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ROGER D. SEMERAD PAPERS, 1974-76

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Extent

1.0 linear feet (ca. 2,000 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

Leesa Tobin & Joe Fugere, June 1982

Biography

Roger D. Semerad

1940 - Born

1962 - Received B.A. degree from Union College in New York

1963-64 - Administrative Assistant, Research Foundation, State University of New York, Albany, New York

1965-66 - Coordinator, Federal Programs, State University College, Buffalo, New York

1966-67 - Fellow, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

1967-69 - Director, Office of Federal Programs, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.

1969-70 - Director of Federal Relations, Division of Education, Health and Research, General Computing Corporation, New York

1970-72 - Executive Director, Secretary/Treasurer, University Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C.

1973 - President, Dumbarton Associates, Inc.

May 1974-Sept. 1975 - Domestic Council Staff Assistant for education, labor, and veterans affairs

May 1975-Jan. 1976 - Executive Director, President's Advisory Committee on Refugees

1976 - Vice President, American Retail Federation, Washington, D.C.

1980 - Executive Director of 1980 Republican Platform Committee

1981-1985 - Executive Vice President, Brookings Institution

1985-1988 - Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training

1988-1996 - Senior Vice President, American Express

Oct 13, 2012 - Died, Bethesda, Maryland

Scope and Content Note

Roger D. Semerad was appointed staff assistant to the Domestic Council by President Nixon in May 1974 and continued in this position during the Ford administration until September 1975. He was appointed by the President as Executive Director of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees in May 1975 and left the administration when he completed his duties in January 1976.

As staff assistant in the Domestic Council, Semerad had responsibility for the areas of education, labor, and veterans affairs. Semerad's activities included legislative analysis and development of decision options; preparation of briefing papers; interaction and liaison work with citizen and special interest groups; and interagency troubleshooting and coordination of special events. David Lissy was named as Semerad's successor in September 1975 and continued with these activities until the end of the administration.

The President's Advisory Committee on Refugees was established in May 1975 to help deal with the influx of refugees brought about by the collapse of the South Vietnamese government. The Committee's responsibilities included advising the President on health and environmental matters related to the re-settlement, and the general well-being of the refugees and their families in their new American communities. In addition, the Committee sought to reduce redtape, organize regional meetings and conferences, serve as a contact for individual work opportunities and channel private resources to resettlement efforts.

The materials in this collection include only those items Mr. Semerad took with him when he left government service in 1976. Semerad turned over all his other Domestic Council files to David Lissy. These are now a part of the Ford Presidential Papers, in the Domestic Council files of David Lissy.

There is very little material in this collection that relates to Semerad's tenure as executive director of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees. The records of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees and the Interagency Task Force on Refugees are available at the National Archives in Record Group 220. There are categories concerning both of these groups in the White House Central Files Subject File (FG 413 and ND 18-2).

Related Materials (June 1982)

The remainder of Semerad's materials can be found as part of the David Lissy Files. The records of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees and the Interagency Task Force on Refugees are available at the National Archives in Record Group 220. There are categories concerning both of these groups in the White House Central Files Subject File (FG 413 and ND 18-2) and the Theodore Marris Files.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-10

Chronological File, 1974-76.

(Boxes 1-2, 0.8 linear feet)

Outgoing correspondence and memoranda with some incoming items. Files for January - May 1975 are missing. Topics covered include: Department of Labor, National Labor Relations Board, pension reform, unemployment compensations, and handicapped workers; Veteran's Administration including education and training programs for veterans, medical care, and jobs; elementary, secondary, higher and vocational education. Also includes material concerning the re-settlement of Vietnamese refugees in the United States and Semerad's role as executive director of the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees in arranging regional conferences, meetings and seeking out refugee sponsors.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Sept.-Dec. 1974 and April-May 1975

Box 2 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	June 1975-Jan. 1976)

Meetings File, 1975.

(Boxes 2-3, 0.2 linear feet)

Invitations, acceptances, and printed matter relating to various organizations sponsoring or involved in meetings and conferences attended by Semerad as part of his Domestic Council responsibilities.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 2 (Continued) - Meetings File

Status	Title
OPEN	1/16/75 - Union College Department of Political Science

Status	Title
OPEN	1/17/75 - National Advisory Council on Vocational Education
OPEN	1/17/75 - Black Leaders in Education and Labor
OPEN	1/23/75 - Institute for Development of Educational Activities
OPEN	2/27/75 - Committee on Academic Nondiscrimination and Integrity
OPEN	3/5/75 - American University College of Public Affairs
OPEN	3/12-13/75 - American Association of State Colleges and Universities
OPEN	3/14/75 - American Association of State Colleges and Universities (rescheduled for May 8, 1975)

Box 3 - Meetings File

Status	Title
OPEN	3/16/75 - North Carolina State University, Center for Occupational Education, Project EDNEED
OPEN	3/25/75 - National Workshop - State Administrators of Community Service and Continuing Education
OPEN	4/24/75 - State Higher Education Executive Officers
OPEN	5/1/75 - President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
OPEN	5/6/75 - McMurtry College Department of Political Science
OPEN	5/7/75 - Illinois Regional Library Council