

Image not found or type unknown



FERNANDO DE BACA FILES, 1974-76

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

6.6 linear feet (ca. 13,200 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).

Copyright

Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain.

Processed by

Nancy Mirshah, September 1989

Biography

Fernando E.C. De Baca

January 20, 1938 - Born, Albuquerque, New Mexico

1961 - B.A., University of New Mexico

1962 - 1964 - U.S. Army, South Vietnam

1964 - 1967 - Special Agent (Major), U.S. Army Airborne Intelligence Corps

1968 - 1971 - New Mexico State Manpower Coordinator, then Assistant State Personnel Director, Regional Tax Director, Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Special Assistant to the Governor

1969 - M.A., University of New Mexico

1971 - 1972 - Assistant to the Chairman and Director of the Sixteen Point Program for Spanish Speaking Americans, U.S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C.

1972 - San Francisco Regional Director, Department of Health, Education and Welfare

1973 - Chairman, Federal Regional Council for Region IX (the western United States)

Sept. 1974-Mar. 1976 - Special Assistant to the President, The White House

April 1976 - Director, Department of Health and Social Services, State of New Mexico

1985 - Business executive, Washington, D.C.

1985 - Chairman, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

In July 1974, President Nixon appointed Fernando E. C. De Baca as Counsellor Anne Armstrong's Deputy for Hispanic Affairs, but De Baca did not arrive at the White House until the following September. He received the new title of Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs from President Ford and served under Armstrong in the newly-created Office of Hispanic Affairs (OHA) until her resignation in December 1974. The one-person office was then placed with similar special interest groups in the newly-created Office of Public Liaison (OPL) under the direction of William J. Baroody, Jr. De Baca resigned his historic role as the first Hispanic Special Assistant to the President in March 1976 and returned to his native state to serve as Director of New Mexico's Department of Health and Social Services. His White House position remained vacant until July when President Ford appointed Thomas Aranda his successor.

The Special Assistant's function was to advise the President on the needs of Spanish-speaking Americans and to promote the President's programs within the Hispanic community and the federal government. In addition, through standard OPL procedures, he provided liaison for Hispanics requesting government assistance.

De Baca sometimes claimed direct contact with the President in constituent mail, but there is little evidence of it in the collection. Materials are present on his efforts to oversee and promote the President's policies in the federal government, especially in areas of federal employment opportunity, presidential appointment of Hispanics and minority business programs. He served on and collected material from the Domestic Council Committee for Illegal Aliens and the Interagency Council for Minority Business Enterprise but these materials provide only scant information about his own contributions. He received materials from the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking Persons (CCOSSP), but his lobbying efforts for its extension, as well as for the Voting Rights Act and bilingual education appropriations, are similarly not well documented.

Material is ubiquitous on De Baca's energetic outreach and shared goals with Hispanics and major Hispanic organizations, through conference participation, speeches, correspondence, visits and telephone calls. The material contains the hopeful, sometimes ardent and verbose, expectations and pronouncements of a minority attempting to gain government assistance and build political power. De Baca faced occasional conflict between his loyalties to the administration and his Hispanic constituency, although this is more implied than documented in the files.

Interesting but scattered material is provided related to De Baca's efforts to define the role of the Special Assistant, the style and content of his communications, the cultural and political expectations of his constituency and his actual role in the White House. His well-documented publicly stated views were sometimes controversial and in contrast to the President's such as his endorsement of blanket citizenship for illegal aliens, statements about Cuban refugee attitudes and an Army depot layoff affecting a local Hispanic labor force.

The Chronological File and White House memoranda in the Subject File provide informative material on De Baca's activities. Included are occasional activity

reports to Armstrong and Baroody, De Baca initiatives in the White House, and information requests from senior staff, in addition to more frequent and routine queries related to topics of presidential proclamations and appearances, guest lists, personnel references and even a Spanish translation request from the First Lady's Office.

The De Baca files were originally accessioned as a joint collection with those of his successor Thomas Aranda, but they easily separated into two collections during processing. Much of the material was found in a state of disarray and substantial amounts of unfiled or misfiled material were integrated into existing folders, causing many redundant, nearly empty or empty folders to be eliminated.

Related Materials

Related material is found in the collections of Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs Thomas Aranda and Deputy Assistant for Hispanic Affairs Reynaldo Maduro (late 1976). The Aranda collection contains some original De Baca material in scattered folders. Additional material related to illegal aliens is found in the collections of Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs James M. Cannon, Assistant Director for Justice, Civil Rights, Drugs and Communications F. Lynn May and General Counsel Richard D. Parsons. The currently unprocessed files of William J. Baroody, Jr., to whom De Baca reported, also may contain related files.

Additional related material exists in White House Central Files categories:

Federal Government: FG 6-11-1/De Baca

FG 6-15◆Domestic Council

FG 17◆Justice Department (OA 9281)

FG 21-17◆Office of Minority Business Enterprise

FG 145 Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking Persons

Human Rights:

HU 2 ♦ Equality

HU 2-2 ♦ Employment

HU 2-4 ♦ Voting

Immigration: IM ♦ Immigration and Naturalization

Last Modified Date

2025-03-06

Hispanic Organizations, 1974 - 75.

(Boxes 1-3, 1.0 linear feet)

Correspondence, memoranda, briefing papers, committee reports, organization position papers and statements, notes, research studies, proposals, agendas, schedules, speeches, printed materials, newsletters and lists. They relate to De Baca's liaison with Hispanic organizations and government efforts to increase economic, educational and political opportunity for Hispanics. Also included are reports, affidavits, testimonies, applications and background material related to federal financial assistance for Hispanic organizations and civil rights complaints.

Arranged alphabetically by organization name or acronym.

Box 1 - Hispanic Organizations

Status	Title
OPEN	American Association of Spanish - Speaking Certified Public Accountants
OPEN	American G.I. Forum
OPEN	ASPIRA
OPEN	Chicano Education Association
OPEN	Chicano Federation
OPEN	Colegio Cesar Chavez
OPEN	Comision Pastoral de Migraciones
OPEN	El Congreso - National Congress of Hispanic American Citizens
OPEN	El Congreso Nacionale de Asuntos Colegiales

Status	Title
OPEN	EOFULA - Educational Organization for United Latin Americans
OPEN	Grand Council of Hispanic Societies in Public Service
OPEN	Hispanic Businessman's Association, Inc.
OPEN	Hispanic Society - Police Department of New York City
OPEN	IMAGE (1)-(2)
OPEN	International Latino Art Forum

Box 2 - Hispanic Organizations

Status	Title
OPEN	Juntos, Inc.
OPEN	LA SED - Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development
OPEN	LAMA - Latin American Manufacturer's Association
OPEN	League of Mexican - American Women
OPEN	Lists of Prominent Hispanics and Hispanic Organizations
OPEN	LULAC - League of United Latin American Citizens (1)-(2)
OPEN	MACEP - Mexican American Council for Economic Progress
OPEN	MAES - Mexican American Engineering Society
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (1)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>MALDEF - Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (2)</u>
OPEN	MANA - Mexican American Women's National Association
OPEN	MAPA - Mexican American Political Association
OPEN	Mexican American Organizations
OPEN	Minor Organizations
OPEN	National Bankers Association

Box 3 - Hispanic Organizations

Status	Title
OPEN	National Conference of Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers
OPEN	National Council of La Raza

Status	Title
OPEN	National Hispanic Crusade Committee to Conquer Inflation
OPEN	National Republican Heritage Groups
OPEN	NEDA - National Economic Development Association
OPEN	Opportunities Industrialization Center
OPEN	Pan - American Association of Opthamology
OPEN	PRHSF - Puerto Rican Health Services Federation
OPEN	Puerto Rican - Hispanic Young Republic Club
OPEN	Republican National Hispanic Assembly
OPEN	SED Center
OPEN	SER/Jobs for Progress (1)-(2)
OPEN	Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
OPEN	Spanish Speaking Coalition on Domestic Affairs
OPEN	SSPA - Spanish Speaking Political Association
OPEN	TELACU - The East Los Angeles Community Union

Major Hispanic Issues, 1974 - 75.

(Boxes 3-5, 0.9 linear feet)

Correspondence and memoranda relating to De Baca's liaison with Hispanics, White House staff and agency officials on the following issues: bilingual education, illegal aliens, immigration, National Hispanic Heritage Week, Spanish-speaking appointees, U.S.- Cuban relations and voting rights. Also included are proclamations, government printed material, news clippings, press releases and lists.

Arranged alphabetically by issue and thereunder by subject.

Box 3 (Continued) - Major Hispanic Issues

Status	Title
OPEN	Bilingual Education
OPEN	Bilingual Education - White House Meeting, March 4, 1975
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Ames, Fred
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Background Information

Box 4 - Major Hispanic Issues

Status	Title
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Correspondence
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - DeBaca Notes
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Domestic Council Committee
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Garcia, Al
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Manuel D. Fierro Statement
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - San Diego Study
OPEN	Illegal Aliens - Willis, Clayton
OPEN	Immigration - Aliens
OPEN	Immigration - Study and Statistics

Box 5 - Major Hispanic Issues

Status	Title
OPEN	Immigration and Naturalization Requests
OPEN	National Hispanic Heritage Week (1)-(2)
OPEN	U.S. - Cuban Relations (1)-(2)
OPEN	U.S. - Cuban Relations - Correspondence
OPEN	Voting Rights Act (1)-(2)
OPEN	Voting Rights Act Signing Ceremony

Meetings and Trips, 1974 - 76.

(Boxes 5-7, 0.6 linear feet)

Summaries, talking points, and a briefing paper related to President Ford's 1974 meetings with Counsellor Anne Armstrong, De Baca and leaders of major Hispanic organizations. However, most meetings and trips are weakly documented with only occasional speeches and a few routine items such as arrangements correspondence, schedules, programs, itineraries, invitations, printed material, travel requests, travel vouchers and name lists. They concern De Baca's nationwide outreach with Hispanic organizations and local meetings in the White House.

Arranged chronologically by meeting date.

Box 5 (Continued) - Meetings and Trips

Status	Title
OPEN	1974/01/29 - Hispanic Leaders, White House Luncheon

Status	Title
OPEN	1974/04/11 - Vice President and Hispanic Leaders (folder empty)
OPEN	1974/09 - Meetings
OPEN	1974/09/16 - DeBaca and Hispanic Leaders
OPEN	1974/10/17 - President Ford and Hispanic Leaders
OPEN	1975/02/25 - Minority Small Business Summit Conference
OPEN	1975/02/28 - White House Issues Briefing
OPEN	1975/03/04 - Tuesday at the White House Meeting on Bilingual Education
OPEN	1975/03/12 - Spanish Speaking Conference, Providence

Box 6 - Meetings and Trips

Status	Title
OPEN	1975/03/14 - THINK TANK Session at the White House
OPEN	1975/03/21 - National Association of Counties, Albuquerque
OPEN	1975/03/21 - Pan American Employees Speech/Dinner, Houston (Empty)
OPEN	1975/03/22 - Mexican - American Leadership Conference of Houston
OPEN	1975/04/03 - White House Conference, San Diego
OPEN	1975/04/04 - National Hispanic Businessman's Organization
OPEN	1975/04/12 - Third Annual Latino Media Coalitions Conference, San Antonio
OPEN	1975/04/18 - SBA Conference, Houston
OPEN	1975/04/24 - Mexican Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Keynote, Dallas
OPEN	1975/04/25 - Association of Mexican - American Educators of California Legislators Annual Convention, Oakland
OPEN	1975/04/26 - SSPA Fourth Annual Installation Dinner, San Diego
OPEN	1975/04/29 - Opthamological Congress, San Juan

Status	Title
OPEN	1975/05/22 - IMAGE National Convention, Kansas City
OPEN	1975/05/29 - Crystal City
OPEN	1975/06/04 - Albuquerque High School Commencement
OPEN	1975/06/12 - COSSMHO, Chicago
OPEN	1975/06/12 - 14 - Minority Program Manager's Workshop, Washington, DC (Empty)
OPEN	1975/06/14 - 15 - Second Annual Ethnic Press Conference, American University
OPEN	1975/06/23 - Brookings Luncheon Speech
OPEN	1975/06/25 - Hispanic Reception White House
OPEN	1975/06/25 - Oaxaca Reception
OPEN	1975/06/28 - Baroody, DeBaca and Hispanic Leaders
OPEN	1975/06/28 - LULAC Convention, Milwaukee
OPEN	1975/07/15 - FAA Luncheon Speech, Washington DC
OPEN	1975/07/17 - Ford and SER Board of Directors
OPEN	1975/07/24 - 27 - National Institute on Access to Higher Education for the Mexican - Americans, Albuquerque
OPEN	1975/07/31 - St. Petersburg
OPEN	1975/08/07 - National Council of La Raza Conference, Phoenix
OPEN	1975/08/19 - Tuesday at the White House
OPEN	1975/08/22 - El Monte
OPEN	1975/08/9 - 10 - American G.I. Forum
OPEN	1975/09/04 - 07 - San Antonio/Albuquerque
OPEN	1975/09/12 - 16 - San Francisco/Midland
OPEN	1975/09/19 - U.S. Air Force Academy Visit
OPEN	1975/09/20 - 27 - U.S.A.F. Visit to Europe

Box 7 - Meetings and Trips

Status	Title
OPEN	1975/09/30 - Luray, VA
OPEN	1975/10/8 - 12 - San Francisco/Fresno/Waco

Status	Title
OPEN	1975/10/20 - IMPA Conference
OPEN	1975/11/12 - AAIE Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, York, PA
OPEN	1975/11/19 - 22 - International Population Conference, Washington, DC
OPEN	1975/11/21 - Archdiocesan Latin American Committee, Chicago
OPEN	1975/11/22 - United California Mexican - American Association Testimonial Dinner
OPEN	1975/12/11 - U.S. Civil Service Commission Federal Extension Board Recognition Awards Program
OPEN	1976/01/23 - Federal Extension Board SS Program Coordinating Council Job Fair, Dallas
OPEN	1976/01/24 - IMAGE, Installation Ceremonies, Boston

Federal Programs, 1974 - 76.

(Boxes 7-8, 1.6 linear feet)

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, tables, summaries, notes and printed materials related to several meetings of the Interagency Council for Minority Business Enterprise, and additional routine liaison activities with federal agencies. Also included are press releases, newsletters, statements and news clippings.

Arranged alphabetically by program name or acronym.

Box 7 (Continued) - Federal Programs

Status	Title
OPEN	Cabinet Committee on the Spanish - Speaking (CCOSSP)
OPEN	Civil Service Commission Spanish Speaking Program
OPEN	Community Services Administration
OPEN	Department of Justice
OPEN	Department of Transportation
OPEN	EEOC - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
OPEN	Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government

Status	Title
OPEN	HEW
OPEN	HUD
OPEN	LEAA - Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
OPEN	Legal Services Corporation
OPEN	OMBE
OPEN	OMBE - Agency Reports

Box 8 - Federal Programs

Status	Title
OPEN	OMBE - Interagency Council for Minority Business Enterprise
OPEN	Presidential Appointments and Executive Level Appointees (1)-(2)
OPEN	Small Business Administration
OPEN	Spanish Speaking Presidential and Supergrade Appointees
OPEN	USOE - Office for Spanish Speaking American Affairs

General Subject File, 1974 - 76.

(Boxes 8-14, 2.5 linear feet)

Q's and A's, White House staff memoranda, referrals, news clippings and press releases related to the role of the Special Assistant and the Office of Hispanic Affairs. Also included are routine correspondence with groups and individuals, occasional speeches, proposals, reports, fact sheets, statistics, newsletters and publications. Additionally, the series contains OHA telephone message logs, De Baca public appearance and OPL meeting logs, resumes, job applications, travel vouchers, press releases, theater schedules, and sample forms.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 8 (Continued) - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Activities - First Quarter in Office
OPEN	Affirmative Action Congress
OPEN	Albuquerque

Status	Title
OPEN	Armstrong, Counsellor Anne
OPEN	Attorney General
OPEN	Baroody, William J.
OPEN	Bicentennial
OPEN	Chicano Bibliographies and Periodicals

Box 9 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Conference on Cultural Diversity
OPEN	Consumer Information Publications
OPEN	Correspondence - DeBaca/HEW, August, 1974 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Correspondence, A - Z (1)-(3)
OPEN	Correspondence - With Members of Congress
OPEN	Correspondence Log - September - December, 1974

Box 10 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	DeBaca - Biographical Sketch and Routine Personal Papers
OPEN	DeBaca - White House Staff Memoranda, A - Z, (1)-(3)
OPEN	Diplomatic List - State Department
OPEN	Discrimination Cases
OPEN	Domestic Council Committees
OPEN	Dress, Margaret
OPEN	Duplicating - MT/ST Machine
OPEN	Education
OPEN	Filipino - Americans
OPEN	"Ford Team in the White House"
OPEN	Forms and Samples
OPEN	Hispanic Organizations

Box 11 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	History of Hispanics
OPEN	International Women's Year

Status	Title
OPEN	Invitations - Accepted and Rejected
OPEN	Invitations - Returned from White House Central Files
OPEN	Job Announcements - Clerical, Private and Federal
OPEN	Job Applicants
OPEN	Johnston, Edward
OPEN	Kennedy Center Opera House and Theater
OPEN	Lists of Prominent Hispanics and Hispanic Organizations (1)-(4)

Box 12 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Media - Clippings and Newsletters (1)-(2)
OPEN	Media - Radio and T.V.
OPEN	Meetings
OPEN	Migrant Workers
OPEN	Minority Business Enterprise
OPEN	National Space Institute
OPEN	Naval Air Facility - San Diego Trip
OPEN	Office of Economic Advisors
OPEN	Office of Ethnic Affairs (Empty)
OPEN	Office of Hispanic Affairs
OPEN	Office of Hispanic Affairs - Personnel, Procedures and Maintenance

Box 13 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Office of Hispanic Affairs - Telephone Logs (1)-(2)
OPEN	Organization of American States
OPEN	Panama Canal
OPEN	Polls
OPEN	President Ford Committee
OPEN	President's Briefing Book
OPEN	President's Press Conferences and Remarks (1)-(2)

Status	Title
OPEN	Presidential Clemency Program
OPEN	Press Releases
OPEN	Referrals to Agencies
OPEN	Referrals to DeBaca
OPEN	Republican National Committee
OPEN	Sample Schedule Proposal and Model Letters
OPEN	Savings and Loans

Box 14 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Spanish Speaking Nations, Puerto Rico and Guam
OPEN	State Department
OPEN	States: Arizona - Texas
OPEN	Travel Requests and Vouchers (1)-(2)
OPEN	Veteran's Day Ceremony
OPEN	White House Biographies
OPEN	White House Initiatives for Spanish Speaking Americans
OPEN	White House Summer Intern Program
OPEN	Who's Who Among Latin Americans
OPEN	Women's Resources
OPEN	Youth Opportunities Foundation
OPEN	United Way

Chronological File, 1974 - 76.

(Boxes 14-17, 1.0 linear feet)

Carbons of outgoing letters to Hispanic individuals and organizations and memoranda to White House staff. Most are responses to routine incoming mail and follow-up correspondence from De Baca's activities, occasionally with attachments. A significant amount of intra-White House memoranda reflects liaison activities not represented elsewhere in the collection, including occasional activity summaries submitted to William Baroody, Jr.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 14 (Continued) - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	9/74 - 10/74

Box 15 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	11/74 - 5/75

Box 16 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	6/75 - 1/76

Box 17 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	2/76 - 4/76