Public Liaison Associate Directors and Special Assistants began. Chavez's deputy, Donald Eberly, did not remain with Public Liaison after Chavez left.

Mari Maseng continued this practice of "grouping" like-minded constituency and issues and under her Carl Anderson was in charge of staff members on social issues and religious liaison, Linas Kojelis was in charge of ethnic issues and business issues. Anderson had such authority that he actually was acting director of the Office during the gap between Maseng and her successor, Rebecca Range.

Scope & Content

There appears to have been little use of "office" records as are evident within other White House offices. Over time, the office organized itself into groupings of "like" or associated issues and constituencies and these served as office functions for the Office. Collective material appears to have been within these groupings and the Library has continued to maintain it there. This collection reflects these practices and consists of three small series.

This collection is arranged in three series: SERIES I: Personnel; SERIES II: Subject File; SERIES III: Telephone Messages.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I: PERSONNEL, 1981-1983 (.02 l.ft., Box 1)

This series consists of material related to personnel issues like promotions, salaries and hiring of certain individuals. The personnel involved were for Associate Directors, or executive assistants and in one case a special consultant on the 50 States Project. This series covers mostly Mrs. Dole's time period as the Director of the Office of Public Liaison. The series is arranged alphabetically by last names.

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE, 1980- (2.4 l.ft., Box 1-6)

This series consists of material related to budget, Central America, education, youth and the Soviet Union. It also includes some administrative manuals and working papers. The majority of the material is publications. It is arranged alphabetically.

SERIES III: TELEPHONE MESSAGES, 1983-1985 (2.4 l.ft., Box 6-15)

This series consists of material related to telephone messages. The messages are for a select group of staff members who worked in a "group" situation on education, Hispanic and religious outreach. It is likely they shared support staff. The majority of the messages are for staffers Douglas Rigg, John Rousselot, Linas Kojelis, Robert Reilly, Catalina Villalpando, Adis Vila, Luis Acle, Bea Mirabelle, Linda Chavez, Donald Eberly and Douglas Holliday. Elizabeth Dole has her own telephone message series and other message notebooks can be found in other individual collections.

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CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: PERSONNEL

Box 1

Bedell, Catherine May

Janice Farrell

Gerstner, Mildred

Gisin, Marilynne

Huh, Christine

Moss, Robert

Nyheim, Charlotte

Quint, Mary Elizabeth

Rojos, Gloria

Spiegel, Albert

Steeves, Robert

White, Elizabeth

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE

Box 1 (Continued)

[Agricultural Issues] (Binder)

Arms Control

Asia-Pacific

Budget of the United States Government FY 1985
Budget of the United States Government FY 1985 Appendix
The United States Budget in Brief FY 1985

Box 2

Special Analyses Budget of the United States Government FY 1985
Caribbean Basin
Central America (1)(2)
Central America Briefing Book
Briefing Book: Central America Democracy, Peace and Development Initiative
Report of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America January 1984
Nicaragua's Military Buildup and Support for Central American Subversion
Strategic Planning Postsecondary Education Sector (Binder) (1)(2)
Involving Parents: A Handbook for Participation in Schools (Binder) (1)-(4)

Box 3

Justifications of Appropriation Estimates for Committees on Appropriations FY
1984: Education, Vol. 1 (1)(2)
Justifications of Appropriation Estimates for Committees on Appropriations FY
1984: Education, Vol. 2 (1)-(4)
Justifications of Appropriation Estimates for Committees on Appropriations:
Supplementals and Rescissions FY 1983 (1)(2)
On Educational Reform
Violent Schools - Safe Schools: The Safe School Study Report to the Congress,
Volume I, January 1978

Box 4

Safe School Study Methodology Report and Supplementary Materials and Instruments,
Appendix C & D, Safe School Study: Volume 2, December 1977
Safe School Study: Data Files Documentation, Volume 3, February 1978
Digest of Educational Statistics, 1982
Department of Education Annual Evaluation Report FY 1983 (Binder) (1)-(5)

Box 5

The Condition of Education (1983 Edition)
[Environmental Issues] (Binder) (1)-(4)
Helsinki Final Act, Implementation of - 06/01/19983-11/30/1983
Index of Documents for Public Release - III
Latin America
Nuclear Arms Control Speaker's Resource Book (1)(2)
OPL Key Contact Lists (Binder) (1)(2)
Policy Analysis Agenda FY 1983 (Binder) (1)(2)
Presidential Academic Olympics 1984 (Binder) (1)(2)

Box 6

South America

Soviet Union

United States Participation in the UN: Report by the President to Congress

White House Correspondence Manual (1)-(4)

Youth (Binder) (1)-(4)

SERIES III: TELEPHONE MESSAGES

Box 6, cont.

Telephone Message Forms 04/07/1983-04/21/1983

Telephone Message Forms 04/21/1983-05/04/1983

Telephone Message Forms 05/04/1983-05/16/1983

Box 7

Telephone Message Forms 05/16/1983-05/25/1983

Telephone Message Forms 05/18/1983-05/23/1983

Telephone Message Forms 05/18/1983-06/17/1983

Telephone Message Forms 05/23/1983-06/01/1983

Telephone Message Forms 05/25/1983-06/09/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/01/1983-06/02/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/02/1983-06/10/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/09/1983-06/14/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/09/1983-06/16/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/15/1983-06/21/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/17/1983-06/23/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/22/1983-06/23/1983

Telephone Message Forms 06/24/1983-07/01/1983

Telephone Message Forms 07/01/1983-07/07/1983

Telephone Message Forms 07/01/1983-07/18/1983

Telephone Message Forms 07/07/1983-07/13/1983

Telephone Message Forms 07/18/1983-07/21/1983

Telephone Message Forms 07/21/1983-07/26/1983

Box 8

Telephone Message Forms 07/27/1983-08/02/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/02/1983-08/05/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/05/1983-08/10/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/10/1983-08/16/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/17/1983-08/23/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/23/1983-08/30/1983

Telephone Message Forms 08/30/1983-09/07/1983

Telephone Message Forms 09/07/1983-09/13/1983

Telephone Message Forms 09/13/1983-09/19/1983

Telephone Message Forms 09/19/1983-09/22/1983

Telephone Message Forms 09/22/1983-09/28/1983

Telephone Message Forms 09/28/1983-10/04/1983

Telephone Message Forms 10/04/1983-10/12/1983

Telephone Message Forms 10/13/1983-10/19/1983

Telephone Message Forms 10/19/1983-10/27/1983
Telephone Message Forms 10/27/1983-11/07/1983
Telephone Message Forms 10/31/1983-11/22/1983
Telephone Message Forms 11/07/1983-11/14/1983
Telephone Message Forms 11/14/1983-11/27/1983
Telephone Message Forms 11/22/1983-12/01/1983
Telephone Message Forms 11/22/1983-12/20/1983

Box 9

Telephone Message Forms 11/28/1983-12/20/1983 [Includes 03/31/1983-04/28/1983]
Telephone Message Forms 12/01/1983-01/03/1984
Telephone Message Forms 12/12/1983-01/12/1984
Telephone Message Forms 12/19/1983-02/17/1984
Telephone Message Forms 12/21/1983-02/09/1984
Telephone Message Forms 01/03/1984-01/12/1984
Telephone Message Forms 01/12/1984-01/20/1984
Telephone Message Forms 01/12/1984-01/24/1984
Telephone Message Forms 01/20/1984-02/01/1984
Telephone Message Forms 01/24/1984-02/03/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/01/1984-02/10/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/03/1984-02/22/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/10/1984-02/23/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/10/1984-03/05/1984 [Includes 12/27/1983]
Telephone Message Forms 02/17/1984-04/17/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/22/1984-03/12/1984
Telephone Message Forms 02/24/1984-03/06/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/05/1984-03/27/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/06/1984-03/13/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/12/1984-03/30/1984

Box 10

Telephone Message Forms 03/13/1984-03/19/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/20/1984-03/30/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/28/1984-04/25/1984
Telephone Message Forms 03/30/1984-04/13/1984
Telephone Message Forms 04/02/1984-04/30/1984
Telephone Message Forms 04/17/1984-06/14/1984
Telephone Message Forms 04/18/1984-05/03/1984
Telephone Message Forms 04/30/1984-05/14/1984
Telephone Message Forms 05/03/1984-05/15/1984
Telephone Message Forms 05/14/1984-05/24/1984
Telephone Message Forms 05/15/1984-05/22/1984
Telephone Message Forms 05/22/1984-06/05/1984
Telephone Message Forms 05/24/1984-06/08/1984
Telephone Message Forms 06/05/1984-06/13/1984
Telephone Message Forms 06/08/1984-06/21/1984

Telephone Message Forms 06/08/1984-08/06/1984 [Includes 10/03/1983]
Telephone Message Forms 06/14/1984-06/27/1984
Telephone Message Forms 06/22/1984-07/16/1984
Telephone Message Forms 06/27/1984-07/09/1984
Telephone Message Forms 07/09/1984-07/27/1984

Box 11

Telephone Message Forms 07/09/1984-08/17/1984
Telephone Message Forms 07/10/1984-07/19/1984
Telephone Message Forms 07/18/1984-07/25/1984
Telephone Message Forms 07/18/1984-08/16/1984
Telephone Message Forms 08/06/1984-08/15/1984
Telephone Message Forms 08/09/1984-08/31/1984
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Telephone Message Forms 09/18/1984-10/09/1984
Telephone Message Forms 09/25/1984-10/25/1984
Telephone Message Forms 10/09/1984-11/05/1984
Telephone Message Forms 10/09/1984-11/08/1984

Box 12

Telephone Message Forms 10/11/1984-10/24/1984
Telephone Message Forms 10/23/1984-11/27/1984
Telephone Message Forms 10/27/1984-11/13/1984
Telephone Message Forms 11/05/1984-11/28/1984
Telephone Message Forms 11/13/1984-12/04/1984
Telephone Message Forms 11/14/1984-12/07/1984
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Box 13

Telephone Message Forms 02/21/1985-03/15/1985
Telephone Message Forms 02/26/1985-03/15/1985
Telephone Message Forms 03/13/1985-03/27/1985
Telephone Message Forms 03/15/1985-03/29/1985
Telephone Message Forms 03/15/1985-04/04/1985
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Telephone Message Forms 05/30/1985-06/17/1985

Box 14

Telephone Message Forms 05/31/1985-06/20/1985
Telephone Message Forms 05/31/1985-06/21/1985
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Telephone Message Forms 06/14/1985-06/27/1985
Telephone Message Forms 06/20/1985-07/12/1985
Telephone Message Forms 06/20/1985-07/29/1985
Telephone Message Forms 06/24/1985-07/16/1985
Telephone Message Forms 06/24/1985-07/19/1985 [Includes 1 message for 06/12/1985]
Telephone Message Forms 06/27/1985-07/22/1985
Telephone Message Forms 07/15/1985-07/26/1985
Telephone Message Forms 07/16/1985-07/30/1985
Telephone Message Forms 07/19/1985-09/19/1985
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Box 15

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