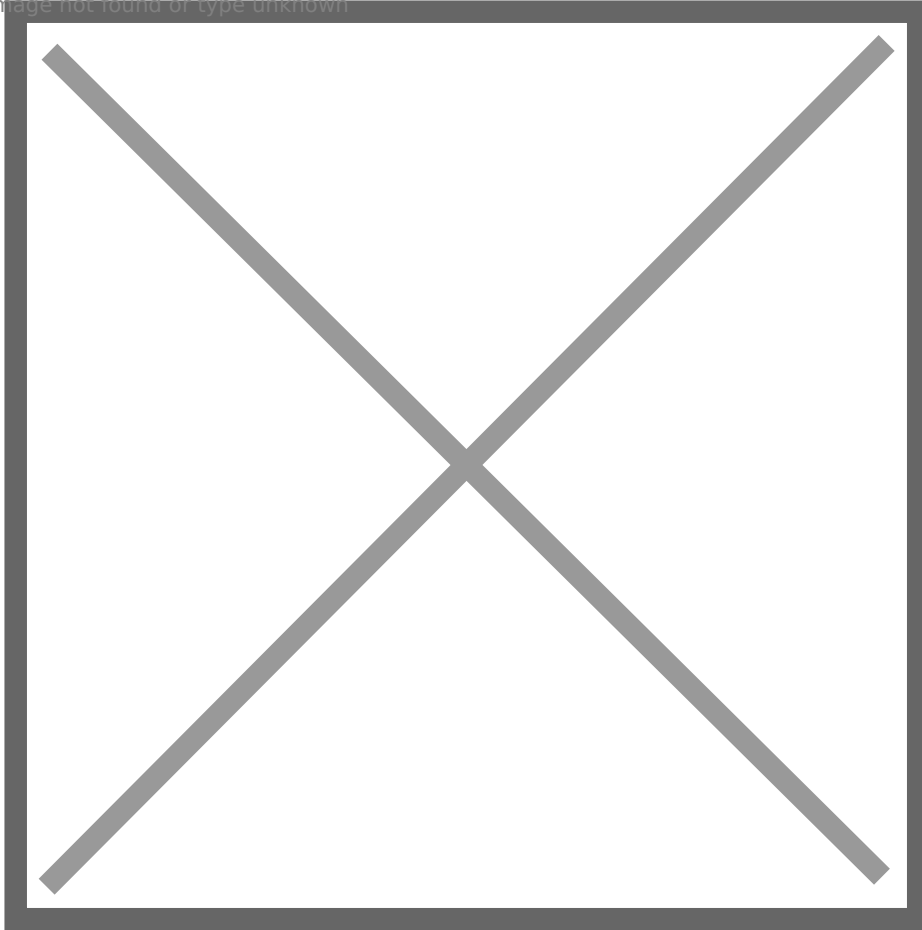


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## **MILTON MITLER FILES, 1972-77**

### **Collection Type**

White House Office Files

### **Extent**

16.4 linear feet (ca. 34,000 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**

P.M. Green, October 1987; Revised by William McNitt, June 2003

## **Biography**

### **Milton E. Mitler**

Dates Unknown - Colonel, United States Air Force

1975 - Assistant to the National Chairman, National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

1975-77 - Coordinator for Bicentennial Affairs, White House staff

## **Scope and Content Note**

Milton E. Mitler joined the White House staff as coordinator for Bicentennial matters on April 17, 1975, leaving his post as assistant to the national chairman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Mitler replaced Richard Lukstat, who had resigned on April 3, 1975, and took over Lukstat's duties as liaison between the White House and the American Revolution

Bicentennial Administration, Federal agencies and general public. He also administered gifts received at the White House for the Bicentennial. The Bicentennial Office functioned directly under Counsellor to the President John O. Marsh Jr. and under the Special Assistant to the President for Human Resources Theodore Marrs. Marrs had worked with Mitler at the Defense Department and was instrumental in bringing him to the White House. A detailed description of the role of the White House Bicentennial Office is available in the case file.

When Marrs resigned on July 17, 1976, Mitler inherited much of Marrs' work and became, on Sept. 30, 1976, Deputy Special Assistant to the President for Human Resources. The files for July 1976 to January 1977 reflect Mitler's additional responsibilities dealing with the MIA/POW issue. This issue, which was the concern of groups like the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, MIA/POW families and concerned members of the public, represented the above groups' and citizens' feelings of being abandoned by the U.S. Government. They believed there were still captured American servicemen being held in Southeast Asia, even after U.S. POW's had been repatriated in 1973. They also demanded an accounting of what had happened to the many servicemen listed as missing in action. Mitler and his superior, Marrs, handled relations between the White House and these groups and kept the White House informed of developments regarding this issue. Specifically Mitler answered correspondence on the MIA/POW issue and served to explain the Ford administration's policies in this regard. The many letters from family members of MIA/POW's sent to President Ford show their frustration of not knowing whether their loved one is living or dead and also reflects the emotional intensity of this issue.

Mitler's major duty and the majority of his files concern his work with the Bicentennial. As coordinator of Bicentennial matters, Mitler sat on various Bicentennial task forces, such as the Federal Agency Bicentennial Task Force, which planned various activities for Federal agencies during the Bicentennial. The major problem for this task force was in coordinating what each agency was going to do so that there would be no overlapping of activities if possible. The direction of overall activities from the White House was an attempt to provide a general theme for the Bicentennial. Mitler also answered requests from private sector groups and

individuals for presidential attendance at functions, authorization to hold events on Federal property, funding for activities and similar matters.

For the final months of the Ford administration, Mitler helped to organize meetings which consisted of bringing a selected group into the White House to attend a ceremonial function such as the signing of a bill by the President or to attend a public relations function such as meeting with labor leaders to discuss administration policies on some issue. He was basically the organizer and facilitator of the meetings and usually only opened them with introductory remarks to welcome them to the White House.

### **Related Materials** (October 1987)

Related open materials on the Bicentennial can be found especially in: the files of Presidential Counselor John O. Marsh; files of Domestic Counsel staff Andre Buckles and Stephen McConahey; and White House Central Files categories FG 75 American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, FG 370 American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, GI 3 Gifts to President (includes Bicentennial) and PR 8-1 American Bicentennial Celebration.

Related open materials on Vietnam War MIA/POW's are found especially in the John Marsh Files and in the White House Central Files category ND 8-1 Military Personnel - Casualties.

The closely related files of Theodore Marrs are currently processed and available for research.

### **Last Modified Date**

2025-03-28

### **Vietnam War MIA's and POW's File, 1972-77.**

(Boxes 1-2, 0.7 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and Vietnam War MIA and POW organizations, mostly with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, and their leaders, families of MIA/POW's and members of the general public concerning the Ford administration's policies and action on the MIA/POW issue. Includes material sent by MIA/POW organizations supporting their claim of U.S. servicemen being held captive in Southeast Asia and policy

statements, speeches and reports of the President indicating his response to these organizations. The file also includes Defense Department material, such as reports on their meetings with MIA/POW families and organizations.

Arranged chronologically.

**Box 1 - Vietnam War MIA's and POW's File**

Status	Title
OPEN	12/72-7/76

**Box 2 - Vietnam War MIA's and POW's File**

Status	Title
OPEN	7/76-10/76
OPEN	House Report
OPEN	Military Organizations - List
OPEN	Vietnam

**Bicentennial Subject File, 1973-77.**

(Boxes 3-27, 6.0 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and private citizens, government officials and Bicentennial organizations concerning their plans to celebrate the 200th birthday of the United States. The file includes American Revolution Bicentennial Administration task force meeting minutes detailing the White House Bicentennial Office's plans and recommendations for Bicentennial programs and activities. It also includes lists of participants in these White House meetings and many brochures and publications from Bicentennial groups. Much of the file contains statements of what an individual or group was doing or was planning to do for the Bicentennial, what the individual or group would like the President to do for the Bicentennial, the offer of gifts for the Bicentennial, and requests to meet with the President.

Arranged alphabetically.

**Box 3 - Bicentennial Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	Age of Franklin and Jefferson (1)-(3)
OPEN	Agency for International Development

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Agriculture Department
OPEN	American Freedom Train (1)-(3)
OPEN	American Heritage Square - Los Angeles
OPEN	American Historic and Cultural Society, Inc.
OPEN	American Indians

#### **Box 4 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	American Issues Forum
OPEN	American Numismatic Association
OPEN	American Productivity Center
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - Advisory Council (1)-(3)
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - Board: General
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - Final Report to Congress: 1973 (1)-(2)
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - Job Applications

#### **Box 5 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - License Program (1)-(2)
OPEN	American Revolution Bicentennial Administration - Miscellaneous (1)-(5)
OPEN	American Society of Association Executives
OPEN	American - Israel Cultural Foundation
OPEN	Army Bicentennial - Fort Benning, Georgia

#### **Box 6 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Audio-Visual Presentations (1)-(4)
OPEN	Ballad of Valley Forge
OPEN	Bands

Status	Title
OPEN	Beltsville Recreation Area
OPEN	Bicentennial USA
OPEN	Boston Bicentennial Forum

#### **Box 7 - Bicentennial Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	British Military Tattoo
OPEN	CETA Funds
OPEN	Cape Canaveral - Bicentennial Exposition on Science and Technology (1)-(7)

#### **Box 8 - Bicentennial Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	Cape Canaveral - Bicentennial Exposition on Science and Technology (8)-(15)
OPEN	Centennial Safe

#### **Box 9 - Bicentennial Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	Center for Understanding Media, Inc.
OPEN	Commerce Department
OPEN	Commercialism
OPEN	Communities
OPEN	Cultural Laureate Foundation (1)-(3)
OPEN	Declaration - John D. Rockefeller III
OPEN	Declaration of Independence Committee
OPEN	Defense Department

#### **Box 10 - Bicentennial Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	District of Columbia - Bicentennial Federal Programs (1)-(3)
OPEN	District of Columbia - Fringe Parking Plan (1)-(4)
OPEN	District of Columbia - Grant Requests (1)-(2)

#### **Box 11 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	District of Columbia - Logistics Plan: Background
OPEN	District of Columbia - Transportation Plan (1)-(4)
OPEN	District of Columbia - Visitors Facilities
OPEN	District of Columbia/Philadelphia Reports (1)-(3)

#### **Box 12 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Domestic Council Bicentennial Committee (1)-(3)
OPEN	Expo '74
OPEN	Eye of Thomas Jefferson
OPEN	Federal Agency Bicentennial Projects
OPEN	Fund Requests
OPEN	Gem Show - International
OPEN	Global Record Run
OPEN	Great Hall Federal Exhibition

#### **Box 13 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Health, Education and Welfare Department - Bicentennial Projects
OPEN	Honor America (1)-(5)
OPEN	Horizons on Display (1)

#### **Box 14 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Horizons on Display (2)-(4)
OPEN	Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation (1)-(2)
OPEN	Independence Day

#### **Box 15 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Interior Department (1)-(2)
OPEN	Jewish
OPEN	Keep America Beautiful (1)-(2)
OPEN	Legislation

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Logo and Seals
OPEN	Medical
OPEN	Messages and Speeches of Gerald R. Ford
OPEN	Military Participation

#### **Box 16 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	National Bicentennial Conference (1)-(3)
OPEN	National Visitor Center
OPEN	News Clippings - Miscellaneous (1)-(5)

#### **Box 17 - Bicentennial Subject File.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Parades - Miscellaneous (1)-(2)
OPEN	Passports
OPEN	Philadelphia Grant Requests (1)-(6)

#### **Box 18 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Photo 200
OPEN	Police Involvement
OPEN	Presidential Participation - Miscellaneous
OPEN	Presidential Questions and Answers (1)-(3)
OPEN	Programs/Projects (1)-(3)

#### **Box 19 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Publications (1)-(5)
OPEN	Queen Elizabeth's Visit - 1976
OPEN	Religion
OPEN	Resumes

#### **Box 20 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Security
OPEN	Skits/Plays

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Slogans
OPEN	Slogans USA Contest
OPEN	Small Business Administration
OPEN	Smithsonian Bicentennial Projects (1)-(3)
OPEN	Solomon, Haym - Recognition
OPEN	Songs

#### **Box 21 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Speech Material
OPEN	Stamps - Foreign
OPEN	State Department
OPEN	Sutherland Associates (1)-(2)
OPEN	Synagogue Council of America (1)-(4)

#### **Box 22 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Task Force - General (1)-(2)
OPEN	Task Force Meetings: 9/23/73-3/27/75(2)

#### **Box 23 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Task Force Meetings: 3/27/75(3)-5/3/76

#### **Box 24 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Task Force Meetings: 5/17/76-6/29/76
OPEN	Task Force Members
OPEN	Task Force Subcommittee - D.C. Coordinating Committee (1)-(3)
OPEN	Task Force Subcommittee - In House (1)-(3)

#### **Box 25 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Task Force Subcommittee - Operations and Logistics (1)-(2)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Thank You's From Diplomatic Corps - Redwood Plaques
OPEN	Third Century USA ("Turning on the Lights") (1)-(2)
OPEN	Town Meeting '76 (1)-(4)

#### **Box 26 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Transportation Department
OPEN	Treasury Department
OPEN	Visitation Statistics - Weekly
OPEN	Wagon Train Program (1)-(3)
OPEN	White House Bicentennial Office
OPEN	White House Miniature Program (1)-(3)

#### **Box 27 - Bicentennial Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Youth Programs (1)-(5)

#### **Events File, 1976-77.**

(Boxes 28-31, 1.6 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and various organizations and their leaders, and memoranda, agendas, attendee lists, invitations, reports and other materials created for meetings. Includes material on various bill signings and briefings. Also includes background information on some of these organizations.

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Box 28 - Events File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1976/08/04 - VFW and President
OPEN	1976/08/13 - USAF Sergeants Association
OPEN	1976/08/18 - Kiwanis International
OPEN	1976/08/24-26 - American Legion
OPEN	1976/09/08 - Education and Arts (1)-(3)
OPEN	1976/09/15 - American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (1)-(3)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1976/09/16 - National Health Insurance
OPEN	1976/09/20 - National School Volunteers (1)-(3)
<b>Box 29 - Events File</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1976/09/22 - Defense Appropriations Bill Signing
OPEN	1976/09/28 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill Signing
OPEN	1976/09/29 - Public Safety Officers Benefits Bill Signing
OPEN	1976/10/05 - Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
OPEN	1976/10/13 - Briefings for Foreign Labor Leaders
OPEN	1976/10/14 - Polish and Czech World War II Veterans Bill
OPEN	1976/10/15 - National Council on Health Care Services
OPEN	1976/10/18 - Commissioner of Education Swearing-In
OPEN	1976/10/19 - AMVETS Golden Helmet Award Presentation
OPEN	1976/10/21 - Federal Council on Aging Swearing-In Ceremony (1)-(3)

**Box 30 - Events File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1976/10/28 - Human Resource Development in the World of Work (1)-(3)
OPEN	1976/11/23 - National Bible Week
OPEN	1976/11/30 - Global Perspectives in Education (1)-(3)
OPEN	1976/12/03 - Johnny Bench (Baseball Player)
OPEN	1976/12/06 - Middle Cities Education Association of Michigan

**Box 31 - Events File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1976/12/14 - Citizens for Highway Safety (1)-(5)
OPEN	1977/01/11 - Alcoholism

**Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (By Control Number), 1975-76.**

(Boxes 32-36, 2.0 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and donors of Bicentennial gifts. Also background material concerning the gifts.

Arranged by control number.

**Box 32 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Control Number)**

Status	Title
OPEN	#1-#225 (some numbers missing)

**Box 33 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Control Number)**

Status	Title
OPEN	#226-#430 (some numbers missing)

**Box 34 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Control Number)**

Status	Title
OPEN	#431-#527 (some numbers missing)

**Box 35 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Control Number)**

Status	Title
OPEN	#528-#670 (some numbers missing)

**Box 36 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Control Number)**

Status	Title
OPEN	#671-#929 (some numbers missing)

**Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (By Donor Name), 1975-76.**

(Boxes 37-38, 0.8 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and donors of Bicentennial gifts for which control numbers had not yet been assigned. Also background material concerning the gifts.

Arranged alphabetically by name of donor.

**Box 37 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Donor Name)**

Status	Title
OPEN	A-K

**Box 38 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Received (by Donor Name)**

Status	Title
OPEN	L-Z

**Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Offered, 1975-76.**

(Box 39, 0.4 linear feet)

Correspondence between Mitler and persons wishing to donate Bicentennial gifts.

Arranged alphabetically by name of the correspondent.

**Box 39 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Offered**

Status	Title
OPEN	A-Z

**Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Offered (Miscellaneous), 1975-76.**

(Box 40, 0.4 linear feet)

In addition to some correspondence between Mitler and persons wishing to donate Bicentennial gifts, this series contains information about presentation ceremonies.

Arranged alphabetically by name.

**Box 40 - Correspondence re Bicentennial Gifts Offered (Miscellaneous)**

Status	Title
OPEN	A-Z

**Bicentennial Gift Displays, 1975-76.**

(Box 41, 0.4 linear feet)

Charts and notes concerning the display of Bicentennial gifts in Washington.

Unarranged.

**Box 41 - Bicentennial Gift Displays**

Status	Title
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## **Audiovisual Materials, 1972-76.**

(Boxes AV1-4)

Photographic materials, audio recordings, and moving images related primarily to Mitler's role as White House Coordinator for the Bicentennial. Subjects include Bicentennial gifts, exhibitions, programs, and Presidential remarks; the White House Miniature Program; the Defense Appropriations Bill Signing; and commercials produced by Skelly Oil Company.

Arranged in parallel to the textual materials.

### **Boxes AV1-4**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	<a href="#">View container list for this series</a>