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SPENCER JOHNSON FILES, 1976-77

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

5.2 linear feet (ca. 10,400 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

Dennis M. Lakomy, July 1979

Biography

Spencer C. Johnson

Born at Olean, New York

1966 - B.A. (Journalism), St. Bonaventure University

1966-69 - Captain, U.S. Army

1971 - Master of Public Administration, Cornell University

1971 - Legislative Assistant, U.S. Representative James F. Hastings, 39th District, Republican - New York

1972-75 - Legislative Assistant, U.S. Representative James F. Hastings, 39th District, Republican - New York; he also was acting staff director for the House Republican Task Force on Health Policy.

Feb. 1976-Jan. 1977 - Associate Director for Health, Social Security, and Welfare, Domestic Council.

Scope and Content Note

Johnson was appointed to the Domestic Council in February 1976 as Associate Director for Health, Social Security, and Welfare, remaining until the end of the Ford Administration. He replaced Arthur F. Quern who became Deputy Director for Policy and Planning.

Johnson's primary responsibilities were in health issues. He assisted in the formulation of policy and as White House liaison with government agencies and private organizations. Among his specific duties were the preparation of decision, information, and discussion memoranda, including some for the President which were routed through, or drafted for the signature of James Cannon, Executive Director of the Domestic Council. He arranged meetings between the President and special interest groups or met with such groups himself; prepared policy studies and Presidential talking points; and drafted Presidential messages. Among other functions he prepared correspondence and monitored legislation.

Sarah C. Massengale, Assistant Director for Health, Social Security, Welfare, and Cultural Affairs, worked under Johnson. In addition to routine matters, Massengale coordinated policy development for several important areas, including abortion, legislation on the aging, medical insurance reforms, and planning for the White House Conference on the Handicapped. She also arranged meetings between the President and special interest groups or met with such groups herself. Starting in August 1976 Ed Friedlander worked directly for Johnson as Special Assistant for Health Affairs.

The Johnson Files include materials inherited from Arthur Quern (1974-76) and Pamela Needham, Assistant Director for Health, Social Security, and Welfare (1975). Many were not added to by Johnson. Most other files consist of copies or printed material, and apparently were accumulated by Johnson for reference purposes. There are few original documents and such original memoranda and other transmittals as do appear are to and from Arthur Quern, James Cannon,

Theodore Cooper and Michael Licata of H.E.W., and occasionally other Domestic Council staff such as Sarah Massengale and David Lissy or from persons outside of government. Major topics include food stamps, swine influenza immunization program, blood supply, President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Related Materials (July 1979)

Related materials may be found in the Domestic Council files of Sarah C. Massengale and Arthur F. Quern, particularly on food stamps and social security.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-06

Subject Series, 1974-76.

(Boxes 1-12, 4.8 linear feet)

Reports, press releases, booklets, newspaper articles, bills, statements, printed testimony, House reports, and other processed materials; and occasional memoranda, correspondence, draft messages, schedule proposals, talking points, and other miscellaneous items. Materials were received from the Domestic Council staff, federal agencies - particularly H.E.W. and Agriculture, public interest groups, and individuals. Johnson inherited some files from Arthur Quern (1975-76) and Pamela Needham (1975). Most items are copies and printed matter, which reflect their apparent use for reference. There are few original documents. Major topics include food stamps, swine influenza immunization program, national blood policy, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Of note are the weekly status reports to James Cannon on key projects and problems.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

Box 1 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Abortion (1)-(2)
OPEN	Aging (1)-(2)
OPEN	Aging - Optometry Study
OPEN	Aging - White House Press Releases
OPEN	Aid for Families of Dependent Children (AFDC)

Status	Title
OPEN	Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration
OPEN	Allied Services

Box 2 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Anticipation Reports (upcoming issues)
OPEN	Black Lung
OPEN	Blind, Association for the
OPEN	Budget/Legislative Program - HEW, 1978 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Cancer Research and National Cancer Institute
OPEN	Child Care
OPEN	Child and Family Services Act

Box 3 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Child Nutrition (1)-(2)
OPEN	Child Support (1) - (2)
OPEN	Child Support Background Material
OPEN	Community Services Administration
OPEN	Developmental Disabilities Act
OPEN	Disability Insurance

Box 4 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Drug Abuse and Drug Safety
OPEN	Food Stamps (1) - (5)

Box 5 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Food Stamps (6)
OPEN	Food Stamps - Congressional Committee Prints
OPEN	Food Stamps - Publications
OPEN	Food Stamps - Publications and Miscellaneous
OPEN	Handicapped (1) - (2)

Box 6 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Health
OPEN	Health, Education and Welfare, Department of (1) - (2)
OPEN	Health Manpower
OPEN	Home Health Care
OPEN	Hospice
OPEN	Hospitals
OPEN	Income Assistance Simplification Act
OPEN	Indian Health and Nutrition

Box 7 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Issues Papers
OPEN	Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) - Medicare / Medicaid
OPEN	Medicaid
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Medical Devices
OPEN	Memoranda - Action (1) - (3)
OPEN	Memoranda - Presidential
OPEN	Mental Health and Mental Retardation
OPEN	Michigan Deferred Claims (Welfare - HEW)
OPEN	National Association of Counties

Box 8 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	National Blood Policy (1) - (6)

Box 9 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	National Blood Policy (7)
OPEN	National Governors Conference
OPEN	National Institutes of Health
OPEN	National Library of Medicine
OPEN	National Medical Laboratory Week/National Rural Health Week
OPEN	Nursing Homes

Status	Title
OPEN	Nutrition
OPEN	Poverty (1) - (2)

Box 10 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (1) - (4)
OPEN	Puerto Rico Commission - Social Security System
OPEN	Questions and Answers (on health and welfare)
OPEN	Rehabilitation Act - Section 504
OPEN	Rural Health
OPEN	Sickle Cell Anemia
OPEN	Social Security (1)

Box 11 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Social Security (2) - (5)
OPEN	State of the Union, 1977
OPEN	Swine Influenza - Biweekly Reports from H.E.W.
OPEN	Swine Influenza - Canadian Purchase
OPEN	Swine Influenza - Immunization Program
OPEN	Swine Influenza - Signing Ceremony, April 15, 1976 (H.J. Res. 890)

Box 12 - Subject Series

Status	Title
OPEN	Transitions - Presidential (1976)
OPEN	United Hospital Fund of New York
OPEN	Vocational Rehabilitation
OPEN	Watch (Responsibilities) List
OPEN	Weekly Status Report
OPEN	Welfare (1) - (2)
OPEN	W.I.C. (Program for Women, Infants, and Children)
OPEN	W.I.N. (Work Incentive Program)
OPEN	Correspondence

Correspondence, 1976-77.

(Boxes 12-13, 0.4 linear feet)

Consists of three sub-series:

a) Correspondence Chronological. Carbon copies of Johnson's letters and memoranda. Related items include occasional incoming letters, including several letter cases; memoranda; and copies of other staff letters. Most are on health and welfare topics, with an occasional administrative or personal item. Few of these materials are duplicated in the Subject File. Materials are to and from Domestic Council staff, Federal agencies particularly H.E.W. and Agriculture, public interest groups, and individuals. These communications are perfunctory for the most part including thank yous, transmittals of information, and other responses. This series reflects some of the materials actually produced, and functions performed, by Johnson.

b) Correspondence Alphabetical. Carbons of Johnson's letters and memoranda, arranged alphabetically by name of recipient. Generally materials here are duplicated in the Correspondence Chronological section. Includes very occasional notes and other miscellaneous items.

c) Referrals. Referrals of incoming letters, either for direct reply or for a draft of an appropriate response, most going to H.E.W. Included are the White House referral forms, usually a copy of the incoming letter, and occasionally the response, related memos and letters. Arranged chronologically.

Arranged chronologically or alphabetically, depending on the sub-series.

Box 12 (Continued) - Correspondence

Status	Title
OPEN	February - April 1976

Box 13 - Correspondence

Status	Title
OPEN	May - December 1976
OPEN	Correspondence A - Z
OPEN	Referrals - Pending
OPEN	Referrals - Completed (1) - (3)