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Atlanta, GA 30307

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T. M. Jim Parham: A Guide to His Papers at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: T. M Jim Parham, 1927-1996

Title: T. M. Jim Parham Papers

Dates: 1961-1987

Quantity: 7 linear feet, 10 linear inches, 18 Containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 18.01a

National Archives Identifier: 76508610

Scope and Content:

The material in this collection documents Jim Parham's work as Director of Department of Family and Children's Services, Special Assistance to President for Intergovernmental Relations, and professor of social welfare at the University of Georgia. The bulk of the materials are from his time at the White House working in the Cabinet Secretary's Office under Jack Watson. The collection contains memoranda, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and activity reports. The majority of the material relates welfare reform and child welfare.

Creator Information: T. M. Jim Parham

Mr. Parham was born February 8, 1927. He grew up in an impoverished family in one of Atlanta's company-owned cotton mill neighborhoods. "He didn't know he was poor until he moved out of the cotton mill village", said his wife. Jim Parham, served three Georgia Governors and President Jimmy Carter in shaping social policy. He was married to Dorothy Spears Butler of Decatur. In 1963, Governor Carl Sanders named Mr. Parham to head the state's new division Children and Youth. The division was created by the General Assembly on the basis of a written report by Mr. Parham. As governor, Mr. Carter chose Mr. Parham to direct the Department of Family and Children's Services in 1971.

Mr. Parham was named commissioner of human resources in 1975 by Governor George Busbee. In 1977, Carter selected Mr. Parham to be a White House Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Relations. He later moved to the Department of

Health, Education and Welfare as deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Human Development Services, 1977-1979. In 1979, Mr. Parham became a member of the Board of Directors of Anneewakee, a Douglas County facility for troubled youths. He became chairman of the Anneewakee board in 1986, in the midst of a controversy over sexual exploitation of patients and alleged fraud at the center. Mr. Parham retired in 1994 as professor of social welfare at the University of Georgia.

Mr. Parham's humble beginnings had a profound effect, Mrs. Parham said. Throughout his life, she said, he served as an advocate for social reform, particularly pertaining to children. "He was a man of enormous passion," said Jack Watson, who served as White House Chief of Staff during the Carter Administration. "His passion was reflected in his works for underprivileged people of every age and every circumstance. "He was one of the most practical, compassionate and eloquent men I've ever known," said Mr. Watson. "There was no such thing as a lost cause of person. Jim never gave up," said Bill Jamison, a close friend and former colleague at the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Parham also taught social welfare at the University of Georgia. After retiring from the university system in 1994, he served as board president of Emmaus House, where he worked on expanding the children's programs. "Jim was particularly disturbed by the negative impact on children which he saw as a byproduct of recent changes in the welfare system," said Emmaus board member Panke Bradley Miller. Jim wanted to be remembered for his work for children. Jim Parham died December 13, 1996.

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 Offices - Cabinet Secretary Office; Carter Family Papers - Gubernatorial Files; Domestic Policy Staff Files

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Jim Parham, Jack Watson

Organizations: University of Georgia; Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Subjects: child welfare, welfare reform, juvenile delinquency

Places: Georgia

Types of Material: Speeches, correspondence, memoranda, newspaper clippings, reports, and 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], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Eileen Butler-Gady (for Dorothy Spears Butler Parham) signed October 6, 2017.

Processing information: The series was opened in January, 2020.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Jim Parham Papers contains one series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
Jim Parham's Subject Files	76089542

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Jim Parham's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 1-18. This series was opened in January 2020. The series consist of speeches, memoranda, correspondence, weekly reports, brochures, and newspaper clippings. The majority of the material are speeches given by Jim Parham at various events. Topics include child welfare, welfare reform, juvenile delinquency, poverty, health care, environment, and public assistance. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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