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Records of James R. Schlesinger, Assistant to the President: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Office of Assistant to the President

Title: Records of James R. Schlesinger, Assistant to the President

Dates: 1977-1978

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

Identification :

Accession Number: 80-1
National Archives Identifier: 1102

Scope and Content:

This collection contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, mailing forms, polling material, booklets and miscellaneous printed material. This material was written and received by people involved with establishing the Department of Energy (DOE). These people included William A. Morrill of the Energy Policy and Planning Office, Alvin Alm, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation, George Hall of the Office of Energy Policy Planning, and Robert W. Fri, Acting Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Agency, which was later absorbed by the Department of Energy.

Approximately one-fourth of the materials in the Schlesinger files are actually Midge Costanza's Public Liaison Office materials. The first nineteen boxes of the Schlesinger files almost all deal with energy matters during the time Schlesinger served as Assistant to the President.

Creator Information: Office of Assistant to the President

On January 22, 1977, James Schlesinger became an Assistant to the President, advising Carter on issues relating to energy. This office played a major role in establishing the Department of Energy. James Schlesinger became the first secretary of the DOE on August 5, 1977. DOE was succeeded by the Federal Energy Administration (FEA), the Federal Power Commission, and the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). The purpose of the new department was to simplify and centralize the operations of the federal government having to do with production, conservation and regulation of energy sources. Before the creation of the DOE, nine cabinet departments had their own energy programs or functions.

[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.

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Related Material:

Related materials in this repository - White House Central Files, Subject File, Natural Resources (NR) and Atomic/Nuclear Energy (AT) categories; Files of Frank Press, Advisor to the President on Science and Technology; Domestic Policy Staff

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: James Schlesinger, Midge Costanza, Shelly Weinstein

Organizations: Small Business Administration; National Association of Neighborhoods; Energy Research and Development Administration; Department of Energy

Subjects: Energy, Urban Policy, Civil Service Reform, Transportation, Utilities, Energy, Natural Gas, Petroleum

Places: Illinois

Types of Material: Correspondence, booklets, memoranda, pamphlets, reports

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 1992. Subsequent series in the collection were opened in 1993. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Records of James R. Schlesinger, Assistant to the President are divided into five series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
<u>James Schlesinger's Administrative Files</u>	150399
<u>James Schlesinger's Groups and Individuals Files</u>	150427
<u>James Schlesinger's Correspondence Files</u>	150570
<u>James Schlesinger's Miscellaneous Projects and Issues Files</u>	150593
<u>Midge Costanza's Subject Files</u>	150693

Detailed Description of the Collection

[James Schlesinger's Administrative Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-3. This series was opened in October 1992. This series contains correspondence, notes, memoranda, and reports dealing with establishing and administering the Department of Energy. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[James Schlesinger's Groups and Individuals Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 4-10. This series was opened in October 1992. This series contains correspondence, reports, and printed material from and about various groups and persons. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[James Schlesinger's Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 10-11. This series was opened in November 1992. This series contains correspondence, reports, and printed material sent in by groups and individuals with replies. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[James Schlesinger's Miscellaneous Projects and Issues Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 11-19. This series was opened December 1992. This series contains correspondence, notes, reports, and printed material concerning energy matters. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Midge Costanza's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 20-27. This series was opened in January 1993. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, and printed material dealing with the Office of Public Liaison and filed by Shelly Weinstein, who worked for both Schlesinger and Costanza. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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Last modified: September 2015

Biographical Information

James Schlesinger

James Schlesinger was born in New York City in 1929. In 1956, he received a PhD from Harvard University. He was a senior staff member at RAND Corporation from 1963-1967. He was Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1971-1973. In 1973, he was the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Schlesinger was the Secretary of Defense from 1973-1975. On January 22, 1977 he became the Assistant to the President. On August 5, 1977, he was appointed as the first Secretary of the Department of Energy.

He resigned as the Secretary of the Energy Department on July 20, 1979. He became the Advisor for the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University.