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FOSTER CHANOCK FILES, 1975-76

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

1.6 linear feet (ca. 3,200 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 H. McNitt, May 1987

Biography

Foster Osgood Chanock

Born - Nov. 6, 1952

1974 - B.A. with Honors in Communications, University of Chicago

1974 - M.A. in Telecommunications, University of Chicago

1975 - Post-graduate study, London School of Economics, England

1975-77 - Staff assistant, White House, Washington, DC

ca. 1980 - Died

Scope and Content Note

Foster Chanock joined the White House staff as a consultant on October 14, 1975 and handled special projects for White House Chief of Staff Donald Rumsfeld, including the preparation of background materials for Mr. Rumsfeld's confirmation hearings as Secretary of Defense. Virtually no materials from this period appear in this collection.

After Richard Cheney became Assistant to the President for White House Operations (Chief of Staff) in November 1975, Chanock's work involved research, writing, special projects, and the overall administrative coordination of the White House Operations Office. Most of his work related to the 1976 campaign. Much of the material in the files is addressed to Cheney and was then assigned to Chanock for his handling.

Chanock served as the White House liaison with the President Ford Committee's advertising and polling operations during the 1976 campaign. Approximately half of the collection consists of polling data and memoranda analyzing the data. While the polls include questions on issues, the primary focus is the campaign. A key set of materials is the memoranda and polling data received from Robert Teeter of Market Opinion Research in Detroit, Michigan. Teeter served as the polling director of the President Ford Committee and his memoranda include advice on the conduct of the campaign. Also included in the collection are the results of many national polls by Gallup, Harris, Sindlinger, the television networks, and others, as well as some information about state or regional polls.

Most of Chanock's research and writing projects were campaign related. Among the memoranda he drafted were ones analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of incumbency or comparing the chances of President Ford and Ronald Reagan to beat Jimmy Carter in the general election (based on polling data and primary election results).

The small amount of material on issues in the collection tends to be routine in nature. The collection contains no materials reflecting Chanock's work on the

administrative coordination of the White House Operations Office or President Ford Committee advertising.

Related Materials (May 1987)

The files of Richard Cheney and other staff members in the White House Operations Office are available for research.

The Robert Teeter papers contain a large collection of polling data, a significant portion of which concerns the 1976 campaign, but they are unprocessed and unavailable at this writing. Additional information on public opinion polls appears in White House Central Files category PR 15, the Charles McCall clippings file (Box 78), and the Ford Library vertical file folders titled "President--United States--Election--1976--Public Opinion" and "Ford, Gerald--Public Opinion."

Other Ford Library materials on the 1976 election are described in "The 1976 Presidential Election: A Guide to Manuscript Collections Available for Research" which is available upon request.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-07

Subject File, 1975-76.

(Boxes 1-4, 1.6 linear feet)

Polling data, memoranda, speeches, reports, and clippings relating primarily to the 1976 campaign. Also includes some materials on miscellaneous issues and projects. The primary focus of the campaign materials is public opinion polling.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically thereunder.

Box 1 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Agriculture and the 1976 Campaign
OPEN	American Symphonies League
OPEN	Business and Professional Groups for President Ford - Final Report (1)-(3)
OPEN	Busing

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Calhoun, John and Minority Issues
OPEN	Consumer Protection Agency
OPEN	Counter-Cyclical Public Works
OPEN	Elderly and Social Security
OPEN	Financial Statements of Ford and Reagan
OPEN	Footwear Trade Problems
OPEN	Ford Electability Memorandum
OPEN	Hispanic Affairs
OPEN	Indians
OPEN	Key Issues for the Public
OPEN	Lockheed
OPEN	Medal of Freedom and National Medal of Science

Box 2 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	National Defense
OPEN	New York City Problems
OPEN	Past Republican Vote By State
OPEN	Polls - Economy
OPEN	Polls - Gallup (1)-(3)
OPEN	Polls - General (1)-(4)
OPEN	Polls - Harris (1)-(2)

Box 3 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Polls - NBC/CBS
OPEN	Polls - Republican National Committee
OPEN	Polls - Sindlinger
OPEN	Polls - State and Local (1)-(3)
OPEN	Polls for Briefing Books
OPEN	President's Official Portrait
OPEN	Presidentiality - Thoughts On
OPEN	Public Liaison Office Report - 1975

Status	Title
OPEN	Public Polls File (1)-(2)

Box 4 - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Railroad Legislation
OPEN	Republican Convention Thank You Notes
OPEN	Research on Ronald Reagan
OPEN	Solar Energy and the 1976 Campaign
OPEN	State of the Union Address - 1976 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Teeter, Robert - Memoranda and Polling Data (1)-(6)
OPEN	Television Market Areas
OPEN	Veterans