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JAMES M. CANNON PAPERS, 1974-79

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Extent

16 linear feet (ca. 32,000 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

William McNitt, May 1984 (Revised 1986 and July 1988)

Biography

James M. Cannon

1918 - Born, Sylacauga, Alabama

1939 - B.S., University of Alabama

1939-40 - Served in the U.S. Army

1940-41 - Worked for Burroughs Adding Machine Company

1941-46 - Served in the U.S. Army

1947-48 - Reporter for the Potsdam (NY) Herald-Recorder

1948-49 - Reporter for the Gloversville (NY) Leader-Republican

1949-54 - Reporter for the Baltimore Sun; in 1950 and 1951 he served as a foreign correspondent

1954-56 - Contributing editor for Time magazine

1956-69 - Employed by Newsweek magazine; his positions included: National Affairs Editor, Washington correspondent, Chief of Correspondents, and Vice President and Assistant to the Publisher

1969-73 - Special Assistant to New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller for Federal, State and Intergovernmental affairs; his main responsibility was liaison between the State of New York and the White House and Congress

Jan.-Aug. 1974 - Special Assistant to Nelson A. Rockefeller with the Commission on Critical Choices for Americans

Aug.-Dec. 1974 - Employed by Rockefeller Brothers and Associates; during this time he served as Nelson A. Rockefeller's congressional liaison for the vice presidential confirmation hearings

Jan.-Feb. 1975 - Served on Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller's staff

1975-77 - Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Executive Director of the Domestic Council

1977-80 - Administrative Assistant to the Senate Minority Leader (Senator Howard Baker)

1981 - Chief of Staff for the office of Senator Howard Baker and Administrative Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James M. Cannon, 1974-79, relate to his brief service as an assistant to Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and to his dual role of Assistant to the

President for Domestic Affairs and Executive Director of the Domestic Council, 1975-77. Well documented topics include Vice President Rockefeller's role in the Ford Administration, a small number of key issues (especially those Cannon Worked on toward the end of his White House service), and the administration of the Domestic Council. The material comprises a valuable supplement to the Cannon files which the Ford Library received as part of President Ford's papers in January 1977.

Because Cannon had a long-time relationship with Nelson Rockefeller and was one of the highest ranking Rockefeller associates in the White House, his papers reveal much about Rockefeller's role in the administration. One small series documents Cannon's work while on Rockefeller's Vice Presidential staff, Dec. 1974 - Feb. 1975. Additionally, Cannon's general subject series include 900 pages under the heading "Vice President" and scattered items elsewhere showing Cannon's interactions with Rockefeller and Rockefeller's role in supervising the work of the Domestic Council. Much of Cannon's post administration series is also Rockefeller related, including transcripts of unpublished interviews with Ford and Rockefeller about Rockefeller's role in the Administration.

Cannon's papers are especially strong for three topics on which he worked in the closing weeks of the administration. These are: the status of Puerto Rico (especially President Ford's statehood proposal), Domestic Council input for the 1977 State of the Union address, and the latter stages of the FY 1978 budget process. Cannon's large file on the 1976 State of the Union address is also included, presumably because it was used as a background for his work on the 1977 speech. Significant but smaller files appear on such topics as energy, a health policy White paper, the nuclear policy statement of October 1986, and regulatory reform.

Researchers will find most or all of Cannon's material on other policy issues in his Ford Papers files rather than in this collection. Many of the folders on issue here contain only fragmentary or duplicative items.

Significant materials on the organization and administration of the Domestic Council include: staff meeting minutes, weekly staff work reports, and files on changes planned by Cannon, Rockefeller and others in the weeks just before Cannon transferred from the vice presidential staff in March 1975. Approximately

500 pages relates to the 1977 transition to the Carter administration, including material on a Domestic Council transition report and a report which Cannon helped Rockefeller to write giving advice to Walter Mondale, the new Vice President.

Related Materials (July 1988)

The most important related materials in the Library are the Cannon files among President Ford's papers. Staff files of Domestic Council staff members are also related, especially those of Sam Halper and Dean Overman for Puerto Rico; and those of Arthur Quern for the 1976 State of the Union address, the FY1978 budget, and Domestic Council administration. White House Central Files category FG 39 has additional materials on Vice President Rockefeller and his role in the administration.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-07

Assistant to Vice President Rockefeller File, 1974-75.

(Boxes 1-2, 0.5 linear feet)

Memoranda, correspondence, reports, telephone messages, notes, clippings, and publications concerning such topics as: Rockefeller's confirmation as Vice President, the vice presidential staff, changes made in U.S. Senate cloture rules in 1975, and planning the organization and operation of the Domestic Council in the weeks just before Cannon and Rockefeller assumed their new roles with it. Note: the Cannon chronological file (Box 25) also contains about 100 pp. re Cannon's service on the vice presidential staff.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1 - Assistant to Vice President Rockefeller File

Status	Title
OPEN	Box 1 Assistant to Vice President Rockefeller File
OPEN	Cannon Biography
OPEN	Correspondence
OPEN	Domestic Council - Operating Procedures for Studies
OPEN	Domestic Council - Organization and Procedures: Colonel Walker's Book

Status	Title
OPEN	Domestic Council - Organization and Procedures: General (1)-(4)
OPEN	Ideas
OPEN	Memoranda to the Vice President
OPEN	Notes and Phones Messages
OPEN	Rockefeller Confirmation - Congressional Record, 12/19/74 (1)-(2)

Box 2 - Assistant to Vice President Rockefeller File

Status	Title
OPEN	Rockefeller Confirmation: General
OPEN	Rockefeller Role in the Ford Administration
OPEN	Rockefeller Schedule, 12/20/1974
OPEN	Rule XXII Changes (Senate Cloture Rule)
OPEN	Vice President's Office - Administration and Personnel
OPEN	White House Staff Biographies

General Subject File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 2-12, 4.3 linear feet)

Memoranda, briefing papers, speeches, schedules, clippings, and publications. This series concerns a variety of domestic issues, government agencies, and programs. It also documents Cannon's interactions with Vice President Rockefeller; the vice presidential staff; and the nation's governors, especially James Rhodes of Ohio. Topics include: the status of Puerto Rico, energy, a health policy white paper, the nuclear policy statement of October 1976, and regulatory reform.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 2 (Continued) - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	"Administrative Presidency"
OPEN	Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations
OPEN	Agenda for the Next Administration - Articles for Fortune Magazine (1)-(3)

Status	Title
OPEN	Aircraft Noise
OPEN	Bicentennial
OPEN	Breakfast with the President, 1/20/77
OPEN	Budget - FY1977 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Busing
OPEN	Cabinet

Box 3 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Cannon Notes
OPEN	Carter, Jimmy - Views on Domestic Issues (1)-(2)
OPEN	Chief of Staff
OPEN	Congressional - General
OPEN	Congressional - Letters
OPEN	Connor, Jim - Memoranda
OPEN	Drug Abuse Briefing
OPEN	Drug Abuse White Paper
OPEN	Earthquake Prediction
OPEN	Economic and Energy Proposals of the President (1)-(2)
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Intelligence Support
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Meeting, 1/13/77
OPEN	Enactment of Legislation Without the President's Signature
OPEN	Energy (1)-(2)

Box 4 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Energy (3)-(4)
OPEN	Energy Message, Jan. 1977
OPEN	Federal Emergency Preparedness Plan
OPEN	Food Stamp Reform Chronology
OPEN	Ford Administration - One Year Report
OPEN	Ford Administration - Two Year Report
OPEN	Government Employment, Suitability Requirements for

Status	Title
OPEN	Governors - General (1)-(2)
OPEN	Governors - James Rhodes (1)-(3)

Box 5 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Governors - James Rhodes (4)
OPEN	Guam
OPEN	Harman, Philip
OPEN	Health Policy White Paper (1)-(3)
OPEN	Illegal Aliens
OPEN	Issues Book - Final Update (1)-(5)
OPEN	Jaffe, Nelcie
OPEN	Law of the Sea
OPEN	Mass Transit - People Mover
OPEN	Mayors
OPEN	Meeting with Rogers Morton, 7/19/76

Box 6 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Memoranda to the President
OPEN	Memoranda to the President - Responses from Jim Connor
OPEN	Miscellaneous
OPEN	National Parks
OPEN	Nuclear Policy Statement (1)-(2)
OPEN	Nuclear Power - General
OPEN	Nuclear Power - Seabrook Plant
OPEN	Office of Management and Budget - Organization Chart
OPEN	Office of Management and Budget - Program Evaluation Efforts
OPEN	Office of Management and Budget - Survey of Federal Evaluation Activities (1)-(2)
OPEN	Policy Executives Briefing Program (1)-(2)
OPEN	Predator Control

Box 7 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	President - Briefing Papers (1)-(3)
OPEN	President Ford Committee Issues Book (1)-(2)
OPEN	President - General
OPEN	President - Schedule Grids
OPEN	President - Speeches and Statements (1)-(6)

Box 8 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Proposed Administration Initiatives
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Compact of Permanent Union (1)-(3)
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Domestic Issues Briefing Material, 6/22/76
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Sam Halper's Chronology
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Statehood: General (1)-(5)
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Statehood: Meeting, 1/4/77
OPEN	Puerto Rico - Statehood: Senior Staff Meeting, 1/11/77

Box 9 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Q & A Briefing Book (1)-(4)
OPEN	Regulatory Reform - Aviation Act of 1977 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Regulatory Reform - Communications
OPEN	Regulatory Reform - General
OPEN	Revenue Sharing - Falk Memorandum
OPEN	Revenue Sharing - Myer Memoranda
OPEN	Schedule Proposals (1)-(2)

Box 10 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Schedule Proposals (3)
OPEN	Significant National Trends and Policies - New York State Study (1)-(4)
OPEN	Social Security Financing
OPEN	Staff Secretary Action Memoranda (1)-(7)

Box 11 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	State and Local Government Finances (1)-(5)
OPEN	Terrorism
OPEN	Trip to Sacramento, CA, 9/5/75
OPEN	Uranium Enrichment
OPEN	Vice President (1)-(4)

Box 12 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Vice President (5)-(12)
OPEN	Welfare Reform - Income Supplement Program (1)-(2)

State of the Union Address File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 13-15, 1.2 linear feet)

Memoranda, speech drafts, meeting minutes, and reports concerning Domestic Council input into the 1976 and 1977 State of the Union addresses. Cannon and Arthur Quern solicited recommendations from their staff and from the Cabinet, presented reports to the President, and reviewed speech drafts prepared by Robert Hartmann and the Editorial Staff.

Arranged by year and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

Box 13 - State of the Union Address File

Status	Title
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Baroody Recommendations (1)-(2)
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Chronology of Preparations (1)-(2)
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Domestic Council Social Programs Review
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Drafts (1)-(4)
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - General (1)-(3)

Box 14 - State of the Union Address File

Status	Title
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Meetings with Cabinet Members (1)-(6)

Status	Title
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Report from Cannon to the President, 12/22/75 (1)-(2)
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Report from Rockefeller to the President, 12/10/75
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Report from Rockefeller to the President, 12/15/75 (1)-(2)
OPEN	1976 SOTU Address - Text, Summary and Fact Sheet (1)-(2)

Box 15 - State of the Union Address File

Status	Title
OPEN	1977 SOTU Address - Administration Accomplishments (1)-(3)
OPEN	1977 SOTU Address - Domestic Council Staff Input
OPEN	1977 SOTU Address - Draft Outline (1)-(3)
OPEN	1977 SOTU Address - Drafts (1)-(2)
OPEN	1977 SOTU Address - General (1)-(4)

FY1978 Budget File, 1976.

(Boxes 16-18, 1.1 linear feet)

Agency budget requests, background information, and publications concerning presidential review of budget requests and subsequent budget appeals. The material is not unique - copies were distributed to various offices and departments - but some Cannon annotations appear on this set. Note: Material on earlier phases of the FY1978 budget process appears in the Cannon files in the Ford papers.

Arranged by category (e.g. "budget appeals" or "presidential review") and thereunder by agency or group of agencies.

Box 16 - FY1978 Budget File

Status	Title
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Commerce Department and Civil Service Commission
OPEN	Budget Appeals - ERDA and NRC
OPEN	Budget Appeals - EPA

Status	Title
OPEN	Budget Appeals - FEA
OPEN	Budget Appeals - HEW and ACTION
OPEN	Budget Appeals - HUD
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Interior Department, CEQ, TVA, and Water Resources Council
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Labor Department and Appalachian Regional Commission
OPEN	Budget Appeals - NASA
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Small Agencies
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Transportation Department
OPEN	Budget Appeals - Treasury Department and Justice Department
OPEN	Budget Reductions (1)-(2)

Box 17 - FY1978 Budget File

Status	Title
OPEN	Issues '78 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - Agriculture, Small Related Agencies, and Water Resources Programs
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - Commerce, SBA, Civil Service Commission, and Related Small Agencies
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - Energy Related Issues and Earthquake Research
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - ERDA
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - EPA, Interior and Related Small Agencies (1)

Box 18 - FY1978 Budget File

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - EPA, Interior and Related Small Agencies (2)
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - FEA, Energy Independence Authority, and National Science Foundation

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - HEW and Related Small Agencies (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - HUD, VA, Labor, and Related Small Agencies (1)-(3)
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - NASA and Science Related Small Agencies
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - Transportation and Regulatory Agencies
OPEN	Presidential Budget Review - Treasury, Justice, and GSA

Domestic Council Administrative File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 18-24, 2.5 linear feet)

Memoranda, staff meeting minutes, budget requests and testimony, an activities inventory, a study of domestic needs and major policy problems, "morning reports" on upcoming deadlines, Cannon's weekly reports to the President, and the Council staff's weekly work reports. This series also relates to the 1977 transition, including a Domestic Council transition report and advice from Vice President Rockefeller to Vice President-elect Walter Mondale.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 18 (Continued) - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Cannon - List of Files
OPEN	Cannon - Schedules and Calendars
OPEN	Cannon - Telephone Logs
OPEN	Cannon - Testimony on the responsibilities of the Domestic Council
OPEN	Domestic Council - Activities Inventory (1)

Box 19 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Domestic Council - Activities Inventory (2)-(4)
OPEN	Domestic Council - Budget Requests
OPEN	Domestic Council - Budget Supplemental

Status	Title
OPEN	Domestic Council - Chronology
OPEN	Domestic Council - Organization (1)-(2)
OPEN	Domestic Council - Public Forums (1)-(3)
OPEN	Domestic Council - Staff Meeting Minutes (1)-(2)

Box 20 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Domestic Needs and Major Policy Problems Study (1)-(5)
OPEN	Futures Book (1)-(3)
OPEN	Hatch Act
OPEN	Morning Reports from Art Quern (1)-(4)

Box 21 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Morning Reports from Art Quern (5)-(7)
OPEN	Orientation and Procedures - Office of James Cannon
OPEN	Parsons, Dick - Memoranda (1)-(4)
OPEN	Schleede, Glenn - Memoranda
OPEN	Transition - Domestic Council: General
OPEN	Transition - Domestic Council: Transition Book
OPEN	Transition - General (1)-(2)

Box 22 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Transition - Meeting with Stu Eisenstat, 12/16/1976
OPEN	Transition - Rockefeller Report to Walter Mondale (1)-(4)
OPEN	Weekly Domestic Activities Reports to the President (1)-(6)
OPEN	Weekly Staff Reports, June - Oct. 1975

Box 23 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Weekly Staff Reports, Nov. 1975 - May 1976

Box 24 - Domestic Council Administrative File

Status	Title
OPEN	Weekly Staff Reports, June - Dec. 1976

Status	Title
OPEN	White House Domestic Policy Organization
OPEN	White House Office Handbook (1)-(2)

Chronological File, 1975-77.

(Boxes 25-34, 3.8 linear feet)

Carbon copies of outgoing memoranda and correspondence, mostly relating to domestic issues and Domestic Council administration. About 100 pages relates to Cannon's work on Vice President Rockefeller's staff in January and February 1975.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 25 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Jan. - Apr. 7, 1975

Box 26 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	April 8, 1975 - May 1975

Box 27 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	June 1975 - Sept. 16, 1975

Box 28 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Sept. 17, 1975 - Nov. 1975

Box 29 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Dec. 1975 - Feb. 18, 1976

Box 30 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Feb. 19, 1976 - May 10, 1976

Box 31 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	May 11, 1976 - July 22, 1976

Box 32 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	July 23, 1976 - Sept. 1976

Box 33 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Oct. 1976 - Nov. 21, 1976

Box 34 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	Nov. 22, 1976 - Jan. 20, 1977

Post-Ford Administration File, 1977-79.

(Boxes 34-35, 0.6 linear feet)

Transcripts of interviews conducted by various individuals with Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller concerning Rockefeller's role in the administration, papers by scholars on Rockefeller and on the Domestic Council, obituaries and notes for Cannon's tribute at Rockefeller's memorial service (Jan. 1979), and fragmentary files on some of Cannon's activities in 1977 after leaving the Domestic Council.

Arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box 34 (Continued) - Post-Ford Administration File

Status	Title
OPEN	Clurman
OPEN	Dissertation on the Vice Presidency of Nelson Rockefeller by Michael Turner (1)-(5)
OPEN	Food Technology International
OPEN	Interviews with Gerald Ford, Melvin Laird, Donald Rumsfeld, and James Cannon re Nelson Rockefeller conducted by Trevor Armbrister
OPEN	Interview with Gerald Ford re Nelson Rockefeller conducted by Hugh Morrow

Box 35 - Post-Ford Administration File

Status	Title
OPEN	Interview with Nelson Rockefeller by Trevor Armbrister, 10/21/77

Status	Title
OPEN	Interview with Nelson Rockefeller by Robert Hartmann, 12/2/77
OPEN	Interview with Nelson Rockefeller by Michael Turner, 12/22/77
OPEN	Interview with Nelson Rockefeller by Robert Hartmann, 2/22/78
OPEN	National Energy Institute (1)-(4)
OPEN	Paper on the Domestic Council in the Ford Administration by Louis Maisel and John Helmer
OPEN	Rockefeller, Nelson - Notes for Cannon Tribute at Memorial Service
OPEN	Rockefeller, Nelson - Obituaries and Tributes (1)-(2)

State of the Union Address File (Accretion), 1975-76.

(Boxes 36-40, 2.0 linear feet)

Memoranda, speech drafts, and reports concerning Domestic Council input for the 1976 State of the Union Address.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 36 - State of the Union Address File (Accretion)

Status	Title
OPEN	Agriculture
OPEN	Cannon Notes
OPEN	Discussion Paper - Development of a Ford Domestic Policy Strategy
OPEN	Economics (1)-(3)
OPEN	Energy
OPEN	Federal Budget
OPEN	Grant Consolidation
OPEN	Health and Welfare
OPEN	Housing and Urban Policy
OPEN	Hudson Institute Proposal

Status	Title
OPEN	Labor and Unemployment (1)-(2)
OPEN	Legal Matters
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/11: Vice President
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/11/20: National Association of Home Builders
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/11/20: Vice President (1)

Box 37 - State of the Union Address File (Accretion)

Status	Title
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/11/20: Vice President (2)
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/11/24: Cheney, et.al. (1)-(2)
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/12/03: Senior Staff
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/12/15: SOTU Coordinating Group
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/12/16: Liaison Staff
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/12/16: SOTU Coordinating Group
OPEN	Meetings - 1975/12/17: SOTU Coordinating Group
OPEN	Meetings - General
OPEN	Meetings - Schedule
OPEN	Presidential Opinions (1)-(2)
OPEN	Presidential Year-End Review
OPEN	Press Releases (1)-(2)
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/10/21: Denver (1)-(3)

Box 38 - State of the Union Address File (Accretion)

Status	Title
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/10/29: Tampa (1)-(2)
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/11/11: Austin (1)-(2)
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/11/18: Philadelphia

Status	Title
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/11/25: Indianapolis (1)-(2)
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - 1975/12/09: Los Angeles (1)-(2)
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - Summaries (1)-(2)

Box 39 - State of the Union Address File (Accretion)

Status	Title
OPEN	Public Forums on Domestic Policy - Summaries (3)-(7)
OPEN	Regulation
OPEN	Republican Governors Association Meeting Transcript, 11/20-22/75
OPEN	State of the Union - Drafts (1)-(5)

Box 40 - State of the Union Address File (Accretion)

Status	Title
OPEN	State of the Union - Drafts (6)
OPEN	State of the Union - Fact Sheets
OPEN	State of the Union - General
OPEN	State of the Union - Illustrative Draft
OPEN	State of the Union - Philosophy/Themes
OPEN	State of the Union - Presidential Appointees Spouses Briefing, 1/23/76
OPEN	State of the Union - Press Releases re 1975 Address
OPEN	State of the Union - Report from the Vice President to the President (1)-(2)
OPEN	State of the Union - Suggested Draft Language
OPEN	State of the Union - Vice President's Office
OPEN	Transportation
OPEN	Women's Rights