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## **ROBERT K. WOLTHUIS FILES, 1974-77**

### **Collection Type**

White House Office Files

### **Extent**

2.0 linear feet (ca. 4,000 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**

Dennis A. Daellenbach, January 1985

## **Biography**

### **Robert K. Wolthuis**

August 7, 1935 - Born, Ogden, Utah

1955-58 - Missionary, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, serving in the Netherlands

1959 - A.S. degree, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah

1960 - B.A. degree, University of Utah, Salt Lake City

1962 - M.A. degree, University of Utah, Salt Lake City

1963 - National Park Service, Washington, DC

1964-72 - Research Assistant, Legislative Assistant, and Administrative Assistant to

Sen. Wallace F. Bennett, Republican from Utah

1968 - Ph.D. degree in International Relations, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

1972 - Republican candidate for Congress, Utah's First Congressional District

1972-73 - Field Representative for Sen. Wallace F. Bennett

1973-74 - Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (Senate)

1975-76 - Deputy to the Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

1976-77 - Special Assistant to the President

1977- - Deputy Staff Director, Republican Policy Committee, United States Senate

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Robert Wolthuis files span the period November 1974 to January 1977. They document Wolthuis' work in the White House Congressional Relations Office.

Wolthuis, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and administrative assistant to Sen. Wallace Bennett of Utah, joined the White House staff on January 1, 1975. Although his title changed several times, his primary responsibility remained the same for the duration of the Ford administration: to serve as chief deputy to Max Friedersdorf, the Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs and head of the Congressional Relations Office. Unlike other staff people in the office, Wolthuis did not work exclusively with Senators or Representatives. Rather, he handled broader legislative issues, directed the office in Friedersdorf's absence, and occasionally attended meetings in Friedersdorf's place.

The files' most significant documentation, including memoranda, correspondence, minutes and reports, relates to national security and foreign policy issues. Material on the Middle East covers the Turkish arms embargo, Arab boycott of firms dealing with Israel, and aid to Israel. For Vietnam, the material especially relates to a

congressional fact finding trip in February 1975 and the follow-up reports on the situation in Indochina. The files also include material on the 200 mile fishing limit and the Ford administration's response to investigations of U.S. intelligence activities. For many of these national security and foreign policy issues, and also for domestic concerns such as tax cuts and energy policy, the highest level documents are minutes of meetings which President Ford had with congressional leaders.

Other materials in the files cover a variety of domestic issues, routine administrative functions of the Congressional Relations Office, and Wolthuis' personal activities. In addition to the domestic topics covered in the legislative leadership meetings, there are scattered documents on bill signing ceremonies, military base realignments, and presidential letters of endorsement for candidates in the 1976 election. Office administrative items include a series of logs on bills received at the White House (November 1974-October 1976) and congressional clearances for White House appointments (1975). The "Letters" folders contain Wolthuis' correspondence with members of Congress, and political, religious, and educational leaders in his home state of Utah.

### **Related Materials** (January 1985)

The files of Wolthuis' colleagues in the Congressional Relations Office contain related material, especially covering the routine administrative functions of the office such as logs of bills received at the White House. Several categories in the White House Central Files relate to Wolthuis' activities and the substantive issues on which he was involved. Examples include FG 31-1 (Legislative Leadership Meetings), CO 1-7 (Middle East), CO 165-2 (South Vietnam), and FO 3-2/CO 156 (Mutual Security/Turkey).

### **Last Modified Date**

2025-03-14

### **General Subject File, 1974-77.**

(Boxes 1-5, 2.0 linear feet)

Memoranda to and from White House staff and agency officials; correspondence with members of Congress, agency officials, the general public, and personal friends; minutes of the President's meetings with congressional leaders; logs for

personnel clearances and bills received at the White House; briefing papers, schedules, and reports. The materials primarily concern national security and foreign policy issues relating to intelligence investigations, Vietnam, and the Middle East; and routine administrative activities of the Congressional Relations Office. There are also scattered materials on domestic issues, including the 1976 campaign and legislation related to energy, tax cuts, and military base realignments.

Arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically thereunder.

**Box 1 - General Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	Action Memo Log
OPEN	Arab Boycott
OPEN	Base Realignments: Kincheloe Air Force Base
OPEN	Base Realignments: Lexington Blue Grass Army Depot
OPEN	Bill Signing Recommendations from Members of Congress
OPEN	Bills Received at the White House (1)-(7)
OPEN	Budget for Fiscal Year 1977
OPEN	Cambodia Fact Sheets: Evacuation of Phnom Penh
OPEN	Campaign - 1976
OPEN	Central Intelligence Agency
OPEN	Club Heights Bicentennial Singers

**Box 2 - General Subject File**

Status	Title
OPEN	Congressional Briefings - Defense Issues
OPEN	Congressional Leadership Meetings
OPEN	9/24/75: GOP
OPEN	9/25/75: Bipartisan
OPEN	10/7/75: GOP
OPEN	11/3/75: Bipartisan
OPEN	11/5/75: GOP
OPEN	11/13/75: GOP

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	12/10/75: GOP
OPEN	3/24/76: Bipartisan
OPEN	4/7/76: Bipartisan
OPEN	4/27/76: GOP
OPEN	6/23/76: Bipartisan
OPEN	Congressional Relations
OPEN	Congressional Requests - General
OPEN	Congressional Travel
OPEN	Defense Issues: General
OPEN	Diego Garcia: Presidential Determination
OPEN	Energy: List of Presidential Meetings with Members of Congress
OPEN	Federal Election Commission
OPEN	Fisheries Legislation: 200 Mile Limit
OPEN	Foreign Policy: General
OPEN	Fundraising Letter for Senate - House Campaign Fund
OPEN	Intelligence Investigations: Chile
OPEN	Intelligence Investigations: Church Committee (1)-(2)
OPEN	Intelligence Investigations: Pike Committee
OPEN	Legislative Calendar for 1976
OPEN	Legislative Conference at Camp David, 1976
OPEN	Legislative Report for 1975

**Box 3 - General Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Letters File (1)-(5)
OPEN	Mayaguez: Congressional Responses
OPEN	Memo File (1)-(7)

**Box 4 - General Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Memo File (8)-(13)
OPEN	Micronesia Negotiations

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Middle East
OPEN	Military Construction Authorization Act
OPEN	Personnel Clearances Log
OPEN	Presidential Endorsement of Congressional Candidates, 10/76
OPEN	Rockefeller Commission : Draft Executive Orders Implementing Recommendations
OPEN	Rockefeller Commission : Memo to the President (1)-(2)
OPEN	Schedules: Presidential Campaign Trips
OPEN	Schedules: Mrs. Ford's Campaign Trips

**Box 5 - General Subject File**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Staff Meeting with the President, 11/3/75
OPEN	Transfer of SCORE and ACE to the Small Business Administration
OPEN	Turkish Arms Embargo
OPEN	Vietnam: Evacuations
OPEN	Vietnam: Fact Sheets
OPEN	Vietnam: General
OPEN	Vietnam: Report by Congressman McCloskey
OPEN	Vietnam: Visit by Members of Congress