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## **ARTHUR QUERN FILES, 1975-77**

### **Collection Type**

White House Office Files

### **Extent**

9.3 linear feet (ca. 18,600 pages)

### **Record Type**

Textual

### **Access**

Open. Some items are 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**

William McNitt, February 1982

## **Biography**

Arthur F. Quern

1942 - Born in Jamaica, N.Y.

1965 - B.A. (history and philosophy), St. John's University

1965-68 - U.S. Army Intelligence Corps

1968-69 - Graduate school in American intellectual history, State University of New York at Albany

1969-73 - Staff of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller

1974 - Director, New York State office in Washington, D.C. (advisor to Governor Malcolm Wilson on federal policy, budget and legislation, and principal liaison with the New York Congressional delegation).

Jan.-Feb. 1975 - Deputy Assistant for Domestic Affairs to Vice President Nelson Rockefeller

March 1975 - Staff Assistant to Domestic Council Deputy Director Richard Dunham

April 1975 - Associate Director for Human Resources, Domestic Council

May 1975-Jan. 1976 - Associate Director for Health, Social Security and Welfare, Domestic Council

Jan.-Sept. 1976 - Deputy Director for Policy and Planning, Domestic Council

Sept. 1976-Jan. 1977 - Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs

1977-1980 - Director of Welfare for the State of Illinois

1980-1983 - Chief of Staff to Illinois Governor James R. Thompson

1983-1996 - Chairman, Aon Risk Services Companies, Chicago, IL

1991-1996 - Chairman, Illinois Board of Higher Education

October 30, 1996 - Died

### **Scope and Content Note**

Arthur F. Quern held several positions with the Domestic Council and the White House between March 1975 and January 1977, but his files provide only sketchy documentation on many of his activities during this period. He transferred files to other members of the Domestic Council staff when his duties changed and

materials from his work as James Cannon's deputy often appear in Cannon's files rather than his own.

Quern joined the Domestic Council in March 1975 as a staff assistant to deputy director Richard Dunham, but soon began working on issues in the human resources area. When human resources was divided into two policy areas in April 1975, Quern became associate director for health, social security, and welfare. Since there was no associate director for labor, education and veterans affairs (the other half of the human resources area) until the fall of 1975, Quern continued to work on some issues in those areas for several months.

As an associate director, Quern was responsible for policy formulation; soliciting documents and recommendations from White House and agency staff members; maintaining contact with federal agencies and Congress; and the preparation and review of decision memoranda, briefing papers, legislative proposals, speeches, fact sheets, and responses to correspondence. Pamela Needham served as his assistant until June 1975 and Sarah Massengale thereafter.

In January 1976, Domestic Council executive director James Cannon promoted Quern to deputy director for policy and planning. As deputy director, he assumed many of the duties of Richard Dunham, who had left the Council in October 1975. Cannon also assigned Allen Moore and Janet Brown to Quern as assistants.

During the summer of 1976, Cannon's other deputy, James H. Cavanaugh, transferred to Richard Cheney's office in the White House. Quern assumed Cavanaugh's administrative duties and supervision of issues work and also shifted from the Council payroll to the White House staff as deputy assistant to the President for domestic affairs. He served in this position until the end of the Ford administration.

Researchers interested in Quern's work as associate director of the Domestic Council may find his collection useful for studying the issues of food stamps and social security. The Quern files contain memoranda, reports, publications, and meeting agendas concerning the activities of the Domestic Council review group on food stamps and Quern's drafting of option papers on food stamps reform and decision memoranda on both short-range and long-term social security financing problems.

Quern coordinated Domestic Council input for the President's 1976 State of the Union address and his files contain suggestions from White House and Domestic Council staff members, drafts, comments on the drafts, and the long memorandum by which Vice President Nelson Rockefeller submitted the Domestic Council suggestions to President Ford in December 1975.

The most significant files from Quern's 1976 work are those concerning busing (he assisted associate director Richard Parsons on this issue), the work of the Economic Policy Board (he apparently received the agendas, memoranda and minutes for meetings as Cannon's deputy), the writing of the domestic affairs portion of the Ford administration two year report, and his review of budget proposals for various domestic departments and agencies.

Included in the Quern collection is a small file accumulated by his assistant Janet Brown. Approximately one third of her file relates to her work as Domestic Council liaison for Indian affairs. Her files include materials she inherited from Judith Hope, who worked on some Indian issues in late 1975 and early 1976, and copies of Theodore Marrs memoranda, but only occasional documents which Brown created.

Also included in the Quern collection is material which he inherited from Richard Dunham. Dunham's correspondence and memoranda generally relate to administrative matters rather than issues.

The value of the Quern files is lessened by the fact that he transferred most of his health and welfare files to Spencer Johnson upon becoming deputy director. He also transferred a small quantity of material on education and labor issues to David Lissy.

Another weakness is that the files do not completely document the two positions which he held in 1976. There is little concerning the policy studies which he initiated as deputy director for policy and planning because much of the day-to-day work on these studies was conducted by Quern's assistants, other Domestic Council staff members, or the vice presidential staff. In addition, some materials resulting from Quern's administrative duties or his supervision of issues work were sent to James Cannon and incorporated into the Cannon files.

#### Related Materials (February 1982)

Collections containing related materials include the Domestic Council files of

Spencer Johnson, David Lissy, James Cannon, and Allen Moore. Collections related to Janet Brown's work on Indians include the Domestic Council files of Norman Ross, White House Central Files subject file category IN (Indian Affairs), and the White House staff files of Theodore Marrs, Bradley Patterson, and Barbara G. Kilberg.

**Last Modified Date**

2025-03-06

**Subject File, 1974-76.**

(Boxes 1-11, 4.1 linear feet)

Memoranda to and from the President, Domestic Council staff members, the White House staff, and officials in the departments and agencies; occasional letters from public; speeches; press releases; meeting minutes; briefing papers; and publications. The material concerns Quern's issues work from all of his White House and Domestic Council positions and also includes a few documents from early 1975 when he served on Vice President Rockefeller's staff. A small number of folders contain extensive documentation on such subjects as food stamps, social security, welfare reform, busing, the work of the Economic Policy Board, the drafting of Domestic Council input for the Ford Administration two year report, and unemployment insurance. Most other folders contain only a few items each.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 1 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	AFL-CIO
OPEN	Aircraft Noise
OPEN	Agriculture
OPEN	Busing (1)-(4)
OPEN	Census Bureau
OPEN	Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
OPEN	Congressional Budget Reform

**Box 2 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
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OPEN	Domestic Policy Fact Sheets
OPEN	Domestic Initiatives
OPEN	Domestic Policy Hearings
OPEN	Economic Issues
OPEN	Economic Policy Board (1)-(4)

**Box 3 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Economic Policy Board (5)-(7)
OPEN	Education
OPEN	Employment
OPEN	Energy
OPEN	Federal Regional Councils
OPEN	Food Stamps (1)-(3)

**Box 4 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Food Stamps (4)-(10)

**Box 5 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Food Stamps (11)-(16)
OPEN	Food Stamps - The Life of a Coupon
OPEN	Food Stamps and Nutrition - AEI Study (Publication)

**Box 6 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Food Stamps Report
OPEN	Food Stamps and Senate Resolution 58 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Grant Consolidation
OPEN	Health Insurance (1)-(2)
OPEN	Indians
OPEN	Intergovernmental Personnel Act
OPEN	Issues Papers
OPEN	Mayors, Conference of
OPEN	Monthly Chartbook (For Public Sale)

**Box 7 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	National Governors' Conference
OPEN	National Science Foundation
OPEN	National Work Conference
OPEN	Office of Economic Opportunity
OPEN	Office of Management and Budget
OPEN	Opportunity Funding Corporation
OPEN	Pensions
OPEN	President Ford's Accomplishments - Two Year Report (1)-(3)
OPEN	Presidential Position Statements - General
OPEN	Privacy
OPEN	Public Employees
OPEN	Refugees
OPEN	Regulatory Reform

**Box 8 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Republican Governors Association
OPEN	Research and Development (Scientific Projects)
OPEN	Revenue Sharing
OPEN	Safe Drinking Water
OPEN	Social Research and Development
OPEN	Social Security (1) -(4)

**Box 9 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Social Security (5)-(10)
OPEN	Social Security Amendments of 1971 (Published Congressional Report)
OPEN	Social Security Long Range Financing
OPEN	Sunset Proposals

**Box 10 - Subject File**



<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Unemployment Compensation
OPEN	Unemployment Insurance (1)-(3)
OPEN	Welfare - The Measure of Poverty (Report to Congress)
OPEN	Welfare Reform (1)-(2)

**Box 11 - Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Welfare Reform (3)
OPEN	Youth Jobs

**Domestic Council Administrative File, 1975-76.**

(Boxes 11-12, 0.6 linear feet)

Memoranda to and from Domestic Council staff members, correspondence with the public, press releases and organization charts. This file concerns the administration and organization of the Domestic Council, invitations received by Quern, job applicants, and the activities of Domestic Council staff members. Other than materials which he inherited from Richard Dunham, most of the documents date from 1976. Approximately half of the file consists of memoranda between Quern and seven individuals on the Domestic Council or Vice Presidential staffs concerning issues they handled. These are filed under the heading "Name File" and thereunder by the name of the staff member.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 11 (Continued) - Domestic Council Administrative File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Administration and Organization
OPEN	Correspondence - General
OPEN	Computer Usage by Domestic Council Staff
OPEN	Invitations to Art Quern
OPEN	Name File - McConahey, Steve (1)-(2)
OPEN	Name File - Means, Grady
OPEN	Name File - Moore, Allen

**Box 12 - Domestic Council Administrative File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Name File - Myer, Paul
OPEN	Name File - Overman, Dean
OPEN	Name File - Parsons, Richard
OPEN	Name File - Schleede, Glenn
OPEN	Personnel - Potential Employees
OPEN	White House Fellowships

### **Budget Review File, 1975-76.**

(Boxes 12-16, 1.7 linear feet)

Program statements, lists of projected budget figures and a few memoranda relating to the planning process in 1976 for the FY 1978 federal budget for domestic agencies. Domestic Council received for comment copies of the budget proposals for each domestic agency during both the spring planning review and the fall director's review. Quern apparently reviewed these budget proposals for Cannon. Many spring planning review materials have Quern's annotations, but none of the director's review materials include such notes.

Arranged by name of department or agency.

### **Box 12 (Continued) - Budget Review File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Budget - General
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Department of Agriculture (1)-(2)

### **Box 13 - Budget Review File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Department of Transportation
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Water Resources (1)-(2)
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Energy Research and Development Administration (1)-(2)
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - General Services Administration/Commerce (1)-(2)

**Box 14 - Budget Review File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - General Services Administration/Commerce (3)-(4)
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Health, Education and Welfare (1)-(2)
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - Housing and Urban Development (1)-(4)

**Box 15 - Budget Review File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Director's Review FY 1978 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Agriculture
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Commerce, Small Business Administration and Postal Service
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, and Water Resources (1)-(2)
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Energy Research and Development Administration
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Federal Energy Administration
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - General Services Administration and Justice Department

**Box 16 - Budget Review File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Health, Education and Welfare
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Housing and Urban Development
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Labor
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Overview Session
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Transportation

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Spring Planning Review FY 1978 - Veterans Administration
OPEN	Tax Policy Review FY 1978 (1)-(2)

**State of the Union Message File, 1975-76.**

(Boxes 16-19, 1.0 linear feet)

Memoranda to and from Domestic Council and White House staff members and officials of the departments and agencies, speech drafts, fact sheets, meeting minutes, and reports. This file concerns Quern's work from approximately September 1975 to January 1976 in coordinating substantive work for the Domestic Council input into the State of the Union address.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 16 (Continued) - State of the Union Message File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Analysis Papers

**Box 17 - State of the Union Message File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Baroody, William - State of the Union Draft
OPEN	Comprehensive Domestic Policy Analysis
OPEN	Development of the State of the Union Message (1)-(2)
OPEN	Domestic Policy Initiatives (1)-(2)
OPEN	Domestic Review Policy Discussions
OPEN	Draft Message and Summaries of Selected Possible Initiatives
OPEN	Economic Policy Board

**Box 18 - State of the Union Message File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Fact Sheets
OPEN	Follow-up to the State of the Union Message
OPEN	Meetings with Cabinet Members and Agency Heads
OPEN	Subject - Agriculture
OPEN	Subject - Arts

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Subject - Civil Rights
OPEN	Subject - Crime
OPEN	Subject - Drug Abuse
OPEN	Subject - Economy
OPEN	Subject - Education
OPEN	Subject - Elderly
OPEN	Subject - Energy
OPEN	Subject - Environment
OPEN	Subject - General Revenue Sharing
OPEN	Subject - Government Assistance
OPEN	Subject - Health Care
OPEN	Subject - Historic Preservation
OPEN	Subject - International
OPEN	Subject - Privacy
OPEN	Subject - Regulatory Reform
OPEN	Subject - Rural American Communities
OPEN	Subject - Science and Technology
OPEN	Subject - Small Business Initiatives

**Box 19 - State of the Union Message File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Subject - Social Programs
OPEN	Subject - Transportation
OPEN	Subject - Veterans
OPEN	Subject - Volunteerism
OPEN	Subject - Women's Rights
OPEN	Vice President's Briefing Book

**Chronological File, 1975-77.**

(Boxes 19-21, 0.9 linear feet)

Carbon copies and photocopies of memoranda and correspondence from Quern to Domestic Council staff members, the White House staff, the Vice President and his

staff, state and local officials, businessmen and the general public. Also included are occasional decision memoranda, action memoranda, briefing papers, weekly status reports, and memoranda drafted by Quern, but signed by James Cannon or Richard Dunham. The materials relate to health and welfare issues, occasional education and labor issues, the 1976 State of the Union address, New York City finances, busing, and administrative duties such as signing clearances for appointments and making arrangements for bill signing ceremonies.

Arranged chronologically by date.

**Box 19 (Continued) - Chronological File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	April - August 1975

**Box 20 - Chronological File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	September 1975 - June 1976

**Box 21 - Chronological File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	July 1976 - January 1977

**Janet H. Brown (Staff Assistant) File, 1975-76.**

(Boxes 21-24, 1.0 linear feet)

Memoranda to and from Domestic Council and White House staff members, copies of James Cannon and Arthur Quern memoranda sent to Brown for informational purposes, newspaper clippings, press releases, reports and publications. Although some photocopies date from 1975, material bearing Brown's name generally date from March to December 1976. This series concerns her work as Domestic Council liaison for Indian affairs, planning bill signing ceremonies, identifying issues to be addressed during the implementation of legislation, and the issue of busing and unemployment.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 21 (Continued) - Janet H. Brown (Staff Assistant) File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Busing (1)-(2)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Census 1980
<b>Box 22 - Janet H. Brown (Staff Assistant) File</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Coastal Zone Management Act
OPEN	Drinking Water
OPEN	Educational Television
OPEN	Environmental Regulations
OPEN	Fireworks Display on July 4, 1976
OPEN	Health
OPEN	Indians (1)-(3)

**Box 23 - Janet H. Brown (Staff Assistant) File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Indians (4)-(5)
OPEN	Indian Health
OPEN	Indian Matters - Department of Justice Task Force
OPEN	Indian Task Force Report
OPEN	Insulation (Home Energy Conservation)
OPEN	Legislation
OPEN	National Emergencies Act
OPEN	New Economic Process (Jamestown, NY)
OPEN	New York City Housing
OPEN	Physical Fitness
OPEN	President Ford - Accomplishments
OPEN	Privacy
OPEN	Smoking
OPEN	Sunshine Act
OPEN	Traffic Safety
OPEN	Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

**Box 24 - Janet H. Brown (Staff Assistant) File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Unemployment (1) -(2)