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Records of Joseph Aragon, Assistant to the President: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Office of the Special Assistant to the President

Title: Records of Joseph Aragon, Assistant to the President

Dates: 1977-1981

Quantity: 9 linear feet, 22 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 1108

Scope and Content:

These files consist of correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, resumes, invitations, news clippings, and printed material. The material relates to Joseph Aragon's position as Special Assistant to the President regarding the Hispanic community, the Community Services Administration (CSA), the Panama Canal Treaties, and the anti-inflation program.

Creator Information: Office of the Special Assistant to the President

Joseph Aragon was appointed Special Assistant to the President in January 1977. The position was first created by the transition team after the election and later modified by the President. The office was responsible for responding to the President's direct and indirect requests for action on items of immediate concern to him. Aragon and other personnel studied special matters and problems at the request of the President and also acted as the White House Ombudsman regarding Hispanic affairs.

The office also provided political opinions, personnel suggestions, legal opinions, agency status reports, and recommendations to the President. Aragon was involved with government reorganization, civil service reform, evaluation of the CSA, public relations for the Panama Canal treaties, and the President's anti-inflation program. Aragon resigned from this position in January 1979.

[Biographical information](#) on key office personnel is located at the end of the finding aid.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: Robert Strauss Staff Files (for anti-inflation); White House Central Files Subject File - Federal Government Organizations 107 (Community Services Administration); Landon Butler, Chief of Staff Files; Exit interview Vivian Lichtman, Joyce Starr

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Joyce Starr; Phyllis Schafly

Organizations: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); Federal Communications Commission (FCC); National Council on the Arts; Community Services Administration (CSA); Committee of Americans for the Canal Treaties (COACT)

Subjects: Inflation, zero-base budgeting, immigration, Hispanics, Panama Canal treaties, illegal aliens

Types of Material: Correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, legal documents, resumes, invitations, news clippings, printed material

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Container number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The collection was opened in December 1994.

System of Arrangement:

Arrangement Note: General information on issues handled by the office is concentrated in the subject files series. The Community Services Administration, Panama Canal, and the inflation files series are more specific and derived from Aragon's varied duties. Since

Aragon's different roles overlapped chronologically, the researcher is advised to consult the subject files series for correspondence under the relevant dates.

The records of Joseph Aragon, Assistant to the President are divided into four series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
<u>Joseph Aragon's Subject Files</u>	154839
<u>Joseph Aragon's Community Services Administration Files</u>	154964
<u>Joseph Aragon's Panama Canal Files</u>	154965
<u>Joseph Aragon's Inflation Files</u>	155012

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Joseph Aragon's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-12. This series was opened in December 1994. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, personnel material, and reports. This material relates to Aragon's role as Assistant to the President and ombudsman to the Hispanic community, and the White House. Other topics include Aragon's work on government reorganization, immigration, equal employment, and civil service reform. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Joseph Aragon's Community Services Administration \(CSA\) Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 13-16. This series was opened in December 1994. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, publications, and clippings related to his evaluation of the CSA. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Joseph Aragon's Panama Canal Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 17-20. This series was opened in December 1994. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, and clippings. The material relates to endorsements and public opinions concerning the Panama Canal Treaty. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Joseph Aragon's Inflation Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 21-22. This series was opened in December 1994. This series consists of memoranda, briefing material, notes, and reports. Topics include inflation and tax reform. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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Last modified: 9/2013

Biographical Information

Joseph W. Aragon

Joseph W. Aragon was born August 25, 1941 in Douglas, Arizona. He received a B.A. in Political Science at UCLA in 1966. In 1971, he received a J.D. degree from the University of Southern California and was admitted to the California Bar and joined the firm of Loeb and Loeb in Los Angeles. He was Deputy Field Director for the McGovern-Shriver presidential campaign from 1971-1972. In addition, he was Associate Director of the Council of Legal Education formed by the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C.

In 1973, he served as an aide to Democratic National Committee Chairman, Robert Strauss. In 1974, he served as the Assistant Manager of the New York City Democratic Presidential Nominating Convention and National Director of voter registration from 1974-1977. In 1976, he was appointed Special Assistant to the President. He also served as acting Director of the Community Services Administration until March 1977.

He served on the anti-inflation and pro-Panama Canal treaties task forces with Strauss from 1977-1978. In December 1978, he submitted his resignation. In January 1979, he concluded his White House service and returned to California.