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Atlanta, GA 30307

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## **Records of the Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library**

### **Collection Summary**

Creator: Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging

Title: Records of the Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging

Dates: 1977-1981

Quantity: 17 linear feet, 39 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 1112

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, drafts, schedules, publications, telephone logs, speeches, invitations, notes, itineraries, and news clippings. The material relates to the Carter Administration's effort to address senior citizen issues such as social security, housing, low-income energy for the elderly, health insurance, aging issues, retirement, and nutrition. Also included are comprehensive examinations, studies, graphs, and budget data and benefit formulas that provide a detailed view of the social security system.

Creator Information: Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging

The Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging dealt with issues relating to the elderly and acted as liaison with the Federal Commission on Aging. The office was responsible for the formulation of policies for aged issues and initiatives, including reauthorization of the Older American Act of 1965. The office responded personally to all correspondence that was received and handled by White House Staff requests related to senior citizens. The office also coordinated activities between the Counselor on Aging and the Federal Council on the Aging.

Nelson Cruikshank was appointed in 1977 as Adviser and Counselor on the Aged to President Carter, and as Chairman of the Federal Council on Aging until he left in 1980. Hal Sheppard served in this role from 1980-1981.

[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: White House Central Files, Subject File Categories: Health Services, Chronic Diseases-Health of Aged (HE-4-1); Department of Health and Human Services (FG22); Administration on Aging, Office of Human Development (FG 22-4-1); Federal Council on Aging (FG 129); President's Council on Aging (FG 239); Labor Management Relations, Conditions-Employment-Unemployment, Aged (LA 2-1); Welfare Geriatrics (WE 5); Welfare, Social Security (WE7); White House Office Files of Stu Eizenstat: Elderly [CF, O/A 727] Box 196

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Nelson Cruikshank, Harold L. Sheppard, Richard Conn

Organizations: Federal Council on Aging, White House Conference on Aging, National Council of Senior Citizens, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Health, Education, and Welfare, Older American Act, Pensions Commission

Subjects: Social Security, aged, health care, gerontology, retirement, and housing

Types of Material: Correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing materials, speeches, press releases, publications, invitations, and news clippings

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 1989. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging are divided into six series:

<b>Series Title</b>	<b>National Archives Identifier</b>
<a href="#">Nelson Cruikshank's Subject Files</a>	156246
<a href="#">Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Alpha Files</a>	156329
<a href="#">Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Chronological Files</a>	156333
<a href="#">Nelson Cruikshank's Chronological Files</a>	156338
<a href="#">Harold L. Sheppard's Subject Files</a>	156346
<a href="#">Richard Conn's Subject Files</a>	156399

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**[Nelson Cruikshank's Subject Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 1-18. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of memoranda, notes reports, speech drafts, briefing material, correspondence, press releases, resumes, news clippings, invitations, and publications. Also included are comprehensive studies, charts and graphs, and budget data with benefits formulas that provide a detailed view of the social security system. Topics include social security, the aged, and national health insurance. Arranged alphabetically by folder title and chronologically there under.

**[Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Alpha Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 19-21. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of correspondence, notes, memoranda, printed material, news clippings, and invitations. The materials include Cruikshank's responses to legislators, organizations, and private citizens. Arranged alphabetically by last name.

**[Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Chronological Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 22-23. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, printed material, and news clippings. The material includes Cruikshank's responses to legislators, organizations, and private citizens. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

**[Nelson Cruikshank's Chronological Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 23-27. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of invitations, notes, printed material, and telephone call sheets. Arranged chronologically.

**[Harold L. Sheppard's Subject Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 1-5. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, drafts, schedules, publications, invitations, notes, itineraries, and news clippings. Topics include the aged, retirement, and gerontology. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

### **Richard Conn's Subject Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 1-7. This series was opened in July 1989. This series consists of correspondence, publications, photographs, press releases, news clippings, speeches, speech drafts, notes, background reports, agendas, testimony transcripts, invitations, and schedules. Topics include social security, housing, health care, and the aged. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Return to series list](#)

## Container List

### Nelson Cruikshank's Subject Files

#### **Container 1**

Age Discrimination, 7/31/72-1/16/78 [O/A 9888]  
Age Discrimination, 1/20/78-3/8/78 [O/A 9888]  
Age Discrimination, 3/9/78-3/10/78 [O/A 9888]  
Age Discrimination, 3/13/78-3/29/78 [O/A 9888]  
Age Discrimination, 4/14/78-5/23/78 [O/A 9888]  
Age Discrimination, 5/24/78-6/5/79 [O/A 9888]

#### **Container 2**

Aging Publications, 2/17/77 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 3/21/77 [1] [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 3/21/77 [2] [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 4/4/77-12/1/77 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 12/1/77 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 1/1/78-3/14/79 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 3/28/79-1/21/80 [O/A 9889]

#### **Container 3**

Aging Publications, 12/1/77-3/14/79 [O/A 9889]

#### **Container 4**

Aging Publications, 3/28/79-4/13/79 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 6/28/79-9/13/79 [O/A 9889]  
Aging Publications, 1/1/80-1/21/80 [O/A 9889]  
American Association of Homes for the Aging, 5/24/78-6/12/79 [O/A 9561]  
American Association of Homes for the Aging, 7/10/79-3/5/80 [O/A 9561]  
American Association of Retired Persons, 7/27/77 [O/A 9561]  
American Association of Retired Persons, 7/28/77-11/29/79 [O/A 9561]

#### **Container 5**

American Association of Retired Persons, 3/3/80-4/1/80 [O/A 9561]  
American Bar Association, 12/28/78-11/9/79 [O/A 9561]  
Anti-inflation Program, 4/9/78-11/2/78 [O/A 9561]  
Ball, Robert M., 11/9/77-1/25/79 [O/A 9561]  
Ball, Robert M. - Lectures, 7/13/78-12/14/78 [O/A 9565]  
Cabinet Meetings, 1/9/78-2/27/78 [O/A 9561]  
Clippings - Newspapers, etc., 2/7/77-8/16/77 [O/A 9561]  
Clippings - Newspapers, etc., 8/30/77-12/29/77 [O/A 9561]  
Clippings - Newspapers, etc., 1/21/78-4/31/78 [O/A 9561]  
Clippings - Newspapers, etc., 6/17/78-2/27/80 [O/A 9561]

#### **Container 6**

Cohen, Wilbur, 12/15/77-3/31/79 [O/A 9561]  
Cohen, Wilbur, 4/12/79-4/25/80 [O/A 9561]  
Congregate Housing, 3/8/78-11/15/78 [O/A 9561]  
Congressional Office, 9/15/78-10/9/78 [O/A 9561]  
Cruikshank's Vacation Clippings, 4/24/80-5/9/80 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Correspondence, 3/12/77-1/25/78 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Correspondence, 2/7/78-6/29/78 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Correspondence, 8/3/78-12/6/78 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Correspondence, 1/4/79-9/10/79 [O/A 9561]

### **Container 7**

Domestic Policy Staff - Correspondence, 9/18/79-12/7/79 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - General, 12/14/79-1/17/80 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - General, 1/17/80-4/24/80 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Weekly Status Reports, 8/12/77-3/6/78 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Weekly Status Reports, 3/15/78-11/5/79 [O/A 9561]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Weekly Status Reports, 1/8/80-3/3/80 [O/A 9888]  
Economics of Aging - *National Journal*, 4/8/78-12/11/78 [O/A 9565]  
Employment Resumes, 7/5/77-11/20/79 [O/A 9562]  
Energy Program, 7/13/79-7/16/79 [O/A 9562]

### **Container 8**

Federal Council on the Aging, 7/7/77-9/27/77 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 9/28/77-12/21/77 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 1/31/78-7/12/78 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 7/21/78-8/1/78 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 1/12/79-7/30/79 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 8/13/79-9/27/79 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 10/10/79-12/31/79 [O/A 9888]

### **Container 9**

Federal Council on the Aging, 1/2/80-6/6/80 [O/A 9888]  
Federal Council on the Aging, 3/13/80-6/6/80 [O/A 9888]  
First Lady Meetings, 2/13/78-4/30/80 [O/A 9562]  
First Year Assessment, 1/23/78-2/27/78 [O/A 9888]  
Food Stamps, 4/26/79-5/15/79 [O/A 9562]  
Hearings - Congressional, 8/25/76-2/7/79 [O/A 9562]  
Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) 7/20/77-3/20/78 [O/A 9562]  
HEW, 4/8/78-12/28/78 [O/A 9562]  
HEW, 12/28/78-3/15/79 [O/A 9562]  
HEW, 3/7/79-1/9/80 [O/A 9562]

### **Container 10**

HEW, 2/28/80-3/21/80 [O/A 9562]  
Hospital Cost Containment, 9/20/78-11/8/79 [O/A 9562]  
Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 8/29/77-2/14/78 [O/A 9562]

Labor Department, 8/19/77 [O/A 9562]  
Legislation - Troublesome Bills, 7/17/78-8/3/79 [O/A 9562]  
Long-Term Care, 1/10/80 [O/A 9562]  
Meeting with Hutton, et al., 1/17/78-4/24/78 [O/A 9562]  
Memoranda - Presidential, 10/31/77-1/19/79 [O/A 9562]  
Mid-Term Conference, 8/10/78-12/14/78 [O/A 9565]

### **Container 11**

National Caucus on Black Aged, 1/10/78-2/23/79 [O/A 9565]  
National Center on the Black Aging, 11/21/79 [O/A 9563]  
National Council on Aging, 8/14/79-1/4/80 [O/A 9562]  
National Council of Senior Citizens, 11/9/77-9/12/78 [O/A 9562]  
National Council of Senior Citizens, 9/26/78-1/25/80 [O/A 9562]  
National Health Insurance, 2/27/78-1/25/80 [O/A 9562]  
National Health Insurance, 7/25/78-4/16/79 [O/A 9562]  
National Health Insurance, 5/3/79-7/2/79 [O/A 9562]  
National Interfaith Council on Aging, 10/12/79-12/28/79 [O/A 9563]

### **Container 12**

National Journal Conference, 11/30/78-12/1/78 [O/A 9568]  
New York Times Article on Cruikshank, 12/27/78-1/22/79 [O/A 9888]  
Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 10/5/78-1/25/79 [O/A 9568]  
OMB, 4/18/79-4/9/80 [O/A 9568]  
Older Americans Act, 8/13/77-4/28/78 [O/A 9563]  
Older Americans Act, 7/19/78-9/12/78 [O/A 9563]  
Older Americans Act, 10/11/78-1/23/79 [O/A 9563]  
"Over Easy" (TV Program) 1/25/78-6/22/78 [O/A 9563]

### **Container 13**

Pension Commission, 3/7/78-4/11/80 [O/A 9563]  
Pre-Retirement Programs, 7/22/77-8/4/77 [O/A 9563]  
President's Reorganization Project, 11/7/77-3/7/78 [O/A 9563]  
President's Reorganization Project, 5/18/78-8/24/78 [O/A 9563]  
President's Reorganization Project, 9/12/78-6/7/79 [O/A 9563]

### **Container 14**

Price-Waterhouse Study, 4/78 [O/A 9882] [1]  
Price-Waterhouse Study, 4/78 [O/A 9882] [2]  
Price-Waterhouse Study, 4/78 [O/A 9882] [2]  
Public Liaison Committee, 7/17/78 [O/A 9565]  
Retirement - Compulsory, 7/15/77-6/27/78 [O/A 9565]  
Scheduling - Presidential, 6/6/77-12/1/77 [O/A 9563]  
Scheduling - Presidential, 12/2/77-12/30/77 [O/A 9563]

### **Container 15**

Scheduling - Presidential, 1/27/78-5/3/78 [O/A 9563]

Scheduling - Presidential, 5/8/78-12/19/78 [O/A 9563]  
Scheduling - Presidential, 1/15/79-5/2/80 [O/A 9563]  
Social Security - Advisory Council, 1/4/79-6/6/79 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Disability Insurance, 3/15/79-1/21/80 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Legislation, 4/1/77-8/1/79 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - National Commission On, 3/20/79-7/30/79 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - National Commission On, 7/31/79 [O/A 9564]

#### **Container 16**

Social Security - National Commission On, 8/21/79-1/21/80 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Policy, 9/15/77-12/1/77 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Policy, 1/1/78-3/17/78 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Policy, 3/29/78-1/17/79 [O/A 9564]

#### **Container 17**

Social Security - Policy, 1/22/79-3/19/79 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Policy, 4/25/79-7/23/79 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Policy, 7/30/79-3/13/80 [O/A 9564]  
Social Security - Study Group, 10/9/78-12/4/79 [O/A 9565]  
Speeches, 12/15/77-3/4/78 [O/A 9565]  
Speeches, 3/8/78-7/31/79 [O/A 9565]

#### **Container 18**

Speeches, 3/4/78-8/29/79 [O/A 9888]  
State of the Union Address, 1/23/78-1/18/80 [O/A 9565]  
State of the Union Address, 1/13/78-1/23/79 [O/A 9565]  
Statements, Remarks, etc., 6/8/77-3/13/80 [O/A 9565]  
Swedish Symposium, 4/12/78-11/13/78 [O/A 9565]

[Return to series list](#)

### **Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Alpha Files**

#### **Container 19**

A - Abromovice - Bamberger [O/A 9569]  
B - Barnett - Best [O/A 9569]  
B - Bloedon - Brodhead [O/A 9569]  
B - Brotman - Churchill [O/A 9569]  
C - Clark - Daly [O/A 9569]  
D - Dibowski - Fuji [O/A 9569]  
G - Galiczyinski - Henneke [O/A 9569]  
H - Hill - Kersten [O/A 9569]

#### **Container 20**

K - Kramer - Locke [O/A 9569]  
L - Lupu - Maddox [O/A 9569]

M - Marcus - Moore [O/A 9569]  
M - Morrison - Nickerson [O/A 9569]  
O -Olsen - Pepper [O/A 9569]  
P - Perau - Rodgers [O/A 9569]

#### **Container 21**

R - Roffman - Ryan [O/A 9569]  
S - Salyers - Seidman [O/A 9569]  
S - Silverman - Silverthorn [O/A 9569]  
S - Singel - Tierney [O/A 9569]  
T - Tondel - Yost [O/A 9569]

[Return to series list](#)

### **Nelson Cruikshank's Correspondence Chronological Files**

#### **Container 22**

7/18/77-8/30/77 [O/A 9566]  
9/1/77-12/12/77 [O/A 9566]  
12/13/77-1/20/78 [O/A 9566]  
1/23/78-3/23/78 [O/A 9566]  
3/24/78-7/10/78 [O/A 9566]  
7/11/78-1/9/79 [O/A 9566]  
1/10/79-7/2/79 [O/A 9566]  
7/5/79-12/14/79 [O/A 9566]  
12/20/79-5/2/80 [O/A 9566]  
8/13/77-4/16/80 [O/A 9919]

#### **Container 23**

Letters of Rebuttal, Clippings, 6/22/70-12/31/78 [O/A 9564]  
Letters of Rebuttal, Clippings, 1/1/79-2/15/79 [O/A 9564]  
Letters of Rebuttal, Clippings, 2/26/79-4/2/79 [O/A 9564]  
Letters of Rebuttal, Clippings, 7/18/80 [O/A 9564]

[Return to series list](#)

### **Nelson Cruikshank's Chronological Files**

#### **Container 23 con't**

Telephone Call Sheets, 7/18/77-11/4/77 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 11/7/77-2/22/78 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 2/23/78-5/17/78 [O/A 9566]

#### **Container 24**

Telephone Call Sheets, 5/18/78-5/17/78 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 8/22/78-1/4/79 [O/A 9566]

Telephone Call Sheets, 1/5/79-5/4/79 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 5/10/79-8/23/79 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 8/24/79-1/10/80 [O/A 9566]  
Telephone Call Sheets, 1/11/80-5/1/80 [O/A 9566]  
Invitations Accepted, 7/11/77-12/29/77 [O/A 9568]

### **Container 25**

Invitations Accepted, 1/6/78-4/14/78 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 4/19/78-6/28/78 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 7/5/78-8/29/78 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 9/14/78-12/7/78 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 1/5/79-2/8/79 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 2/9/79-4/16/79 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 4/17/79-7/3/79 [O/A 9568]

### **Container 26**

Invitations Accepted, 7/6/79-9/24/79 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Accepted, 10/1/79-4/18/80 [O/A 9568]  
Invitations Declined, 6/10/77-4/17/78 [O/A 9567]

### **Container 27**

Invitations Declined, 4/19/78-12/19/79 [O/A 9567]  
Invitations Pending, 7/20/77-5/30/80 [O/A 9567]

[Return to series list](#)

## **Harold L. Sheppard's Subject Files**

### **Container 1**

Appointments - Presidential, 11/8/77-12/12/79  
Budget - Mid-Session Review, 7/21/80  
Chron - Harold Sheppard, 5/5/80-1/12/81  
Chron - Telephone Memos, 5/2/80-1/12/81  
Commission on the Agenda for the 80's, 10/23/79-1/7/80  
Conn, Richard (Travel), 6/12/78-6/13/80  
Correspondence, 1980 - Andrews - Mire

### **Container 2**

Correspondence, 1980 - Murray - Zotterman  
Correspondence and Memos, n.d., Drafts - Harold Sheppard [1-2]  
Domestic Policy Staff - Weekly Legislative Report, 6/14/80-7/21/80  
Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and Investment Policies, 9/8/80  
Health and Human Services Reorganization, 9/8/76-7/23/80  
Invitations Accepted, 4/30/80-7/28/80

### **Container 3**

Invitations Accepted, 8/1/80-12/18/80  
Invitations Declined, 4/28/80-12/15/80  
Invitations Pending, 4/3/80-10/20/80  
Labor Department, 11/4/80-7/11/80  
Memoranda - The First Lady, 5/7/80-5/23/80  
Memoranda - The President, 10/8/80-12/24/80  
Memoranda - Senior Staff, 6/2/80-11/14/80  
Office of Management and Budget, 7/17/80  
Proclamations, 3/9/78-4/15/80  
State of the Union Address, 12/1/80  
Transition, 11/5/80-11/14/80  
Travel - Annapolis, Maryland, 12/4/79-6/2/80

#### **Container 4**

Travel - Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, 11/29/80-6/8/80  
Travel - Bronx, New York, 8/19/80-10/23/80  
Travel - Chicago, Illinois, 5/16/80-7/3/80  
Travel - Cincinnati, Ohio, 6/6/80-6/28/80  
Travel - Cleveland, Ohio, 8/7/79-5/15/80  
Travel - Denver, Colorado, 7/29/80-10/30/80  
Travel - Forms etc., 5/6/80-10/23/80  
Travel - Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 6/6/80-7/18/80  
Travel - Houston, Texas, 8/14/80-9/4/80  
Travel - Jacksonville, Florida, 9/15/80-11/5/80  
Travel - Kansas City, Missouri, 9/17/80-10/30/80  
Travel - Leesburg, Florida, 8/31/80-10/20/80  
Travel - Louisville, Kentucky, 7/24/80-10/13/80  
Travel - New York City, New York, 4/1/80-6/17/80  
Travel - Orlando, Florida, 7/9/80-10/17/80  
Travel - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5/6/80  
Travel - Portland, Oregon  
Travel - Sacramento, California, 5/6/80-6/4/80  
Travel - San Diego, California, 11/1/80-1/12/81  
Travel - Sarasota, Florida, 8/28/80-11/4/80  
Travel - Spencer, Iowa, 8/25/80-8/28/80  
Travel - Springfield, Illinois, 6/18/80-8/27/80  
Travel - Trenton, New Jersey, 6/24/80  
Travel - West Orange, New Jersey, 6/25/80-10/13/80

#### **Container 5**

White House Bulletins, - Directives, 11/8/79-3/31/80 [1]  
White House Bulletins - Directives, 11/8/79-3/31/80 [2]  
White House Conference on Aging, 12/10/79-7/21/80  
White House Conference on Aging, 7/25/80-1/9/81  
World Assembly on the Aging, 8/15/77-1/6/81

[Return to series list](#)

## **Richard Conn's Subject Files**

### **Container 1**

Ad Hoc Council on Aging, 9/8/78-6/6/80  
Administration on Aging, 9/28/79-5/1/80  
Age Discrimination, 10/20/77-6/18/80  
Agencies on Aging, 10/1/79-9/23/80  
Aging Publications, 7/14/80-9/25/80  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - National Retired Teachers Association, 1/3/79-10/1/80  
American Association of Homes for the Aging, 4/11/80-9/25/80  
Association of National Pro Personas Mayors - Hispanics, n.d.  
Background Information/Briefing Material, 9/11/78  
Budget, 8/17/79-3/1/80  
Budget Review, 10/16/79-5/29/80

### **Container 2**

Calendar - Scheduling, 7/80-10/80  
Chicago, Illinois, 11/8/79-7/3/80  
Chron File, 1/5/77-11/13/80  
Chron File, 9/8/77-11/21/77  
Communications Not Completed, 7/17/78-1/2/80  
Correspondence, 10/3/77-8/28/80  
Educational Programs, n.d.  
Employment Programs, 6/6/78-8/22/80  
Energy Program, 7/1/79-7/25/80  
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 1/8/80-4/30/80

### **Container 3**

Federal Council on the Aging, 3/28/77-5/21/80  
First Lady - Kathy Cade, 1/11/78-9/12/80  
Full Employment - Humphrey-Hawkins, 11/14/77-2/5/80  
Health Care Financing Administration, 3/1/79-3/29/79  
Health Plan Task Force, 11/30/79-6/20/80  
Hill Contracts, 1979  
Hospital Cost Containment, 3/6/79-11/15/79  
Housing, 6/1/77-10/14/80

### **Container 4**

Human Development Services, 5/8/80-5/12/80  
Indians - Older Americans, 3/1/77  
Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, 10/29/79-9/16/80  
Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, 11/25/77-4/18/79  
Legal Services for the Elderly, 1978

Legislation, 12/24/77-12/10/79  
Mandatory Retirement, 9/23/77-4/7/78  
Medicare Benefits Form, 6/20/79  
Medicine - Background Material  
Mental Health Systems Act, 4/23/79-7/11/79  
Miami Hispanics, 1/29/80-4/7/80  
Miscellaneous Writings, Speeches etc., 6/6/77-6/1/80

#### **Container 5**

National Association of Mature People, 4/8/80  
National Association of State Units on Aging, 9/1/80-10/1/80  
National Center on Black Aged, 6/1/78-10/9/80  
National Council on the Aging, 12/21/78-7/1/80  
National Council of Senior Citizens, 6/5/77-10/23/80  
National Health Insurance, 11/10/75-9/26/78  
Navajo Case, 1/31/80-8/29/80  
National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, 10/1/79-6/17/80  
New York Seniors' Briefing, 3/12/80  
Nutrition Programs  
Nursing Homes, 5/77  
Older Americans Act, 2/1/78-2/6/79  
Pensions, 2/14/78-6/23/80

#### **Container 6**

Pepper (Congressman Claude) - Select Committee, 7/21/77-7/25/80  
Personnel, 1978-80  
Presidential Speeches, Quotes, Etc., 11/2/77-9/22/80  
Recreation - Background Material  
Retirement, 2/77-6/77  
Rural Aging, 9/2/77  
Strategic Arms Limitation Talks II (SALT) 7/1/78-7/11/79  
Save Our Security, 10/10/79-6/23/80  
Senior Democrats, 1/11/80-7/31/80  
Sheppard, Harold, 12/11/79-8/26/80  
Social Security, 7/22/77-8/22/80

#### **Container 7**

Social Security Administration, 6/5/80-7/2/80  
Statistical Notes, 5/75-7/80  
Social Security News Digest, 6/2/80-6/18/80  
Talking Points - Aging, n.d. Ca. 1980  
Tax Cut, 6/28/80-7/9/80  
Themes, 7/15/80  
Transportation - Background Material  
Unemployment, 1977  
Union Retiree Groups, 9/4/80

Wage - Price Board, 9/28/79  
Weekly Review, 6/7/76-7/30/80  
Western Gerontological Society  
White House Communications - Publications, 7/31/78-11/26/79  
White House Conference on Aging, n.d., - [Background Material]  
White House Conference on Aging, 1/1/79-10/20/81  
White House Conference on Families, 8/1/79-1/23/80  
Women's Issues, 11/27/79-12/3/79

[Return to series list](#)

[Return to collection summary](#)

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## Biographical Information

### **Nelson Cruikshank**

Nelson Hale Cruikshank was born in Bradner, Ohio on June 21, 1902. He attended Oberlin College and later transferred to Ohio Wesleyan University where he graduated with a B.A. in economics and theology. He obtained a Master of Divinity degree in 1929. His experiences working with the poor and elderly convinced him of the need for legislation to address the problems of these groups. Cruikshank worked closely with local labor unions, eventually splitting his time between pastoral work and union organizing.

He moved to Washington, D.C. in 1936 and worked for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) as a labor relations officer. He later transferred to the FSA's Migratory Farm Labor Program, where he worked to establish several hundred camps for farm workers migrating out of the Dust Bowl. (A program later made famous in John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.)

Cruikshank retired as National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC) president in 1977 to become President Jimmy Carter's adviser and counselor on the aged, and as Chairman of the Federal Council on Aging. He led successful efforts to preserve and expand Social Security benefits for the elderly and people with disabilities. He was known nationally in the United States as an expert on Social Security, Medicare and policies on the aged.

In 1980, Cruikshank left the Carter administration to head up an education and research effort with the organization Save Our Security (SOS). SOS was established in 1979 by Wilbur Cohen, one of the original drafters of the Social Security Act. Cruikshank directed the Nelson Cruikshank Social Insurance Study Project for SOS. Later, he moved to Philadelphia in 1984 and passed away on June 19, 1986.

### **Harold L. Sheppard**

Harold L. Sheppard was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1922. He received a M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1945, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. He was an Associate Professor of Sociology at Wayne State University from 1947-1959. Sheppard served as Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Aging from 1959-1960. He served as Assistant Administrator for Operations for the Area Redevelopment Administration from 1961-1963.

From 1963 to 1975, he worked as a staff social scientist at W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. He was also the Director for the Center on Work and Aging at the American Institute for Research. He served as Counselor to President Carter on Aging from 1980 to 1981.

### **Richard Conn**

Richard Conn was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1925. Conn worked for the Department of Labor prior to being detailed to the Office of the Counselor to the President on Aging. He served as Assistant to the Counselor to the President on Aging from 1977-1980.