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President Ford Committee Records, Series A: Chairman's Office Files, 1975-1976

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Extent

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Record Type

Textual

Scope and Content Note

The Chairman's Office Files provide documentation of administrative, fiscal and strategic issues handled by Howard (Bo) Callaway and his immediate staff from the formation of the election committee in June 1975 until Callaway resigned in March 1976. These extant files do not reflect the activities of Roger C.B. Morton, chairman from April to August 1976, and James Baker, chairman during the general election campaign. The only material from the post-Callaway period included in the Chairman's Office Files is a subject file maintained by Edward DeBolt, counsellor to all three chairmen.

President Ford appointed Callaway, secretary of the Army and an active Georgia Republican, as PFC chairman in June 1975. He remained as head of the Committee for eight months until charges that he had abused his office as Army secretary for purposes of private gain resulted in a Justice Department investigation and his resignation. Rogers C.B. Morton left his White House position as counsellor to the President to assume the Committee's leadership until the President won the Republican nomination in August. When Morton stepped aside citing poor health, James Baker replaced him as chairman. Baker, who directed the PFC's delegate office before the convention, served as chairman for the duration of the campaign.

The campaign chairman acted as the chief executive officer of the campaign organization. He kept the President and his staff informed about PFC activities, oversaw the development of a nationwide organization, contributed to strategy development, coordinated fundraising activities, served as a spokesman and representative for the President on campaign matters, acted as liaison with the Republican National Committee, and had responsibility for all major policy, program, personnel and budgetary matters.

Throughout the primary campaign, the President Ford Committee experienced factional strife. The chairman's files document the Committee's slow start with fundraising, several high-level staff resignations over policy differences, problems with White House communication and coordination, and the Reagan challenge. They also provide a record of the Committee's exhaustive early efforts to build a national organization.

The extant files of the Chairman's office, even for this early period, are not complete. They do not include Callaway's weekly written reports to the President, his notes or agendas for high-level campaign meetings, nor do they reflect input he may have had on strategy development. (See section on "Related Material.")

The Callaway series include material accumulated by the chairman and his assistants, Mimi Austin and Judy Harbaugh. The work of Leo Thorsness, another of Callaway's assistants, is not represented in the files. A third series, the DeBolt Subject File, reflects the activities of Edward DeBolt, a Republican political consultant who acted as counsellor to all three chairmen throughout the campaign. DeBolt handled the PFC's special voter groups program, developing appeals to various racial and ethnic groups during the primary campaign. His extensive contacts with these groups, particularly blacks and Hispanics, are reflected in the file. He had miscellaneous administrative duties as well, although these are not as prominent in the file as is the record of his political activity.

Related Materials (as of August 1991):

The White House files of Chief of Staff Richard Cheney reflect aspects of the PFC chairman's work not documented in the Chairman's Office Files. Cheney's Files, for example, include a complete set of weekly reports prepared by Callaway for the President. Callaway recently donated a small collection of personal papers (less than one foot) which reflect various aspects of his activity as chairman. This collection will be processed and made available to researchers soon.

The White House Central Files Subject File (PL - Political Affairs) and the PFC's Political Office File include material on PFC state organizations and delegate monitoring.

For material on appeals to special voter groups during the general election campaign, the researcher should consult the files of People for Ford, the volunteer arm of the PFC.

The Records of the President Ford Committee do not include files accumulated by Rogers C.B. Morton or James Baker during their tenure as chairmen. Portions of the Rogers Morton Papers, housed at the University of Kentucky, provide a record of his work as chairman. The Rogers Morton Files at the Ford Library reflect Morton's political activities as counsellor to the President before he assumed the chairman's

post in April 1976. Baker, currently Secretary of State in the Bush administration, has yet to donate his personal papers to an archival repository.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-27

Chairman's Office: Callaway Subject File, 1975-76.

(Boxes A1-A4, 1.6 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, strategy papers, agendas, schedule proposals, clippings, and printed material compiled by Callaway and his assistants, Mimi Austin and Judy Harbaugh. Prominent topics include early organizational efforts at the national and state level, liaison with White House staff, administrative and personnel matters, support for the President among members of Congress, and campaign finance. Included in several folders is material created by Bryce Harlow, an informal advisor to the President, during the period before the President formally announced his candidacy.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box A1 - Chairman's Office: Callaway Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Advertising
OPEN	Advisory Committee
OPEN	Bandouveris, Harry
OPEN	Bennett, Doug
OPEN	Black Voters
OPEN	Budget
OPEN	Burch, Dean
OPEN	Cabinet Involvement
OPEN	Campaign Strategy, April 1975
OPEN	Campaign Strategy, August 1975 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Cheney, Richard
OPEN	Christmas Card List - White House
OPEN	College Young Republicans

Status	Title
OPEN	Congressional Support (1)-(2)

Box A2 - Chairman's Office: Callaway Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Convention Planning
OPEN	Delegate Selection Information
OPEN	District of Columbia
OPEN	Domestic Issues
OPEN	Finance (1)-(3)
OPEN	Flanigan, Robert
OPEN	Ford, Betty
OPEN	Former Congressmen
OPEN	Gorog, William
OPEN	Greener, William
OPEN	Grenier, John
OPEN	Gubernatorial Support
OPEN	Harlow, Bryce
OPEN	Insurance
OPEN	Jones, Jerry
OPEN	Ladd, Bruce
OPEN	Legal Matters
OPEN	Mayoral Support
OPEN	Meetings: PFC Leadership, 8/2/75
OPEN	Meetings: Republican National Committee, 9/6-8/75
OPEN	Meetings: PFC Leadership, 9/7/75
OPEN	Meetings: Republican National Committee, 9/8/75

Box A3 - Chairman's Office: Callaway Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Meetings: National Federation of Republican Women, 9/11-13/75
OPEN	Meetings: Republican Leadership Conference, 9/19-21/75
OPEN	Meetings: Hispanic Leaders, 9/22/75

Status	Title
OPEN	Meetings: Western States Republican Conference, 10/2-4/75
OPEN	Meetings: Advisory Committee, 11/17/75
OPEN	Meetings: Council of 100, 11/19/75
OPEN	Meetings: Federation of Republican Women, 11/20/75
OPEN	Meetings: Republican Governors Conference, 11/20-22/75
OPEN	Meetings: Southern States Republican Conference, 12/12-13/75
OPEN	Meetings: State Chairmen, 1/9/76
OPEN	Meetings: Midwest Republican Leadership Conference, 1/30-31/76
OPEN	Meetings: Members of Congress, 3/18/76
OPEN	National Federation of Republican Women
OPEN	Nessen, Ron
OPEN	Nicholson, William
OPEN	Nunn, Lee
OPEN	Organizational Issues
OPEN	Personnel
OPEN	Polling
OPEN	Presidential Spokesmen
OPEN	Press/Media (1)-(2)

Box A4 - Chairman's Office: Callaway Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Reagan, Ronald
OPEN	Republican Congressional Committee
OPEN	Republican Governors Conference
OPEN	Republican National Committee
OPEN	Republican National Hispanic Assembly
OPEN	Research (1)-(3)
OPEN	Rockefeller, Nelson
OPEN	Rumsfeld, Donald

Status	Title
OPEN	Slight, Fred
OPEN	Special Interests Groups
OPEN	Spencer, Stu
OPEN	Staff Lists
OPEN	Timmons, William
OPEN	Voting Rights Bill
OPEN	White House Invitations (1)-(3)
OPEN	Young Republican Leadership Conference

Chairman's Office: Callaway State File, 1975-76

(Boxes A5-A10, 2.4 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, reports, press releases, resumes, strategy papers, itineraries, and schedule proposals compiled by Callaway and his assistants, Mimi Austin and Judy Harbaugh. Political Office staff and state PFC officials created most of the material filed in this series. The materials concern such topics as: state Republican party organizations, the selection and approval of PFC state executive and finance chairmen, rules governing delegate selection, and reports concerning the activities of local PFC organizations. Many files include "memos for the record" drafted by Callaway. Some files include documentation on issues of concern in various states, such as common situs picketing, activities of the First Lady, taxes, and energy.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box A5 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	California (1)-(5)
OPEN	Colorado
OPEN	Connecticut
OPEN	Delaware
OPEN	Florida
OPEN	Georgia (1)

Box A6 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	Georgia (2)-(3)
OPEN	Hawaii
OPEN	Idaho
OPEN	Illinois (1)-(3)
OPEN	Indiana
OPEN	Iowa
OPEN	Kansas
OPEN	Kentucky

Box A7 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	Maine
OPEN	Maryland
OPEN	Massachusetts (1)-(2)
OPEN	Michigan
OPEN	Minnesota
OPEN	Mississippi
OPEN	Missouri
OPEN	Montana
OPEN	Nebraska
OPEN	Nevada
OPEN	New Hampshire (1)-(2)
OPEN	New Jersey
OPEN	New Mexico

Box A8 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	New York
OPEN	North Carolina (1)-(3)
OPEN	North Dakota
OPEN	Ohio
OPEN	Oklahoma (1)-(2)
OPEN	Oregon (1)-(2)

Box A9 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	Pennsylvania (1)-(3)
OPEN	Rhode Island
OPEN	South Carolina
OPEN	South Dakota
OPEN	Tennessee
OPEN	Texas (1)-(4)
OPEN	Utah

Box A10 - Chairman's Office: Callaway State File

Status	Title
OPEN	Vermont
OPEN	Virginia
OPEN	Washington
OPEN	West Virginia
OPEN	Wisconsin
OPEN	Wyoming

Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File, 1975-76.

(Boxes A11-A15, 2.0 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, notes, lists of names, agendas, schedule proposals, clippings, and printed material compiled by Edward DeBolt, counsellor to the chairman. A major portion of the file documents efforts during the primary campaign to appeal to special voter groups, especially blacks and Hispanics. Other topics include liaison with the Republican National Committee and miscellaneous PFC administrative matters such as personnel and budget.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box A11 - Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Advertising
OPEN	American Voters Abroad
OPEN	Asians

Status	Title
OPEN	Athletes
OPEN	Blacks (1)-(4)
OPEN	Blacks - Job Applications (1)-(2)

Box A12 - Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Blacks - Name Lists (1)-(4)
OPEN	Blacks - Voting Background (1)-(4)

Box A13 - Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Business and Professional Groups
OPEN	Campaign Brochures
OPEN	Campaign Reporting System
OPEN	Cuban
OPEN	Delegate Tracking Operation
OPEN	Eastern Europeans
OPEN	Ethnics (1)-(2)
OPEN	Ethnic Leaders
OPEN	Ethnic Leadership Meeting, 5/11/76
OPEN	Ethnic Program - 1972
OPEN	Greek
OPEN	Hispanic (1)-(2)
OPEN	Hispanic - Job Applicants

Box A14 - Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Hispanic - Name Lists (1)-(3)
OPEN	Hispanic - Presidential Meeting, 10/17/74
OPEN	Jewish
OPEN	Legal Matters
OPEN	National Republican Heritage Groups Council
OPEN	Older Americans

Status	Title
OPEN	Republican National Committee - Absentee Ballot Information (1)-(2)
OPEN	Republican National Committee - State Reports (1)-(2)

Box A15 - Chairman's Office: DeBolt Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Republican National Committee - State Reports (3)
OPEN	Republican National Committee Task Force
OPEN	Special Voter Groups
OPEN	Special Voter Groups - Mailings
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Baker, James
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Callaway, Bo
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Hughes, Roy
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Marik, Robert
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Peterson, Elly
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Spencer, Stu
OPEN	Staff Memoranda - Watts, Skip
OPEN	Veterans
OPEN	White House Contacts
OPEN	Youth