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Atlanta, GA 30307

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Peter Bourne Papers: A Guide to His Papers at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Bourne, Peter G., 1939

Title: Peter Bourne Papers

Dates: 1970-2005

Quantity: 11 linear feet, 10 linear inches, 27 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 88-02

National Archives Identifier: 586247

Scope and Content:

The material in this collection consists of memorandums, correspondence, reports, interview transcripts, press clippings, published articles and materials, speeches, schedules, handwritten notes, and background working materials. Much of this material is related to Peter Bourne's research in writing his book, Jimmy Carter: A Comprehensive Biography from Plains to Post-Presidency. Also included are Bourne's materials from his White House role as Special Assistant to President Carter for Health and as Director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy; his post presidential career; materials relating to his role in the 1976 presidential campaign; and a small amount of material relating to Jimmy Carter's gubernatorial term between 1970-1974.

Creator Information: Peter Bourne

Peter Bourne was born in 1939 in Oxford, England. He received his early education at the Dragon School before attending Whitgift School, Croydon. Following a year of undergraduate studies (1957-1958) at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Bourne was admitted to the University's School of Medicine, where he received his M.D. degree in 1962. He later received an M.A. in anthropology from Stanford University in 1969. After graduating from medical school he spent a year (1962-1963) as a fellow in Emory University's psychiatry department studying arrested alcoholics in the city jail in Atlanta. He established a ground-breaking program through which arrested alcoholics could take the drug Antabuse as an alternative to serving prison time. He was also active in the civil rights movement and participated in the effort to integrate lunch counters in the city. For the next year, he was a rotating intern at Kings County Hospital in Seattle, Washington.

In 1964, Bourne was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. He was assigned to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), where he studied the psychological and physiological effects of stress on basic trainees as a research psychiatrist. He spent one year (1965-1966) in Vietnam as chief of the neuropsychiatry section of the Army's Psychiatric Research Team. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, and the Combat Medics Badge.

In 1969, Bourne returned to Emory University as an assistant professor of psychiatry, preventive medicine and community health. He ran the mental health department of a federally-funded Community Health Center which he eventually expanded into a free standing community mental health center—the first in Georgia. Peter Bourne had run, as part of his mental health center, a treatment program for heroin addicts. As a result, Bourne was appointed by the newly elected Governor of Georgia, Jimmy Carter to set up Georgia's first statewide drug treatment program in 1971; from 1970 to 1973, he also served as Governor Carter's special advisor for health affairs. He remained personally close to Carter and was influential in convincing him to run for the Presidency. He would later become a key strategist and deputy campaign director for Carter, running the Washington office for the successful 1976 presidential campaign from 1975 to 1977.

As a result of setting up and successfully running Georgia's first statewide drug treatment program, Bourne left Emory in 1973 to take a position as assistant director in charge of treatment programs in President Richard Nixon's Special Action Office of Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP). He did so with the intention of resigning as soon as Carter announced his plans to run for the presidency. After leaving the Nixon administration in 1974, he served as president of the Foundation for International Resources and a fellow at the Drug Abuse Council through 1976. From 1974 to 1979, he was also a lecturer in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School with a clinical appointment at McLean Hospital in Boston. Throughout this frenetic period, he also held consultancies with the World Health Organization and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Under Jimmy Carter, Bourne was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues and Director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP). He resigned this position on July 20, 1978, amid controversy concerning his efforts to maintain the confidentiality of one of his staff for whom he had written a prescription. Under his leadership, however, the number of deaths from drug overdoses dropped to its lowest level in 30 years. Bourne served as the personal envoy of the President of the United States in bilateral discussions with heads of state or governments in Burma, Colombia, Thailand, the Philippines and Jamaica. He chaired the World Hunger Working Group, a sub-cabinet committee formed to formulate new US policy with regard to world hunger. This led to the establishment of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger and Malnutrition. He also chaired the Interagency Committee on World Health formed to review the US role in global health and to formulate new presidential initiatives in this area. He was the White House coordinator for the Presidential Commission on the UN International Year of the Child, and also worked with Rosalynn Carter to establish a Commission on Mental Health and Mental Illness. Bourne also served on the President's Commission on White House Fellows.

In 1979, Bourne became an Assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations, where he established and ran the "International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade," a 10-year program that would provide clean drinking water to more than 500 million people worldwide. As part of the program Bourne launched, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a global campaign to eradicate the water borne disease caused by guinea worm. Eventually he convinced former President Carter to become the public face of the campaign which is now nearing complete success.

After leaving the UN in 1982 for the private sector, Bourne established an NGO, Global Water, to pursue the same goals as the UN program. Building on a long-standing interest in the Cuban health care system and relationships established during several visits to the country, Bourne published in 1986, a well-received biography of Fidel Castro. In 1995, as chairman of the American Association for World Health he directed a year-long foundation-supported study of the impact of the US embargo on health and nutrition in Cuba *Denial of Food and Medicine: The Impact of the US Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba*. He co-authored the subsequent report. The study, translated into six languages, drew worldwide attention and led to the establishment of the NGO, Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC).

In 1998 he moved to Grenada, West Indies, and became Vice Chancellor of St. George's University until 2003. Over the next five years he built and enhanced the reputation of the medical school, established a school of veterinary medicine, grew the embryonic school of arts and sciences into the second largest institution in the region for students of Caribbean origin.

In 2003 Bourne left Grenada and returned to Washington, D.C. He was appointed as a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford and began dividing his time between the US and the UK. This included increasing the time he spent at his farm in Wales where he raised red deer, llamas and North American bison.

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: White House Staff Offices-Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues; Federal Records – International Year of the Child Commission

Separated material: Taped oral histories and photographic material has been transferred to the Audio Visual Department.

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Peter Bourne, Hamilton Jordan, President Carter, Fidel Castro

Organizations: United Nations; Department of Health and Human Services, World Health Organization (WHO); Agency for International Development (AID)

Subjects: Presidential campaign, political campaign strategies, drug abuse, drugs, alcoholism, health, world hunger, world health, guinea worm disease; international development

Places: United States, England, India, Cuba, Africa

Types of Material: Memorandums, correspondence, reports, interview transcripts, press clippings, published articles and materials, speeches, schedules, handwritten notes, background working materials

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 Peter Bourne signed on March 25, 1998.

Processing information: This collection was opened in 2017.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Peter Bourne Papers consists of four series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
Peter Bourne's 1976 Campaign Files	586288
Peter Bourne's Book Research Files	55317207
Peter Bourne's Post Presidential Files	55317209
Peter Bourne's White House Files	55317213
Peter Bourne's Oral History Files	

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Peter Bourne's 1976 Campaign Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-6. This series was opened in March, 2017. This series includes correspondence, political strategy memos, speeches, press clippings, interview transcripts, campaign schedules, and handwritten notes. The materials relate to his role as an early, key campaign advisor and supporter to Jimmy Carter. Topics include political campaign strategies, issues relating to health and drug abuse, world health, and transition era issues. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's Book Research Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 7-13. This series was opened in March, 2017. This series includes correspondence, handwritten notes, interview transcripts, press clippings, book chapter drafts, background research materials; and publisher related materials such as book tours, permissions, and advertising. The materials relate to the research and writing of his book: [Jimmy Carter: A Comprehensive Biography from Plains to Post-Presidency](#). This series also contains Jimmy Carter's daily appointment books during his gubernatorial period, 1971-1974. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's Post Presidential Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 14-18. This series was opened in March, 2017. This series consists of correspondence, memorandums, reports, background project materials, articles, papers, proposals, and news clippings. The majority of this material relates to his work with international organizations, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the United Nations in the eradication of guinea worm disease; and the development of clean water systems in various African and Asian countries. This series also contains his book drafts of "Fidel – A Biography of Fidel Castro," that was published in 1986. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's White House Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 19-27. This series was opened in March, 2017. This series consists of correspondence, memorandums, reports, speeches, articles, and press clippings. The majority of this material relates to his role as Special Assistant to President Carter on Health and as the Director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy. Topics includes illegal drug trade issues, border management, drug addiction, world health strategies, and world hunger. Also included is material relating to the establishment and organization of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy; marijuana eradication, the White House Fellowship program, and issues related to the Burma opium policy. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's Oral History Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-2. This series was opened in March, 2017. This series contains taped interviews that Peter Bourne and a few others conducted as part of research for his book. Arranged alphabetically by last name. *(Note: All oral histories are closed under the privacy act at this time)*

[Return to series list](#)

Container List

Peter Bourne's 1976 Campaign Files

Container 1

Background Information on Presidential Elections, 5/7/76
Blacks in the Carter Administration, 1974
Book Materials - Gubernatorial Invitations, Correspondence, Speeches, Schedules, 1973-1976
Campaign Issues Booklet and Statements
Campaign Promises Book, 2/77
Carter/Mondale Transition Planning - Memos, Correspondence, 1976-1977
Caucus Information, 1975
Conservationists for Carter, 1975-1976
Correspondence - Ann Eliaser, 1975
Correspondence - Peter Bourne, 1975-1976
Correspondence, Notes, Speeches, 1976-1977
Debate Transcript, n.d.
Delegate Selection, 1974
Democratic Platform Committee Meeting - Issues, 1976
Democratic Presidential Campaign Committee - Financial Manual
Door to Door Campaign Instructions
Early Campaign Manual

Container 2

Ellen Metsky's Handwritten Notes, Recollections, and Lists of Materials for Peter Bourne's Book on the Campaign, 1973-1976 [1]
Ellen Metsky's Handwritten Notes, Recollections, and Lists of Materials for Peter Bourne's Book on the Campaign, 1973-1976 [2]
Ethnic Purity
Executive Planner and Notes - Peter Bourne, 1976
Expenses and Instructions
Foreign Policy, 1/76-5/76
Graph analysis [Handwriting] for Jimmy Carter by Betsy Hughes, 7/76
Health and Mental Health Issues, 6/76-11/76
Illegal Aliens - Issues, 1975
Inaugural Program - Richard Nixon, 1973
Indian Affairs Paper, 7/70
Interview "A Carter Presidency," by Neal R. Peirce, 7/76-8/76
Interview with Charles Kirbo, 10/12/76
Interview with Jimmy Carter by Peter Bourne, 7/10/76
Interview with Pat Cadell, 10/2/76
Interview with Gerry Rafshoon, 10/15/76
"Jimmy Carter Slept Here," - List of Names and Stories
Jimmy Carter's Campaign Schedule, 1974

Container 3

Jimmy Carter's Campaign Schedule, 1/75-7/75
Jimmy Carter's Campaign Schedule, 8/75-12/75
Jimmy Carter's Campaign Schedule, 1/76-10/76
Jimmy Carter's Gubernatorial Schedule, 1973
Jimmy Carter's Law Day Speech, 5/4/74
Jimmy Carter's Presentation to the Platform Committee of the Democratic Party
Jimmy Carter's Speech to Cleveland City Club, 4/8/76
League of Women Voters - Debate Information, 9/8/76
Letters from California Supporters, 1975
Material Prepared for Jimmy Carter - "On Becoming President: the Tasks Ahead," by Jack Watson, 5/11/76
Media Objectives - Rafshoon, n.d.
Meet the Press - Transcript with Jimmy Carter, 6/2/74
Memo to Jimmy Carter from Jack Watson - Formation of the Transition Planning Group, 6/4/76
Memo to Jimmy Carter from Jack Watson - Organizing the Executive Office of the President, 11/3/76
Memo to Jimmy Carter from Jack Watson - Selecting Your Cabinet, 11/3/76
Memorandums and Letters, n.d.

Container 4

Memorandums, 12/72-11/76
Memos and Letters to Peter Bourne from Rodney Minot, 6/75-11/75
Memos and Reports, Correspondence - On the Issues, 1975-1976
Memos - Strategy Memos to Jimmy Carter from Hamilton Jordan, 1972-1976 [1]
Memos - Strategy Memos to Jimmy Carter from Hamilton Jordan, 1972-1976 [2]
Memos to Jimmy Carter and Others from Peter Bourne, 7/72-1974
Memos to Jimmy Carter and Others from Peter Bourne, 1975-1/77
Memos - West Virginia and Mid-Atlantic Region, 2/76-3/76
Mikulski Commission and Charter Conference, 1972
Mini-Convention Story - From Joel to Ellen Metsky, 9/30/74
Morris Dees - Fundraising, 11/75-11/76
National Health Policy Statement, 1974-1976
New Hampshire Trip - Briefing Report, 3/74

Container 5

"People Weekly" - Article Featuring Peter Bourne and Mary King, 9/20/76
Polling Studies, 1975-1976
Portraits of Blacks in the Georgia State Capital, 10/73
Press Clippings, 1973-1975
Press Clippings, 1/76-2/76
Press Clippings, 3/76-4/76
Press Clippings, 5/76-6/76
Press Clippings, 7/76-10/76
Press Clippings, n.d.
Press Club Speech - Letters to Jimmy Carter, 2/73
Remarks by Governor Carter on Nomination of Senator Henry Jackson, 7/12/72

Requests to Assist with Campaign, 1/76-4/76
Speeches and Transcripts, 1974-1976
State Department - Transition Briefings on Narcotics Control, 1/76-12/76
Statement to 1976 Democratic Presidential Committee - Thomas L. Farmer, 4/6/76

Container 6

Transition - The Present Structure for Coordinating the Federal Narcotic Policy, 1976
Transition Memos, 1975-1977
Transition Recommendation Letters, 11/76-12/76

[Return to series list](#)

Peter Bourne's Book Research Files

Container 7

Acknowledgement Files - Notes
"Americus through the Years," by William B. Williford, 1975
Appointment Books of Governor Carter, 1/73-7/73
Appointment Books of Governor Carter, 8/73-12/73
Appointment Books of Governor Carter, 1/74-6/74
Appointment Books of Governor Carter, 7/74-12/74
Article and Notes, New York Times "Books and Ratings on the Presidents," 1996
Atlanta Book Tour – Reception at Peter Bourne's Parents Home, 3/97

Container 8

Atlanta Conference - "The Carter Presidency," 1996
Background Materials - Articles, Magazines, Book Excerpts, 1970-1997 [1]
Background Materials - Articles, Magazines, Book Excerpts, 1970-1997 [2]
Background Materials - President Carter on Religion, 1970-1995 [1]
Background Materials - President Carter on Religion, 1970-1995 [2]
Background Reading Materials - Jimmy Carter's 1970 Gubernatorial Campaign
Bibliography - Books by and about Jimmy Carter
Biographical Material - Carter Family
Biography Project - "Personality and the Presidency: A Scientific Inquiry," 11/25/1995
Book Catalog and Bibliography
Book Proposal on the 1976 Campaign - Correspondence with the Sterling Lord Agency, Inc., 1976
Book Reviews and Correspondence - Steve Hochman, Robert Pastor, Terrence Adams

Container 9

Book Summaries - Handwritten Notes (Research)
Carter Center Atlanta Project, 1991-1992
Carter Family - Politics of the New South - Handwritten Notes
Chapter in Book on Cousin Beadie's Story
Chapter Notes, Verifications, Bibliography
Chapters 1-2 - Book Drafts - Appendix D, 1988

Chapters 4-6 - Book Drafts

Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 6 - From Bourne's Original Campaign Book Idea - Drafts

Chapters 1-6 - From Bourne's Original Campaign Book Idea - Drafts

Chronologies - Governor and President Carter

Contract with MacMillan Publishing Company, 5/92

Container 10

Correspondence and Handwritten Notes - Carter Biography Project, 1993-1996

Correspondence and Promotion of Book, 1997 [1]

Correspondence and Promotion of Book, 1997 [2]

Correspondence with Publisher Sterling Lord Agency, Inc., 8/79-3/77

Early Publisher Correspondence, 1/76-3/76

Famous Quotes

Federal Yellow Book, National Security Council List in the Clinton Administration, 1994

Foreign Policy - Musgrove Conference of the "Carter-Brezhnev Project, 5/94

Fundraising - 1980 Campaign

Carter Family - Genealogy

General Materials

Georgia History Research - Americus

Georgia Supreme Court Justice, William B. Gunter - Correspondence, Articles [Reinhold Niebuhr]

Habit for Humanity International, 1996

Container 11

Hamilton Jordan - Clarence Jordan, 1977

Hamilton Jordan - Exit Interview and Notes

Handwritten Notes and News Clippings

Handwritten Notes by Peter Bourne - Pre thru Post Presidential

Interview - Oral Histories (Helen Pratt, Willard Slappey)

Interview Notes from Miller Center Exit Interviews, 1987-1993

Interview on Indian Affairs with Jimmy Carter during 1976 Campaign

Interview with David Rabhan in Swainsboro, Georgia, 10/9/92

Interview with Don Carter - Notes, Press Articles

Interview with Greg Schneider, n.d.

Interview with Hamilton Jordan, 10/76

Interview with Jimmy Carter by Jack Nelson, 11/90

Interview with Jimmy Carter with Olaf Njolstad, 10/20/93

Interview with Jim Denbo, n.d.

Interview with Ken Hays, n.d.

Interviews [Use of Quoted Material from David Gambrell], 1993-1996

Jimmy Carter Attends Georgia Southwestern College Class of '43 - Fiftieth Reunion, 5/93

"Jimmy Carter: In Search of the Great White House," by Betty Glad

Jimmy Carter's 1974 Campaign Chairman of the Democratic National Committee - Memos, Notes, Issue Planning [Powell, Goldstein, Frazer, and Murphy Law Firm] 1974

Jimmy Carter's Naval Career

Jimmy Carter's Senate Race in 1962, Recollection of Events, John Pope
Law Day Speech - Handwritten Notes taken from Interview with Jimmy Carter, 5/8/94
Library of Congress - Catalog Slips
Lists of Names - Book Interests
Mailing Lists for Bourne's Book
Malaise Speech - Hamilton Jordan Memo, n.d.

Container 12

Mary King's Interview with Rosalynn Carter, n.d.
Material Related to Carter's 1966 State Senate Campaign
Miller Center Interview: Notes and Copied Pages from Various Interviews including Hamilton Jordan
Miscellaneous Articles Written on Jimmy Carter's Activities - Foreign Policy, Guinea Worm, 1994-1995
Miscellaneous Correspondence - Contacts for Book Related Information, ca 1993
National Park Service Interview with Eleanor Forrest
Notes taken from Various Oral Histories on the Carter Family
Permissions and Verification of Statements, 1996
Peter Bourne's Curriculum Vitae and Bibliography
Peter Bourne's Handwritten Notes - Recollection of Carter's Early Political Races and White House Events
Peter Bourne at Book Signing in Annapolis, Maryland, 10/12/97 (Audio Cassette)
Peter Bourne's Handwritten Notes - Recollections of Information and Events Concerning the 1976 Campaign and the White House Years
Post Presidential - Carter Center Trip Reports, 1993-1996
Post Presidential Press Clippings, 1993-1995
Power Structure - Regional City, Habitat for Humanity, 1995
President Carter Receives Distinguished Service Award from Georgia Tech, 11/75
Promotion and Advertising, 1997
Proposal for a Fictional Novel on AIDS
Publication - "Historical Materials in the Jimmy Carter Library, 1992"

Container 13

Research - Original Lists of Materials for Inclusion in Bourne's Book
Research at the Carter Library
Research on Thomas Watson
Reviews and Press Articles, 1997
Robert Lipshutz - Memos and Written Articles
Signed Agreements with President Carter and Others Regarding Bourne's Book, 1976-1993
Susan Clough - Notes and Correspondence, 1993
"The Carter Presidency: Policy Choices in the Post New Deal Era," - Conference, 2/20-22/97
Thesis Paper on 1980 Olympics Boycott, by Tim Brown of West Chester University, 9/93
Thesis Paper: "Role of Party Crisis, Election Reform, and Calculated Risk in Jimmy Carter's Pursuit of the 1976 Democratic Presidential Nomination," by Jeffrey P. Gerson
Various Articles Written on Haiti - President Clinton, President Carter, 1994-1995
Various Pages from Brzezinski's Book "Power and Principle"

Washington Post Story - Bugging the Blair House, Press Clips, Libel Suit, 10/81

[Return to series list](#)

Peter Bourne's Post Presidential Files

Container 14

Articles by Peter Bourne, 1980's-1990

Book Draft by Peter Bourne - "Fidel - A Biography of Fidel Castro," 1986 [1]

Book Draft by Peter Bourne - "Fidel - A Biography of Fidel Castro," 1986 [2]

Book Draft by Peter Bourne - "Fidel - A Biography of Fidel Castro," 1986 [3]

Burma - Shan State Conflict, 1993-1995 [1]

Container 15

Burma - Shan State Conflict, 1993-1995 [2]

Burma - Shan State Conflict, 1993-1995 [3]

Burma - Shan State Conflict, 1993-1995 [4]

Correspondence and VIP Letters, 1987

Guinea Worm Disease - African Eradication of - Articles, Letters, Memos, Reports, 1984

Guinea Worm Disease - African Eradication of - Articles, Letters, Memos, Reports, 1985

Guinea Worm Disease - African Eradication of - Articles, Letters, Memos, Reports, 1987

Guinea Worm Disease - African Eradication of - Articles, Letters, Memos, Reports, 1988

Container 16

Guinea Worm Disease - African Eradication of - Articles, Letters, Memos, Reports, 1993

Guinea Worm Disease - African Regional Conference in Nigeria, World Health Organization and Department of Health and Human Services, 3/85-7/86

Guinea Worm Disease - African Regional Conference in Nigeria, World Health Organization and Department of Health and Human Services, 7/86-12/86

Guinea Worm Disease - An Outbreak in Ethiopia, 1991

Guinea Worm Disease - Article - Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., Medical and Annual Health, 1992

Guinea Worm Disease - Articles and Reprints - Royal Society of Medicine, 1981-1983

Guinea Worm Disease - Articles, Papers, Proposals, 1981

Guinea Worm Disease - Articles, Papers, Proposals, 1982

Guinea Worm Disease - (CDM) Control of Dracunculiasis and Agency for International Development (AID) - Workshop on Guinea Worm Control at the Community Level "A Training Guide," 1/88-2/88

Container 17

Guinea Worm Disease - (CDM) and (AID) - Through Improved Water Supply, 10/84

Guinea Worm Disease - (CDM) and (AID) WASH Technical Reports, 9/86-5/88

Guinea Worm Disease - (CDM) and (AID) WASH Technical Reports, 6/88

Guinea Worm Disease - Carter Center "Waging Peace around the World," Annual Report, 1995-1996

Guinea Worm Disease - (DHS) Department of Health and Human Services Wrap-up Reports, 1988-1994
Guinea Worm Disease - (DHS) Wrap-up Reports, 1995-1999
Guinea Worm Disease - (DHS) Wrap-up Reports, 2000-2002
Guinea Worm Disease - (DHS) Wrap-up Reports, 2003-2005
Guinea Worm Disease - Eradication of, 1990
Guinea Worm Disease - Eradication in India, 1981-1985
Guinea Worm Disease - "Exotic News" Magazine Article, 1998

Container 18

Guinea Worm Disease - Foundation for Teaching at Low Cost, 1981
Guinea Worm Disease - Global Eradication International Donor's Conference, 1989 [1]
Guinea Worm Disease - Global Eradication International Donor's Conference, 1989 [2]
Guinea Worm Disease - In Saudi Arabia, 6/81
Guinea Worm Disease - West Pakistan, 1982
Letter to Andy Young - Discussion on Possible Bid to Run for the Presidency, 8/21/80
Little, Brown, and Company (Publishing Company) vs Peter Bourne, 1979 [re: 1976 Campaign Book]
Miscellaneous Business Cards Notebook
Peter Bourne and President Carter Featured in St. George University MACE Publication, 2005
Peter Bourne's Passports, 1960-1975
Peter Bourne's Passports, 1977-1995
Psycho-endocrine Research - Journal of Special Operations Medicine, Spring 2002
Publication - Growth of International Health, American Public Health Association, 9/30/2003
Special Letters (International) to Peter Bourne, 1990-1996
Speeches, 1979-1981
Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the White House Drug Czar, 6/17/2006
Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention, 3/24/07
Trip to Grenada with President Carter, 2004
VIP Letters, Correspondence, Autographs, 1986

[Return to series list](#)

Peter Bourne's White House Files

Container 19

African Health Strategy, 1977-1978
American Psychiatric Association's Annual Meeting - Health Care at the Crossroads, 1978
Arab/Israeli Health Initiative, 1977-1978
Article - Orphan Drugs, n.d.
Articles by Peter Bourne - Newspaper, Magazines, 1967-1985 [1]
Articles by Peter Bourne - Newspaper, Magazines, 1967-1985 [2]
Articles on Alcoholism and Drug Use, 1969-1988 [1]
Articles on Alcoholism and Drug Use, 1969-1988 [2]
Articles, Speeches - Miscellaneous, 1977-1978
Basic Human Needs - Grant Speeches, Proposals, Articles, 1977-1978

Burma - Narcotics Control, 1977
Burma - Opium Policy, 4/30/77
China Relations - E. Gray Diamond, 1977
Congressional Testimony and Statements by Peter Bourne, 1978

Container 20

“Cripplers and Killer’s Commission, 1977-1978
Dr. George Hatem - China and Health, 1978-1987
Drafts - Memos to the President on Drug Abuse, 1976-1977
Drafts - Memos to the President on World Health Initiative, 1977
Drug Policy - Public Policy Review, Peter Bourne, n.d.
Drug Policy Memos, 1977-1978
Drug Use in the Military, 1978
Drug Use Patterns - Consequences and the Federal Response, 3/78
Drugs - Border Management, 6/77-5/78
Establishment of Drug Abuse Policies, 1975-1977
Establishment of the Office Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP), Memo to the President from Peter Bourne, 1/5/77
Drugs - Papaver Bracteatum, 4/77-7/78
Georgia’s First Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, 1972
Health Aspects of Marijuana Use and Heroin, 2/78-3/78
(HEW) Health, Education, and Welfare - Joseph Califano, 1977-1978
Health Memos, 6/77-7/78
Heroin and Crime, 1977-1978
Heroin in Hospitals - Terminal Cancer Patients, 1977
Human Rights - Policy, Notes, Reports, Publications

Container 21

Illegal Drugs - Foreign Countries, Brzezinski and State Department, 1977-1978
Initiatives with the People’s Republic of China, 1976-1978
International Health - Presidential Directives and Memos, 1977-1978
International Health - White House Publications, 1978 [1]
International Health - White House Publications, 1978 [2]
International Organizations - Health, 1978
International Year of the Child, 1978

Container 22

Invitations to Events and Speaking Engagements, 1977
Iraq - World Health, 1976-1978
List of Peter Bourne’s Accomplishments at White House, 1977
Literacy, 1978
Marijuana Decriminalization, 1977-1978
Marijuana - Paraquat Spraying, 3/78-8/78
Materials Relating to Drug Prescription Scandal, 1978
Materials Relating to Drug Prescription Scandal, 1978 - Press Clippings, 8/78-12/78
Memorandums - Peter Bourne, 1977-1978

Memos to Rosalynn Carter, 1977-1978
Memos to the President, 1977-1978 [1]
Memos to the President, 1977-1978 [2]
Memos to the Vice President, 1978
Mental Health Commission, Memos and Comments, 1977
Miscellaneous Memorandums, 1977-1978
Monthly Drug Reports to the President, 3/77-5/78
National Health Insurance, 1976-1978
Nordic Countries Contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, 1977

Container 23

Office of Drug Abuse Policy - Reorganization, 1977-1978
Papers Written on Drug Abuse - Peter Bourne, 1974-1975
Papers and Articles Written by Peter Bourne and Others, 1969-1970
PCP (Phencyclidine) Use in the U.S., 1978
Peter Bourne - Speeches, 9/77
Peter Bourne - Speeches, 10/77
Peter Bourne - Speeches, 11/77-5/78
Peter Bourne - Speeches, 6/78-12/78
Peter Bourne - Statements, Talking Points, Speeches, 2/77-8/77

Container 24

Peter Bourne's Chron Files - Drug Policy, 1977
President Carter on Human Rights, 1974-1977
President's Commission on Mental Health, 1977
President's Commission on White House Fellows, 1977
President's Statement on Drug Abuse, 4/77-1/78
Presidential Statements - International Health and Drugs, 1977-1978
Press Articles by Peter Bourne, 1978
Press Clippings - Peter Bourne and Drug Policies, 1977-1978
Publication - "Plains - Carter Country USA," 1977
Publication - Border Management and Interdiction, 9/77

Container 25

Radio and TV Radio Transcripts - Peter Bourne's Drug Prescription Scandal, 3/78-11/78
Smoking and Health, 1977
Southeast Asia Drug Policy - Burma, n.d.
Soviet Union - Soviet Aid to Foreign Countries, 1977-1978
Special Letters between President Carter and Jimmy Carter, 1980-1987
Statement to the United Nations (UN) Interagency Group on the Water Decade, 2/27/79
Synanon Foundation and the Media, 1977
Talking Points in Meetings - International Assistance, 1977
Time Magazine - "Man of the Year," 1/3/77
UNICEF Board Meeting, Manila, 5/77-2/79
United Nations - Meetings, Memos, Policies, 1977
United States Navy's Project Handclasp (Aid to Children's Hospital) 1977-1978

Universal Health Care Memo from Senator Edward Kennedy to Peter Bourne, 1977
Visit to Afghanistan's President, 1/78
Visit to Northern Thailand, 4/16/77
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, 1977-1978
White House Fellows Memorandum, 2/15/77
White House National Health Message, 4/77

Container 26

Working Materials - Invitations, VIP Correspondence, and Notes, 1976-1978
World Hunger Commission, 9/76-9/77
World Hunger Commission, 10/4/77-10/21/77
World Hunger Commission, 10/24/77-11/77
World Hunger Commission, 12/77-6/78
World Hunger Commission, 7/78-12/79

Container 27

World Hunger Commission - Hunger Elimination Act of 1981
World Hunger Commission - Publications
World Hunger Commission - Report to the President, 3/80
World Hunger Commission - Working Group Report, n.d.

[Return to series list](#)

Peter Bourne's Oral History Files

(Audio Cassettes :)

Container 1

Terry Adamson, 7/25/92
Elkin Alston, 5/20/93
Yasser Arafat, 7/16/92
Griffin Bell, 5/7/93
Peter Bourne, 1989
Zbigniew Brzezinski, 6/9/95
Landon Butler, 6/95
Pat Cadell (Mondale Stump Speech, 10/76)
Chip Carter, 2/10/95
Don Carter, 5/20/95 (Sea Island)
Jimmy Carter, 8/19/76
Jimmy Carter, 10/8/76 (3 tapes)
Jimmy Carter, 5/5/93
Rosalynn Carter, 9/25/76
Rosalynn Carter, 10/5/93
Jack Crockford, 2/13/95
Jim Denbo, 6/24/92
Jim Denbo, 6/26/92
Dr. James Dunn, 6/2/93 (2 tapes)

Dr. Ben Fortson, 10/7/93
Warren Fortson, 2/10/93
John Girardeau, 12/1/92
Betty Gayle Gunter, 2/10/93
Lloyd Hall, 2/11/95
Richard Harden, 10/2/93
Ken Hays, 6/15/76
Conley Ingram, 9/30/93
Hamilton Jordan, 10/76
Charles Kirbo, 10/12/76
Lansing Lee, 7/1/97
Frank Myers, 10/8/93
Dick Moe, 6/30/95
Frank Moore, 2/11/94
Brooks Pennington, 10/4/93

Container 2

Esther Peterson, 6/18/96
Pope John Paul
John and Betty Pope, 12/5/72
David Rabhan, 10/10/92 (2 tapes)
Al Rusher, 3/15/96 (2 Tapes)
Gerald Rafshoon/Pat Cadell,
Gerald Rafshoon, 10/20/93
Greg Schnieders, 6/10/76 (2 Tapes)
Judge Marvin Shoob, 9/28/93
Mark A. Siegel, 6/15/95
Jack Watson, 10/8/92 (2 tapes)
Caroline Wellons, 11/8/82
L. Wilder, 4/27/96

[Return to series list](#)

[Return to collection summary](#)

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