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James Bonnen Papers: A Guide to His Papers at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Bonnen James, 1926-2013

Title: James Bonnen Papers

Dates: 1975-1981

Quantity: 6 linear feet, 2 linear inches, 14 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 98-04

National Archives Identifier: 586286

Scope and Content:

The collection contains correspondence, reports, memorandums, newspaper clippings, and handwritten notes. These materials relate to James Bonnen's work during the Federal Statistical Reorganization Project from 1978-1980. These papers include information relating to the Federal Statistical Reorganization Project, including meetings notes, drafted documents, memos, and correspondence. In addition, the materials also contain records regarding bills related to the project, drafts of these bills, written correspondence, and draft rewrites.

Creator Information: James Bonnen

James Bonnen was born in Brookings, South Dakota on March 11, 1926. He grew up in College Station, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bonnen. He developed an interest in agricultural economics at an early age because of his father who was a professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University. Early on in his life, Bonnen decided that he had an interest in the U.S. Military, and he volunteered for the U.S. Navy when he was too young to be a full member. He was assigned to the Navy's wartime V-12 Officer Training Program at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) in July of 1943, and then transferred to the Naval ROTC program at Tulane University in March of 1944. He served in active duty from 1943-1946 in the U.S. Navy, and continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve until retiring in 1988 with the rank of Commander. After returning from active military service at the end of World War II he received his B.A. in Economics at the Texas A&M University, went on to receive his M.A. from Duke University and even further received his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University. He joined the staff at the University of

Michigan in their department of agricultural economics in 1954. He began contributing to governmental organizations in 1963 with a two-year term as the senior staff economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors. In 1964, he was on the Presidential Task Force on Agriculture, and from 1966-67 he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as a member of the National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty. He was appointed Chairman of the first Committee on Economic Statistics of the American Agricultural Economics Association in 1972. In 1978, he was called to Washington to head the President's reorganization project for the Federal Statistical System. In 1984 he was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association as well as receiving the Distinguished Policy Contribution Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association for his contributions to U.S. agricultural statistical policy. He was also elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1992. In 2000, he was invited to deliver the Leonard K. Elmhirst Lecture to open the Twenty-Fourth International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held at Berlin, Germany. He retired from MSU in 1996, but not before receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award some years earlier in 1972. James Bonnen passed away surrounded by family on July 28, 2013.

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.

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Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: Domestic Policy Staff

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: James Bonnen, Wayne Granquist

Subjects: Federal Statistical Reorganization Project, statistics, privacy, reorganization

Organizations: Office of Management and Budget

Types of Material: Correspondence, newspaper clippings, handwritten notes, bills, redrafted bills, memorandums, and drafted documents

Administrative Information:

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

Acquisition information: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that James Bonnen signed in March, 1998.

Processing information: The collection was opened in July, 2016.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the James Bonnen Papers consist of one series:

| Series Title | National Archives Identifier |
|--|------------------------------|
| James Bonnen's Subject Files | 586286 |

Detailed Description of the Collection

[James Bonnen's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-14. This series was opened in 2016. This series contains correspondence, memorandums, newspaper clippings, and handwritten notes. These materials relate to James Bonnen's work with the Federal Statistical Reorganization Project during President Carter's Administration. This material includes information relating to the federal statistics, mainly dealing with privacy concerns. Also included are his personal notes on meetings held, documents, and legislative bills pertaining to the project. In addition, the series also contains material on the Privacy Protection Act of 1980; material on conferences held to discuss the reorganization project, confidentiality legislation documents, and reports pertaining to many other different laws and bills. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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