

## RIGGS, DOUGLAS A.: Files, 1983-1985 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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### **RIGGS, DOUGLAS A.: Files, 1983-1985 (6.9 l.ft., Boxes 1-18)**

Office of Public Liaison: Special Assistant to the President, 1983-1985

#### **Biography**

Born in Rigby, Idaho in 1944, Douglas A. Riggs received a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 1966 and a master's degree in labor relations from West Virginia University in 1967. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970. Following military service, Riggs attended law school at Cornell University receiving his law degree in 1973. Riggs moved to Anchorage, Alaska to work as an associate in a private law practice where he focused on labor relations and the TransAlaska Pipeline System. In 1975 he served as General Counsel and subsequently as Executive Director of the Alaska State Housing Authority. From 1977 to 1979 Mr. Riggs served as Special Counsel and Administrative Assistant to Governor Jay Hammond of Alaska. In 1980 he was a partner in the law firm Bogle & Gates with a focus on corporate matters, including representation of management in labor relations.

Riggs replaced Robert Bonatati in the White House Office of Public Liaison in July 1983 as an associate director before being promoted to Special Assistant to the President in November 1983. Riggs was responsible for liaison between the White House and organized labor, veterans, military service groups, sportsmen, fraternal organizations, nuclear power industry, the maritime industry, the American overseas community and other special constituent groups. He was responsible for enhancing the relationship between these groups and the White House while developing support for President Reagan and his policies.

Following a nomination by President Reagan and eventual confirmation by the United States Senate in May 1985, Mr. Riggs served as General Counsel of the United States Department of Commerce. He served as the chief legal officer of the Department and the legal adviser to Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. His duties included coordinating the legislative and regulatory programs of the Department. In 1988 Mr. Riggs joined Pitney Bowes Inc. where he served as General Counsel, Secretary, Corporate Communications Officer, and Corporate Planning Officer, and in 1996 became Vice President, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer until 2000. Currently Mr. Riggs is an attorney at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi with a specialization in corporate governance.

#### **Scope and Content**

Riggs' files consists of two series: SERIES I: Correspondence and Memoranda; SERIES II: Subject File.

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA, 1983-1985 (4.3 l.ft., Boxes 1-12)

This series consists of correspondence between Douglas Riggs and various labor, veterans, and government officials regarding invitations to seminars and conferences, introductions, speech drafts, and guest lists. Some of the topics covered include the Airline Deregulation Act, Law Enforcement Act of 1985; POW/MIAs; presidential reelection of 1984; union protests against apartheid in South Africa; healthcare for American veterans; and presidential messages to various conventions. Memoranda include internal messages sent to and from Riggs covering automobile imports, trucking deregulation, labor strategies, requests for meetings, schedules, travel plans, and routine administrative matters. Both filing sets are arranged chronologically.

SERIES II: SUBJECT FILE, 1983-1985 (2.6 l.ft., Box 12-18)

This series consists of files regarding the American Legion; economic recovery; the Hobbs Act; information on various national and local labor leaders; labor strategy; maritime issues; the National Labor Relations Board; nuclear power assembly; and schedules. It is arranged alphabetically.

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