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Record Group 220: Records of the President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties

Title: RG 220: President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties

Dates: 10/1979-1/1981

Quantity: 13 linear feet, 5 linear inches (7 linear feet, 5 linear inches open for research), 16 containers; Audio Visual Material: (6 cubic feet) unprocessed

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 547

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of meetings transcripts, reports and drafts, minutes, agendas, memoranda, correspondence, papers, articles, speeches, handwritten notes, background papers, chronological files, contracted papers, draft position papers, work plans, panel reports, and audio visual material.

The materials relate to the President's Commission for a National Agenda for the Eighties that President Jimmy Carter created on October 24, 1979, by E.O. 12168. The collection reflects the Commission's function to serve as an independent nonpartisan forum for examining underlying trends in American society; identifying the most crucial public policy challenges, and recommending ways to meet these issues.

Creator Information: President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties

President Jimmy Carter created the Commission for a National Agenda for the Eighties on October 24, 1979, by E.O. 12168. The Commission was conceived as an independent nonpartisan forum for examining underlying trends in American society, identifying the most crucial public policy challenges, and recommending ways to meet these issues. It was composed of 50 members from various fields, with William McGill as Chairman, and Hedley Donovan, a senior presidential advisor, as White House liaison. The full Commission held a total of 65 meetings.

The Commission consisted of 9 panels, each composed of 5 to 11 commissioners with appropriate staff members. The panels met between March and December of 1980, investigating both the topics designated by the President as well as other areas that the Commission thought should be on the agenda. The constituent panels were: science and technology; the United States and the world community; government and regulation of corporate and individual decisions; government and advancement of social justice; energy and natural resources (and environment); the electoral and democratic process; the American economy (employment, productivity, and inflation); policies and prospects for metropolitan and non-metropolitan America; and the quality of American life.

The final report of the Commission was presented to the President on January 16, 1981. The Commission was officially terminated on February 15, 1981.

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:

Separated material: Audio-visual material from this collection has been transferred to the Library's Audio-Visual Department.

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Subjects: Science, technology, foreign affairs, social welfare, justice, health, civil rights, energy, natural resources, environmental protection, economy, employment, productivity, and inflation

Types of Material: Meetings transcripts, report drafts, reports, minutes, agenda, memoranda, correspondence, papers, reprinted articles, speeches, handwritten notes, background papers, chronological files, contracted papers, drafts of positions papers, transcripts, work plans, panel reports, video tapes, video cassettes, reel-to-reel tapes, pictures, slides, and audiotapes

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

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened in January 1987. Subsequent series in the collection were opened in January 1987. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

Preservation information: Audio-visual material from this collection has been transferred to the Library's Audio-Visual Department.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties are divided into four series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
General Commission Records Files	135647
Panel Files	135686
Publications Files	135746
Audio-Visual Records Files	135752

Detailed Description of the Collection

[General Commission Records Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-5. This series was opened in January 1987. This series consists of materials documenting the activities of the Commission as whole, and the executive committee. The files consist primarily of transcripts of Commission and executive committee meetings, correspondence, material relating to the Commission's outreach programs in various locations around the nation, and Commissioners' comments on drafts of the final report. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Panel Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 6-15. This series was opened in January 1987. This series consists of minutes, agendas, memoranda, correspondence, papers, reprinted articles, speeches, and handwritten notes that document the activities of each of the nine panels of the Commission. This material contains background papers, chronological files, contracted papers, correspondence, drafts positions papers, transcripts, and work plans. Arranged by panel number and there under alphabetically.

[Publications Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 16-17. This series was opened in January 1987. This series consists of the final Commission report and nine panel reports. The final report is entitled A National Agenda for the Eighties and includes an appendix containing the additional views of the commissioners, executive summaries of panel reports, and biographies of Commission members. Unarranged.

[Audio-Visual Records Files](#)

Scope and Content: Federal Record Center Boxes 1-6. This series was opened in January 1987. This series consists of video tapes, video cassettes, reel-to-reel tapes, pictures, slides and audiotapes. These items are the recordings of various Commission meetings and panel meetings. The entirety of this material has been transferred to the Library's Audio-Visual Department. A transfer sheet for the materials is included in Box 17 of the open collection. In addition, the content of the Federal Record Center box is listed in this finding aid.

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Container List

General Commission Records Files

Container 1

Administrative History, 10/24/79-1/16/81
Commission Information Packet, 10/24/79-05/21/80
Commissioners' Biographies
Commissioners' Comments, 10/30/80-11/14/80
Commissioners' Comments, Robert Benson, 11/14/80
Commissioners' Comments, Matina Horner, 11/80

Container 2

Commissioners' Comments, Theodore Marmor, 11/80
Commissioners' Comments, Chairman William McGill, 11/11/80
Commissioners' Comments, Alan Morrison, 10/31/80
Commissioners' Comments, Roger Noll, 11/80
Commissioners' Comments, Elspeth Rostow, 10/1/80
Commissioners' Comments, Marina V. N. Whitman, 11/80
Correspondence (Internal) - Public Relations, 4/10/80-11/13/80
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 3/5/80-2/12/81

Container 3

Executive Committee Comments, 10/2/80
Executive Committee Meeting Transcripts of Tapes 1-9, 10/02/1980
Executive Committee Meeting Transcripts of Tapes A-M, 10/17/1980
Executive Committee Meeting Transcripts of Tapes 1-6, 11/11/1980
Executive Committee Meeting Transcripts of Tapes 1-5, 12/05/1980
Executive Order, 12/21/79
Interest Groups' Input, 6/80-7/80
Lettercom Information, 5/29/80-6/4/80
Lists of Lists

Container 4

Outreach Arts - Spoleto, Charleston, 5/30/80
Outreach Civil Rights - Austin, 8/22/80
Outreach Correspondence, 3/80-3/81
Outreach Education - University of California Los Angeles, 6/23/80
Outreach Health - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Headquarters in New York, 4/3/80
Outreach Industrial Strategy - University of Southern California in Los Angeles, 6/13/80
Outreach Press Advisories, 4/10/80-11/13/80
Outreach Proposal Fraser/Associates, 1980

Container 5

Outreach Proposals - Burson Marsteller, 9/16/80; Ruder and Finn, 10/7/80

Outreach Public Policy - South Bend, 8/4/80
Outreach Social Justice - Boston, 5/9/80
Outreach Welfare - Chicago, 7/22/80
Transcript of Full Commission Meeting, 11/7/80
Transcript of Press Conference, 1/16/81
Transcript of Reston, Virginia - Meeting, 9/11/80-9/12/80

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Panel Files

Container 6

Panel 1 Energy - Background Papers, 12/79-6/80
Panel 1 Energy - Chron File #1, 3/21/80-4/25/80
Panel 1 Energy - Chron File #2, 5/9/80-7/11/80
Panel 1 Energy - Drafts, 4/16/80-7/2/80
Panel 1 Energy - Position Papers, 6/13/80-10/22/80

Container 7

Panel 2 Economy - Chron File, 3/22/80-8/5/80
Panel 2 Economy - Contracted Papers, 9/29/80
Panel 2 Economy - Correspondence, 5/16/80-10/6/80
Panel 2 Economy - Transcripts, 6/13/80
Panel 2 Economy - Meetings and Minutes, 4/1/80-9/23/80
Panel 2 Economy - Position Papers, 7/10/80-9/23/80

Container 8

Panel 3 Science and Technology - Chron File, 3/3/80-11/14/80
Panel 3 Science and Technology - Commissioners' Comments, 9/3/80-9/16/80
Panel 3 Science and Technology - Correspondence, 4/18/80-12/8/80
Panel 3 Science and Technology - Minutes, 2/25/80-9/26/80
Panel 3 Science and Technology - Position Papers, 7/1/80-7/11/80
Panel 3 Science and Technology - Work Plans, 4/11/80-7/11/80

Container 9

Panel 4 Social Justice - Background Papers, 1980
Panel 4 Social Justice - Chron File, 2/26/80-8/8/80
Panel 4 Social Justice - Interest Group Input, 3/13/80-7/22/80
Panel 4 Social Justice - Position Papers, 5/20/80-11/19/80
Panel 4 Social Justice - Transcript of Boston Outreach, 5/9/80
Panel 4 Social Justice - Transcript of Press Conference Chicago, 7/22/80
Panel 4 Social Justice - Transcript of Public Meeting Chicago, 7/22/80

Container 10

Panel 4 Social Justice (Education) - Transcript of Los Angeles NAACP Outreach, 6/23/80
Panel 4 Social Justice (Welfare) - Transcript of Chicago Outreach, 7/22/80

Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Chron File #1, 12/28/79-4/2/80
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Chron File #2, 5/7/80-6/12/80
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Contracted Papers, 5/80-6/80
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Contracted Papers, 7/80-8/80

Container 11

Panel 5 Met/Non-Met South Bend Hearing, 8/4/80
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Subcommittee Hearing, 2/26/81
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Symposium Papers, 9/79-7/28/80
Panel 5 Met/Non P Met Symposium Transcripts, 6/30/80
Panel 5 Met/Non-Met Work plans, 5/9/80-9/11/80
Panel 6 Regulations - Contracted Paper, 10/17/80
Panel 6 Regulations - Drafts and Work Plans, 3/20/80-7/7/80
Panel 6 Regulations - Legal Advice, 9/15/80

Container 12

Panel 6 Regulations - Meetings and Minutes, 5/21/80
Panel 6 Regulation - Position Papers, 6/20/80-7/25/80
Panel 7 Electoral Process - Background Research, 3/1/77-5/5/80
Panel 7 Electoral Process - Contracted Papers, 3/17/80-4/17/80
Panel 7 Electoral Process - Drafts and Work Plans, 3/17/80-6/30/80
Panel 7 Electoral Process - Drafts and Work Plans, 8/12/80-10/30/80

Container 13

Panel 8 Quality of Life - Background Papers, 7/4/70-4/10/80
Panel 8 Quality of Life - Contracted Papers, 6/27/80-9/16/80
Panel 8 Quality of Life - Draft, 11/26/80
Panel 8 Quality of Life - Meetings, 3/21/80-9/10/80
Panel 8 Quality of Life - Transcripts, 7/10/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Contracted Papers, 10/79-1/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Contracted Papers, 7/30/80

Container 14

Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Contracted Papers, 8/80-9/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Correspondence, 2/25/80-12/3/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Correspondence - Jeffrey Hart, 2/3/80-12/15/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Correspondence - Paul Bunge, 2/28/80-2/4/81
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Drafts and Work Plans, 2/5/80-5/8/80

Container 15

Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Internal Memoranda, 1/29/80-1/9/81
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Minutes, 4/11/80-10/24/80
Panel 9 U.S. and World Community - Position Papers, 5/2/80-10/20/80

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Publications Files

Container 16

Duplicate Panel Reports and Final Report

Container 17

Panel Report - Energy, Natural resources and the Environment in the Eighties

Panel Report - The American Economy: Employment, Productivity and Inflation in the Eighties

Panel Report - Science and Technology: Promises and Dangers in the Eighties

Panel Report - Government and the Advancement of Social Justice: Health, Welfare, Education and Civil Rights in the Eighties

Panel Report - Urban America in the Eighties: Perspectives and Prospects

Panel Report - Government and Regulation of Corporate and Individual Decisions in the Eighties

Panel Report - Electoral and Democratic Process in the Eighties

Panel Report - The Quality of American Life in the Eighties

Panel Report - The United States and the World Community in the Eighties

Final Report - A National Agenda for the Eighties

News Clip Summaries

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Audio-Visual Files

Container 1 Federal Record Center Box (FRC)

5 color master videotapes (2" format, reel-to-reel) made at Commission hearings held at the University of Southern California on 6/13/80, Labeled: "President's Commission - University of Southern California, 6/13/80", Numbered: 10629-9, 1-631-9, 1-630-9, 1-734-6, 1-633-9

Container 2 FRC

3 color master videotapes (2" format, reel-to-reel) made at Panel 5 Symposium held jointly with National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. on 6/4/80, Labeled: "Urban Policy, June 4, 1980", Numbered: Primary #1, Primary #2, Primary #3

Container 3 FRC

3 backup videotapes (2" format, reel-to-reel) made at Panel 5 Symposium held jointly with National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC on 6/4/80, Labeled: "Urban Policy, June 4 [1980]", Numbered: Backup #1, Backup #2, Backup #3

Container 4 FRC

8 color videocassettes (3/4" format) duplicated from five 2" reel-to-reel videotapes of University of Southern California Commission Hearing held 6/13/80, Labeled: "President's Commission - University of Southern California", Numbered: Tape 1, Tape 1B, Tape 2, Tab 2B, Tape 3A, Tape 3B, Tape 4A, Tape 5

Container 5 FRC

4 audiotapes, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS), Labeled: “President’s Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties: Welfare, Chicago, 7/22/80”, Numbered: 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B

1 audiotape, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS), Labeled: “Panel V, Urban Policy Outreach, National Academy Sciences, Washington, DC, 6/3/80-6/4/80”

1 audiotape, reel-to-reel (3 ¾” IPS), of Commission session held in the Old Executive Office Building, Washington, DC on 1/16/81, Labeled: “President’s Commission for the Eighties, OEOB Room 450, 1/16/81”

135 black and white sheets of contact prints, totaling 135 35mm images - Photographs were taken at the Commission’s hearings held at the University of Southern California, 6/13/80. Included among the prints are views of Governor Jerry Brown and member of the Commission

65 35mm (2”) color slides (unlabeled). Views of Commission hearings and planning sessions

6 videocassettes (3 ¾” format): 3 color masters and 3 backup copies labeled “Economic Outreach, July 10, 1980”

Container 6 FRC

11 audiotapes, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS) Labeled: “Policies and Prospects for Education in the Eighties, Recorded at UCLA, 6/23/80”

11 audiotapes, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS) in 3 envelopes, Labeled: “Industrial Strategy for the Eighties”

5 audiotapes, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS), of Commission session on civil rights and related issues held at the University of Texas, Austin, 8/22/80, Labeled: “University of Texas Commission Shop, 8/22/80”

3 audiotapes, reel-to-reel (3 ¾” IPS), of Social Welfare Outreach “Lesson for the Past – Prospects for the Future” in one envelope, Labeled: “President’s Commission on an Agenda for the Eighties, Afternoon Session, 5/9/80, Recording by John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, Massachusetts”

1 audiotape, reel-to-reel (7 ½” IPS) Labeled: “Issues for the Eighties, Indiana University at South Bend, 8/4/80”

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