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JAY FRENCH FILES, 1974-75

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

2.8 linear feet (ca. 5,600 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open. Some items may be temporarily restricted under terms of the donor's deed of gift, a copy of which is available on request, or under National Archives and Records Administration general restrictions (36 CFR 1256).

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Processed by

Geir Gundersen, January 1991

Biography

Jay T. French

November 7, 1942 - Born, Roslyn, New York

Summers of 1963 and 1964 - Staff of Congressman Rogers C.B. Morton

1965 - Yale University (B.A.)

1965-68 - U.S. Marine Corps

1969 - Aide to Rogers C.B. Morton, Chairman, Republican National Committee

1969 - Director of Personnel, Republican National Committee

1971 - George Washington University Law School (J.D. with honors)

1971-72 - Associate, law firm of Blades & Rosenfeld, Baltimore, MD

1972-73 - Commercial real estate salesman, Panorama Company, Washington, DC

1973-74 - Associate, law firm of Becker, Channel, Feldman, & Becker, Washington, DC

1974-75 - Assistant Counsel to the President (on detail from the Justice Department for part of his service)

1975 - Justice Department

Scope and Content Note

The Jay T. French Files concern his work in the Counsel's Office, primarily his role as White House liaison with the Presidential Clemency Board. Described below under separate headings are French's role in the White House, the scope and content of his files, and related materials in other Ford Library collections.

French's Role in the White House

French served as Staff Assistant from September 6, 1974 to June 21, 1975. He remained in the Counsel's Office as a Justice Department detailee until December 2, 1975, with the title of Assistant Counsel to the President, and on a consultant basis through January 3, 1976.

Counsel Office organization and operations memoranda and assignment sheets, from 1974 and 1975, document French's role as White House liaison for the Presidential Clemency Board. His other responsibilities included preparing legal correspondence; conducting general legal research for Counsel to the President Philip Buchen, on a variety of topics; reporting to Counsel William Casselman on U.S. Secret Service matters; reviewing personnel security information under the auspices of Associate Counsel Kenneth Lazarus; and assisting Associate Counsel James Wilderotter on CIA matters.

Scope and Content of the French Files

The collection's strongest materials concern French's role as White House liaison with the Presidential Clemency Board. The documents address administrative matters such as Clemency Board rules and regulations and the Board's majority and minority reports. Other materials concern the PCB's first three sets of recommendations for clemency, and scattered applicant case studies.

While the French Files contain useful information on the PCB, they are not a complete record of the Board's work. The collection contains only those documents that Jay French used or created in fulfilling his responsibilities as White House liaison with the PCB.

French's collection contains little useful information. Most non-PCB folders are comprised of a limited number of routine documents, while others were received empty. These materials appear to have been removed by the Counsel staff who assumed French's responsibilities upon his departure from the White House. For example, the folders concerning Secret Service protection for foreign dignitaries and installations appear to have been transferred to the files of Associate Counsel Barbara Kilberg. French's files do contain some worthwhile, although minimal, information on trade policy, presidential appointments, presidential commissions, and regulatory reform.

Related Materials (January 1991)

Related materials on the Presidential Clemency Board and the clemency program are located in several other Library collections. Two good sources are the papers of Charles Goodell, Chairman, Presidential Clemency Board, and White House Central Files categories FG 6-28 (Presidential Clemency Board) and JL 1 and its subdivisions (Amnesties - Clemencies - Pardons). White House staff files containing significant documentation on the program include those of Counsel to the President Philip Buchen, Associate Counsel Barbara Kilberg, Counsellor John Marsh, Domestic Council Associate Director Geoffrey Shepard, and Assistant to the President for Human Resources Theodore Marrs.

The official records of the PCB are located at the National Archives in Washington, DC (see pages 205-208 of the Presidential Clemency Board Report to the President for a description of these materials).

Last Modified Date

2025-03-18

General Subject File, 1974-75.

(Boxes 1-4, 1.4 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, decision papers, press releases, reports, clippings, and notes. Mostly routine materials concerning a wide array of topics such as: Civil Aeronautics Board, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, executive protection, federal aid, Susan Ford, Indian affairs, pardons, presidential appointments, presidential commissions, presidential impeachment, presidential memberships, trade policy, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	List of Folders Received Empty
OPEN	Boy Scouts
OPEN	Casselman, William E.
OPEN	Civil Aeronautics Board
OPEN	Correspondence - Form Letters (1)-(2)
OPEN	Correspondence - Miscellaneous
OPEN	Correspondence - No Answer (1)-(2)
OPEN	Correspondence - Referrals to Other Persons or Agencies (1)-(2)
OPEN	Defense Department
OPEN	Domestic Council
OPEN	Economy
OPEN	Elliott, Roland (1)-(2)

Box 2 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Chairman John Powell (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Executive Order - Designation of Beneficiary Developing Countries
OPEN	Executive Protective Service
OPEN	Federal Communications Commission
OPEN	Federal Energy Administration (Zarb, Frank)
OPEN	Thomas Forcade v. H. Stuart Knight
OPEN	Ford, Gerald R. - Presidential residence
OPEN	Ford, Susan - Copyright for "Seventeen" Magazine Article
OPEN	Ford, Susan - Senior Prom
OPEN	Foreign Aid
OPEN	Government National Mortgage Association
OPEN	Grievances
OPEN	Health, Education, and Welfare Department
OPEN	Hoose, Harned Pettus
OPEN	Indian Affairs - General Information
OPEN	Indian Affairs - Wounded Knee
OPEN	Interior Department
OPEN	Justice Department
OPEN	Legal Cases
OPEN	Legal Services Corporation
OPEN	Loen, Vernon C.
OPEN	Nixon, Richard M. - Presidential Materials
OPEN	Nixon, Richard M. - Foreign Gifts
OPEN	Nixon, Richard M. - Pardon (Press Releases)

Box 3 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Office (Requests for Supplies and Equipment)
OPEN	Oil Import Tariff
OPEN	Parking
OPEN	Personnel
OPEN	Petitions - Procedures for Handling

Status	Title
OPEN	President's Trip to Japan (Press Releases)
OPEN	Presidential/HEW Appointments - Presidential Advisory Councils on Education
OPEN	Presidential Commissions (Creation of)
OPEN	Presidential Decision Papers - Document Formats
OPEN	Presidential Impeachment - Analysis of the Constitutional Standard (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Impeachment - Analysis of the Presidential Standard
OPEN	Presidential Invitations - Accepted
OPEN	Presidential Invitations - Declined (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Library
OPEN	Presidential Memberships
OPEN	Presidential Press Conferences (Press Releases)
OPEN	Proclamation Requests

Box 4 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Publications - Miscellaneous
OPEN	Requests
OPEN	Rockefeller Commission - Subpoena Powers
OPEN	Roth, Barry
OPEN	State Department - Division of Language Services
OPEN	State and Local Government
OPEN	State of the Union Address
OPEN	State of the Union Address - Network Analysis
OPEN	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands - Notes on High Commissioner Edward C. Johnston
OPEN	Visas
OPEN	Welfare
OPEN	White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs (Press Releases)

Presidential Clemency Board Subject File, 1974-75.

(Boxes 4-7, 1.4 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, lists, notes, press releases, executive orders, proclamations, reports, case summaries, bills, publications, and clippings. The materials reflect French's role as White House liaison with the Presidential Clemency Board and concern a wide range of administrative and policy matters such as: recommendations for clemency; GAO audit of the PCB; Clemency Board rules and regulations; majority and minority reports; clemency program extension, reorganization, and termination; role of the Selective Service; earned return program statistics; and budgetary limitations and funding requirements.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 4 (Continued) - Presidential Clemency Board Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	"Clemency Law Reporter" (WHCFSF JL 1-3)
OPEN	Correspondence (WHCFSF JL 1-3)
OPEN	Decision Memoranda (WHCFSF JL 1-3)
OPEN	Duplicate Memoranda
OPEN	Executive Grants and Statistics (1)-(2)
OPEN	General Accounting Office Audit (WHCFSF FI-1)
OPEN	Legislation (WHCFSF LE)

Box 5 - Presidential Clemency Board Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Majority Report (and related materials) (1)-(4)
OPEN	Materials Received from General Walt
OPEN	Memoranda Chronological File (1)-(3)

Box 6 - Presidential Clemency Board Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Memoranda Chronological File (4)-(8)
OPEN	Minority Report (and related materials)
OPEN	Presidential Clemency Board - General (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Clemency Demonstrations

Status	Title
OPEN	Proclamations and Executive Orders (1)-(2)

Box 7 - Presidential Clemency Board Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Recommendations, Set 1 (Approved 11/29/74)
OPEN	Recommendations, Set 2 (Approved 12/31/74)
OPEN	Recommendations, Set 3 (Approved 5/75 and 6/75) (1)-(3)
OPEN	Recommendations for Executive Clemency
OPEN	Reorganization of the Presidential Clemency Board, S. 1290 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Selective Service Matters
OPEN	Termination of the Presidential Clemency Board, 9/15/75 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Upgrade Cases
OPEN	Waiver of Field Investigations (WHCFSF JL 1-3)