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MAX FRIEDERSDORF FILES, 1974-77

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

6.4 linear feet (ca. 12,800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

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Processed by

Leesa Tobin, July 1985

Biography

Max L. Friedersdorf

July 7 - Born in Grammar, Indiana

1952 - BA, Franklin College

1952-55 - City editor, Franklin Evening Star

1955-60 - Reporter, Louisville Times, Indianapolis News, and the Chicago Daily News

1961-70 - Administrative Assistant, Congressman Richard Roudebush

1969 - MA, American University

1970-71 - Associate Director for Congressional Relations, Office of Economic Opportunity

1971-73 - Special Assistant for Congressional Relations, White House

1973-74 - Deputy Assistant to the President for the House of Representatives

1975-77 - Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

1977-79 - Staff director, Senate Republican Policy Committee

1979-80 - Chairman, Federal Election Commission

1981 - Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

1982-83 - U.S. Counsel General to Bermuda

1983-84 - Vice President, Pepsico, Inc.

1985 - Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

1985-87 - U.S. Counsel General to Bermuda

1987-ca.1990 - United States Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

1991-- Senior Vice President, Neill and Co. Inc. (Washington government relations consulting firm)

Scope and Content Note

When Gerald R. Ford became president in August 1974, Max L. Friedersdorf was serving as deputy assistant to the president for legislative affairs. His special responsibility was coordination of White House liaison with the House of Representatives. He worked directly under William E. Timmons, the head of the Congressional Relations Office. In January 1975 Friedersdorf became the assistant to the president for legislative affairs and head of the office. He had overall responsibility for liaison between the president and Congress. The staff he directed included deputy assistants for the House and Senate and several special assistants under them.

Most of this collection deals with Friedersdorf's activities after becoming head of the overall congressional relations operation in January 1975. There are only a few folders in the chronological file concerning his activities as liaison with House members for the first five months of the administration. (The files of Vernon Loen and Charles Leppert include materials created by Friedersdorf in his role as liaison with the House.)

Friedersdorf and his staff were involved in virtually all aspects of presidential relations with members of Congress. Tasks were often routine such as clearing personnel appointments, monitoring congressional invitations to White House social events and notifying congressional offices of various White House actions. More importantly however, the office was responsible for arranging meetings and telephone calls between the President and members of Congress, informing the president and his staff of congressional views and the status of legislation and lobbying for the administration's point of view on proposed legislation.

This collection documents Friedersdorf's involvement in these activities. While much of the lobbying of members of Congress on specific legislation was carried out orally and documentation is sketchy, there are materials compiled and occasional notes taken by Friedersdorf during meetings with members and the president which indicate how the office worked. Significant materials also appear on many major domestic and foreign policy issues such as the president's energy program and the end of U.S. involvement in Indochina.

Related Materials (July 1985)

Material on the responsibilities and activities of the Congressional Relations Office

is located in the files of Friedersdorf's office colleagues, especially William Timmons and Vernon Loen. The files of individual White House staff will contain information on specific pieces of legislation in their respective policy areas. In White House Central Files, categories LE (Legislation) and FG 30 through FG 37 (Congress) provide some overview of White House relations with Congress.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-18

Memo Chronological File, 1974-77.

(Boxes 1-3, 1.0 linear feet)

Copies of memoranda from Friedersdorf to White House staff and the president. Memos for the period before January 1975 were primarily prepared for William Timmons, assistant to the president for legislative affairs, and concern requests from members of the House relayed through Friedersdorf. After January 1975 the focus is much broader. Memos were prepared by Friedersdorf in his role as director of the White House congressional relations operation.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 - Memo Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	8/75 - 10/16/75

Box 2 - Memo Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	10/17/75 - 9/76

Box 3 - Memo Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	10/76 - 1/77 (1)-(5)

Administrative Subject File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 3-10, 2.8 linear feet)

Schedule proposals, briefing papers, memoranda, correspondence, talking points, agendas, and recommended phone call forms. Materials concern presidential meetings with members of Congress, bipartisan and Republican leadership;

presidential trips; White House social invitations; the 1975 State of the Union; presidential vetoes and general information on the 94th Congress. Also included here are correspondence, applications and clearance forms on congressional-sponsored candidates for appointments to government jobs and requests from the public for jobs in government.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder either chronologically or alphabetically.

Box 3 (Continued) - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Appropriations Committee - Labor and Health Subcommittee
OPEN	Bill Signing Ceremonies (1)-(2)
OPEN	Bipartisan Leadership Meetings (1)-(4)
OPEN	Campaign (1)-(5)

Box 4 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	China Trips - Members of Congress
OPEN	Congressional - Government Relations
OPEN	Defense Strategy Group
OPEN	Domestic Council Study - Federal Social Problems
OPEN	Environmental Coalition
OPEN	Ford, Betty
OPEN	Freedom of Information Requests
OPEN	Legislative Interdepartmental Group
OPEN	Legislative Opportunity Districts
OPEN	94th Congress - Key Votes
OPEN	94th Congress - Committee Assignment and New Members
OPEN	94th Congress - Pending Legislation
OPEN	94th Congress - Working Philosophy of the Congressional Relations Office
OPEN	Personnel A - E

Box 5 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Personnel F - Z

Box 6 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Meetings with House Members, Jan. 1975 - Jan. 1977

Box 7 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Meetings with Senate Members, Jan. 1975 - Dec. 1976

Box 8 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Schedule Proposals, Senate (1)-(3)
OPEN	Presidential Schedule Proposals, House (1)-(4)
OPEN	Presidential Trips (1)-(3)
OPEN	Recommended Presidential Telephone Calls
OPEN	Republican Leadership Meetings (1)-(5)

Box 9 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Sequoia Trips, 1975
OPEN	Social Invitations, House and Senate (1)-(12)

Box 10 - Administrative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	State of the Union, 1975
OPEN	State of the Union, 1975 - Congressional Reaction Vetoes

Legislative Subject File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 10-16, 2.4 linear feet)

Memoranda, background material, draft legislation, and status reports and testimony transcripts concerning legislative issues in Congress. Prominent subjects include the CIA investigations, the proposed consumer protection agency, energy, Indochina refugees, regulatory reform, surface mining, and the Mayaguez seizure.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 10 (Continued) - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Abortion
OPEN	Agriculture Research Policy
OPEN	Angola
OPEN	Antitrust
OPEN	Arab Boycott
OPEN	Auto Emissions
OPEN	Big Pine Lake Project, Indiana
OPEN	Block Grants
OPEN	Budget - FY 1976
OPEN	Budget - FY 1977
OPEN	Busing
OPEN	Child Care
OPEN	CIA Investigations (1)-(5)

Box 11 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Clean Air Act Amendments
OPEN	Community Services Administration
OPEN	Coastal Zone Management Act Amendments
OPEN	Common Situs Picketing
OPEN	Consumer Protection (1)-(3)
OPEN	Crime/Gun Control
OPEN	Defense Procurement
OPEN	Diego Garcia Presidential Determination
OPEN	Eagles Nest Wilderness Area (Colorado)
OPEN	Education
OPEN	Economy (1)-(2)

Box 12 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
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OPEN Energy (1)-(9)

Box 13 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Estate and Gift Tax
OPEN	Farm Bill, 1975
OPEN	Filibuster Rule
OPEN	Finnish Icebreakers
OPEN	Food Stamps
OPEN	Federal Election Campaign Legislation, 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Federal Employees - Political Activities
OPEN	Federal Energy Administration Extension
OPEN	GI Benefits
OPEN	Hathaway (Stanley) Nomination for Secretary of the Interior
OPEN	Indochina - Refugees
OPEN	Indochina - U.S. Involvement (1)-(3)

Box 14 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Indochina - U.S. Involvement (4)
OPEN	International Monetary Fund Reform
OPEN	Land Use - Federal Planning
OPEN	Legislative Encroachment on Executive Power
OPEN	Mariana Islands
OPEN	Mayaguez Seizure
OPEN	Micronesia
OPEN	Middle East
OPEN	Military Construction
OPEN	Minimum Wage
OPEN	National Health Insurance
OPEN	Navratilova, Martina
OPEN	No Fault Auto Insurance
OPEN	Office of Science and Technology

Status	Title
OPEN	Office of Telecommunications Policy
OPEN	Open Government Meetings
OPEN	Overseas Voting Rights Act
OPEN	Pakistan
OPEN	Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
OPEN	Postcard Voter Registration
OPEN	Public Broadcasting
OPEN	Public Works Employment
OPEN	Railroads
OPEN	Regulatory Reform (1)-(3)

Box 15 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Regulatory Reform (4)
OPEN	Renegotiation Act
OPEN	Revenue Sharing (1)-(3)
OPEN	Rhodesian Chrome
OPEN	Rockefeller Nomination
OPEN	Security Assistance
OPEN	South Africa
OPEN	Soviet Grain Sales
OPEN	Strategic Arms Limitation
OPEN	Strip Mining (1)-(4)
OPEN	Synthetic Fuels
OPEN	Tax Immunity of Public Lands

Box 16 - Legislative Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Tobacco
OPEN	Trade - Most Favored Nation Treatment
OPEN	Turkish Aid (1)-(2)
OPEN	Two Hundred Mile OffShore Limit
OPEN	Uranium Enrichment

Status	Title
OPEN	USO
OPEN	Weather Radio System
OPEN	White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals
OPEN	White House Operations - Authorization Bill