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Atlanta, GA 30307

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## **Records of the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Inflation: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library**

### **Collection Summary**

Creator: Office of the Special Adviser on Inflation

Title: Records of the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Inflation

Dates: 1978-1980

Quantity: 42 linear feet, 96 Containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 590742

Scope and Content:

This collection contains correspondence, memoranda, briefings, studies, speeches, press releases, reports, news clippings, telephone logs, itineraries, invitations to press related events, and program itineraries. This material relates to the Administration's efforts in addressing rising inflation concerns.

Creator Information: Office of the Special Adviser on Inflation

Alfred Kahn was appointed to this position in October 1978 when President Carter announced to the nation his plans for a new nationwide government program to fight inflation. The anti-inflation program predominantly concentrated on four major aspects: removing needless government regulations, reduction of the federal deficit, restraining federal pay raises, and setting numerical standards for pay and price behavior in the private sector.

This office was responsible for reviewing existing statutes for possible legislative changes, and participating in reviews of specific agency rulemaking. It responded to correspondence from individuals and groups, especially concerning the price of gasoline, a proposed gasoline tax, Social Security cuts, and high food prices. Kahn served as Advisor to President Carter on Inflation and Chairman of the Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) from October 1978 to November 1980. The office worked closely with COWPS in organizing and coordinating the government's approach to business and labor on specific wage agreements and price issues, and led a continuing public education effort. It also dealt with Congress on these issues, and prepared comments and drafts for testimony before legislative subcommittees.

[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 File, Subject File categories: BE 2 (Economic Controls), BE 4-1 (Cost of Living), BE 4-2 (Inflation), BE 6 (Small Business), FG 6-3 (Council of Economic Advisors, FG 6-11 (Office of Management and Budget), FG 6-17 (Council on Wage and Price Stability), 6-17-1 (Pay Advisory Committee), 6-17-2 (Price Advisory Committee), 6-18 (Economic Policy Group), FG 317 (U.S. Regulatory Council); Miller Center Oral History with Alfred Kahn and Exit Interviews with Alfred Kahn; Council of Economic Advisors (CEA)

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Alfred Kahn, Stewart Gamage, Betty Ross, Ron B. Lewis, Steven Kuney, Charles Schultze

Organizations: Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS), Economic Policy Group (EPG), Regulatory Analysis Review Group, Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), Department of Labor, Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Department of Energy (DOE)

Subjects: Inflation, labor, regulatory reform, oil, deregulation, trade, hydropower, wages, commodities, consumer, prices

Types of Material: Correspondence, memoranda, briefings, studies, speeches, press releases, reports, news clippings, telephone logs, itineraries, invitations, and program itineraries

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Container 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 collection was opened in December 1999.  
The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

**System of Arrangement:**

The Records of the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Inflation are divided into twelve series:

<b>Series Title</b>	<b>National Archives Identifier</b>
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's Subject Files</a>	590749
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's Correspondence Files</a>	590827
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's State Files</a>	590829
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's Speech And Testimony Files</a>	590830
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's Trip Files</a>	590831
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's Anti-Inflation Conference Files</a>	590832
<a href="#">Alfred Kahn's White House Regulatory Reform Conference Files</a>	590834
<a href="#">Ron Lewis' Subject Files</a>	590835
<a href="#">Ron Lewis' Chronological Files</a>	590836
<a href="#">Steven R. Kuney's Subject Files</a>	590837
<a href="#">Stewart Gamage's Subject Files</a>	590838
<a href="#">Betty Ross' Subject Files</a>	590839

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**[Alfred Kahn's Subject Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 1-52. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, studies, reports, policy papers, briefings, newspaper clippings, and press releases. The material includes correspondence between Kahn's office and the Department of Labor regarding contract negotiations in oil and steel industries. Topics also include food prices, housing, health care, energy, commodities, trucking deregulation, and transportation. This series contains correspondence between the Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) and major corporations and businesses that were out of compliance with the voluntary wage and price standards. Arranged alphabetically by folder title and there under chronologically.

**[Alfred Kahn's Correspondence Files](#)**

Scope and Content: Containers 53-61. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains letters and general correspondence that is mainly outgoing letters from Alfred Kahn. The correspondence is form letter responses to congratulatory letters, criticisms, and opinions from the general public, Congressional representatives, business leaders, and universities. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent's last name.

### **Alfred Kahn's State Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 61-66. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, proposals, briefings, invitations, recommendations, and itineraries. The correspondence is mainly from governors, mayors, and city council officers who submitted anti-inflation initiatives to Kahn's office for approval. Also included are proposals from public service and insurance commissioners, mayors, and governors concerning the streamlining of government regulations, and plans for ensuring wage and price standards. In addition, the series contains anti-inflation conference itineraries and briefings, invitations for speaking engagements, and letters of appreciation. Arranged alphabetically by state and there under chronologically.

### **Alfred Kahn's Speech and Testimony Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 67-70. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains speeches, statements, transcripts, testimony, and correspondence. The speeches and testimony were given by Alfred Kahn unless otherwise specified in the folder titles. Arranged chronologically.

### **Alfred Kahn's Trip Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 70-72. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, agenda, itineraries, and invitations. Included are documents related to travel plans, and invitations to attend or speak at upcoming state and local government conferences and briefings. Arranged alphabetically by state and there under chronologically.

### **Alfred Kahn's Anti-Inflation Conference Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 72-74. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contain invitations, itineraries, registration forms, participant lists, workshop formats, conference agendas, follow-up correspondence, pamphlets, and news clippings. These conferences were held in cooperation with the White House, the Office of Management and Budget, business leaders, and state and local governments as a concerted effort to reduce inflation. Arranged alphabetically by state and there under chronologically.

### **Alfred Kahn's White House Regulatory Reform Conference Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 74-77. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains speeches, statements, workshop agendas, invitations, itineraries, correspondence, newspaper clippings, participant lists, and printed material. Topics relate to the reform of professional and occupational licensing, housing and building code regulations, health care cost containment, trucking deregulation, and enforcement of the Sunshine statutes. Arranged alphabetically by subject and there under chronologically.

### **Ron Lewis' Subject Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 78-85. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, studies, proposals, reports, notes, memorandums, briefings, and news clippings. The material focuses on emission standards in the auto and trucking industry; new source performance standards in electric utility steam generating plants; the elimination of nitrates as a food additive; and other regulatory standards proposed by the Regulatory Analysis Review Group (RARG). Handwritten notes and comments by Ron Lewis are included in this material. Arranged alphabetically by subject and there under chronologically.

### **Ron Lewis' Chronological Files**

Scope and Content: Container 85. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, studies, and weekly activity reports from Lewis to Alfred Kahn. The majority of correspondence and studies relate to complaints, criticisms, and suggestions from private industries regarding government regulatory issues. Arranged chronologically.

### **Steven R. Kuney's Subject Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 86-93. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, studies, proposals, reports, notes, memorandums, briefings, and news clippings. The material relates to the economic impact of the Department of Labor's new service contract agreement, trucking deregulation, federal maritime policies, rail services, and trade issues concerning the re-classification of light trucks. Also included are multiple revised drafts of agency reports, comments, and testimony prepared by COWPS. Handwritten notes and comments by Steve Kuney are also included. Arranged alphabetically by subject and there under chronologically.

### **Stewart Gamage's Subject Files**

Scope and Content: Container 94. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, studies, itineraries, proposals, reports, notes, and memorandums. The material consists of multiple revised report drafts relating to available grants and funding for small scale hydro projects, possible site selections, rural energy initiatives from federal agencies, and conference plans and itineraries. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

### **Betty Ross' Subject Files**

Scope and Content: Containers 95-96. This series was opened in December 1999. This series contains correspondence, invitations, program and travel itineraries, notes, speeches, invitations to speaking engagements, public appearances, and media interviews. Arranged alphabetically by folder title and there under chronologically.

[Return to Series List](#)

## Container List

### Alfred Kahn's Subject Files

#### **Container 1**

Accelerated Depreciation, 11/79-12/79  
Action Memos, 11/78-8/80  
Administrative - General, 2/79  
Administrative - General, 3/79-6/79  
Administrative - General, 7/79-12/17/79  
Administrative - General, 12/18-12/27/79  
Administrative - General, 1/80-2/80  
Administrative - General, 3/80-4/15/80  
Administrative - General, 4/16/80-11/80

#### **Container 2**

Agriculture Department, 12/78-10/80  
Agriculture Department - Beef, 12/78-11/79  
Agriculture Department - Beef, 4/80-8/80  
Agriculture Department - Broilers, 3/79-9/80  
Agriculture Department - Dairy, 4/79-10/80  
Agriculture Department - Farmer's Cooperative, 5/79-10/79  
Agriculture Department - Feed and Grain, 11/78-4/80  
Agriculture Department - Food, 12/78-6/79

#### **Container 3**

Agriculture Department - Food, 8/79-10/79  
Agriculture Department - Food, 11/79-10/80  
Agriculture Department - Food Margins, 8/79-7/80  
Agriculture Department - Food Task Force, 1/79-3/79  
Agriculture Department - Mexican Tomatoes, 4/79-11/2/79  
Agriculture Department - Mexican Tomatoes, 11/5/79-11/14/79  
Agriculture Department - Mexican Vegetables, Anti-Dumping Act, 4/79-7/11/79

#### **Container 4**

Agriculture Department - Mexican Vegetables, Anti-Dumping Act, 7/16/79-11/1/79  
Agriculture Department - Mexican Vegetables, Bilateral Talks, 5/79-10/79  
Agriculture Department - Nitrates, 2/79-3/79  
Agriculture Department - Potatoes, 12/78  
Agriculture Department - Sugar, 1/78-9/79  
Agriculture Department - Sugar, 10/79-9/80  
Alperovitz, Gar, 9/27/79  
American Council of Life Insurance - National Forum, 4/79-6/79  
American Council of Life Insurance - National Forum, 7/79-2/80

#### **Container 5**

American Council of Life Insurance - National Forum [Presentation Notebook] [1]

American Council of Life Insurance - National Forum [Presentation Notebook] [2]  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 4/80-11/80  
American Retail Federation, 11/78-7/80  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), 3/78-8/79  
Anti-Inflation - Brochure, 6/79-8/79  
Anti-Inflation - General, 10/78-8/79  
Anti-Inflation - General, 10/79-3/80  
Anti-Inflation - Ray Marshall Memo, 4/79  
Anti-Inflation - Second Year, Business Reaction, 8/79-10/79  
Anti-Inflation - Second Year, Issues/Mailings, 2/79-4/79  
Anti-Inflation - Second Year, Meetings and Briefings, 2/79-3/21/79

### **Container 6**

Anti-Inflation - Second Year, Meetings and Briefings, 3/22/79-11/79  
Anti-Inflation - Second Year, Meetings and Briefings, 12/79-2/80  
Anti-Inflation - State Reports for 1979  
Autos - Chrysler, 9/79-11/21/79  
Autos - Chrysler, 11/23/79-12/79  
Autos - Chrysler, 2/80-4/80  
Autos - Fuel Economy, 8/78-2/79  
Autos - Fuel Economy, 3/79-8/79  
Autos - General, 12/78-9/80

### **Container 7**

Autos - General Motors, 11/78-7/80  
Banking, 11/78-9/80  
Briefings - Accounting Firms, 4/30/80  
Briefings - Agricultural Industries, 5/80  
Briefings - Auto, 5/80  
Briefings - Chemicals, 4/80-6/80  
Briefings - Food Processing, 10/79-6/80  
Briefings - Health Care, 3/80  
Briefings - Hotel-Motel, 1/80-7/80  
Briefings - Industry, 6/78-6/80  
Briefings - Machinery, 6/80  
Briefings - Metals, 4/80-5/80  
Briefings - One to Two-Hundred Fifty Million Dollar Companies, 3/80-4/3/80  
Briefings - One to Two-Hundred Fifty Million Dollar Companies, 4/7/80-4/10/80  
Briefings - One to Two-Hundred Fifty Million Dollar Companies, 4/16/80-4/30/80  
Brookings Institute, 11/78-3/80  
Business, 3/79-2/80

### **Container 8**

Business Council, 12/79-1/80  
Business Roundtable, 6/79-12/79  
Cabinet, 12/78-7/80  
Camp David Meeting, 3/79

Capital Recovery, 7/80-8/80  
Cassandrus, 11/79-2/79  
Chamber of Commerce United States, 12/78-8/80  
Citizens Committee on Paperwork Reduction (CCPR) 3/80-4/80  
Civil Service Commission, 1/79-3/80  
Clearing House, 2/80-3/80  
Clearing House, 6/80-8/80  
Conferences, 4/80-5/80  
Commerce Department of, 11/78-6/80  
Commission on the 80's, 10/79-9/80  
Compliances, 12/78-6/79  
Compliances, 7/79-1/80  
Compliances, 4/80-9/80

### **Container 9**

Congressional Correspondence, 10/78-12/78  
Congressional Correspondence, 1/79-3/79  
Congressional Correspondence, 4/79-5/16/79  
Congressional Correspondence, 5/24/79-6/79  
Congressional Correspondence, 7/79-8/79  
Congressional Correspondence, 9/79-10/79  
Congressional Correspondence, 11/79-3/80  
Congressional Correspondence, 4/80-5/80

### **Container 10**

Congressional - Correspondence, 6/80-7/80  
Congressional - Correspondence, 8/80-10/80  
Congressional - Correspondence, 11/80  
Congressional - Strategy Memoranda, 1/79-7/80  
Consultation, 2/79-7/79  
Consultation, 8/79-9/79  
Consumer, 7/78  
Consumer, 11/78-2/79  
Consumer, 3/79-4/79  
Consumer, 5/79

### **Container 11**

Consumer, 6/79-10/79  
Consumer, 11/79-8/80  
Consumer Affairs, 11/79-3/80  
Consumer Affairs Council - Federal Register, 12/79  
Consumer Price Index, 2/79-6/79  
Consumer Price Index, 7/79-9/79  
Consumer Price Index, 10/79-12/79  
Consumer Price Index, 1/80  
Consumer Price Index, 2/80  
Consumer Price Index, 3/80-5/80

### **Container 12**

Consumer Price Index, 6/80-8/80  
Consumer Price Index, 9/80-10/80  
Council of Economic Advisors, 10/77-9/80  
Council of State Governments (Palmer/LaPore) 3/79-10/80  
Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) - Budget, 1/79-9/79  
COWPS - Budget, 12/79-10/80  
COWPS - General, 11/78-5/80  
COWPS - General, 6/80-7/80

### **Container 13**

COWPS - General, 8/80-11/80  
COWPS - General (Incoming/Outgoing) 2/79-12/80  
COWPS - Legal, 12/78-5/79  
COWPS - Legal, 7/79-10/80  
Credit Controls, 3/79-11/79  
Credit Controls, 1/80-5/80  
Davis - Bacon, 12/78-11/79  
Democratic National Committee (DNC) 11/78-10/80  
Department of Defense (DOD) 4/79-8/80  
Domestic Refugee Program, 11/79-12/79  
Economic Policy Group (EPG) 11/78-6/79

### **Container 14**

EPG, 7/79-12/79  
EPG, 1/80-6/6/80  
EPG, 6/9/80-10/80  
EPG, 7/79-6/12/80  
EPG, 6/13/80-9/80  
EPG - Memorandums, 6/79-12/79  
Economic Program, 6/79-5/80  
Economic Program, 7/80-10/80  
Economic Revitalization Board, 9/80  
Energy, 8/79-11/79

### **Container 15**

Energy - Amerada Hess, 6/79-5/80  
Energy - Building Energy, STDS-BEPS, 4/80-9/80  
Energy - Coal, 11/78-4/79  
Energy - Coal, 5/79-3/80  
Energy - Conservation, 7/79-8/80  
Energy - Coordinating Committee, 3/79-9/80  
Energy - Department of, 1/79-5/79  
Energy - Department of, 6/79-10/80  
Energy - Exxon, 8/79-2/80  
Energy - Gasoline, 12/78-5/79  
Energy - Gasoline, 6/79-11/79

Energy - Gasoline, 12/79

### **Container 16**

Energy - Gasoline, 1/80-7/80  
Energy - Gasoline Rationing Plan, 2/80  
Energy - Mobil, 12/78-4/9/80  
Energy - Mobil, 4/11/80-5/80  
Energy - Mobil, 6/80-10/80  
Energy - Mobil, 10/7/80  
Energy - Natural Gas, 9/79  
Energy - Natural Gas, 10/79-9/80  
Energy - Oil, 1/79-9/79  
Energy - Oil, 10/79-12/79

### **Container 17**

Energy - Oil, 1/80-10/80  
Energy - Oil Companies, 6/79-1/80  
Energy - Oil Companies, 2/80-11/80  
Energy - Oil Pricing, 12/78-8/79  
Energy - Oil Pricing, 9/79-8/80  
Energy - Oil Refinery Standards, 5/79-2/80  
Energy - Oil Refinery Standards, 4/80-6/80  
Energy - Petroleum, 11/78-6/80  
Energy - Related Correspondence, 11/78-4/79  
Energy - Related Correspondence, 5/79-11/79

### **Container 18**

Energy - Related Correspondence, 12/79-1/80  
Energy - Related Correspondence, 2/80-11/80  
Energy - Solar, 9/79-1/80  
Energy - Synfuels, 6/79-10/80  
Energy - Texaco, 1/79-11/79  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 12/78-4/79  
EPA, 5/79-10/79  
EPA, 11/79-12/79  
EPA, 1/80-9/80  
EPA, Demo/Project Conferences, 6/79-4/80  
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), 2/80-9/80  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 1/79-2/80  
FCC, 3/80-6/80

### **Container 19**

Federal Regional Councils, 3/80  
Federal Regulatory Reform Efforts, n.d.  
Federal/State Workshops Regulatory Reform, 2/79-11/79  
Federal/State Workshops Regulatory Reform, 12/79-2/80  
Federal/State/Local Workshops, Panelists Regulatory Reform, 1/80 [1]

Federal/State/Local Workshops, Panelists Regulatory Reform, 1/80 [2]  
Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 12/78-4/80  
Financial Disclosure, 4/79-6/79  
Follow-up Correspondence - Patsy Palmer, Conference on State and Local Regulatory Reform,  
n.d. [1]  
Follow-up Correspondence - Patsy Palmer, Conference on State and Local Regulatory Reform,  
n.d. [2]  
Follow-up Correspondence - Patsy Palmer, Conference on State and Local Regulatory Reform,  
12/79-5/80  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 1/79-9/79  
Food - Food Retailers, 7/79-8/79

### **Container 20**

Fortune 500, 11/78-4/79  
Fortune 500, 5/79-3/80  
France, Bill - Proposal [Involvement of Sports Leagues in Anti-Inflation Effort] 2/79-10/79  
Fred's Group, 12/78-2/79  
Fred's Group, 3/79-7/79  
General Accounting Office (GAO) 12/78-9/79  
GAO, 12/79-3/80  
GAO, 6/80-9/80  
General Services Administration (GSA) 2/79-9/79  
GSA - Contract Air Services, 7/80  
Governor's List  
Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA) 7/80

### **Container 21**

Health, 11/78-2/79  
Health, 3/79  
Health, 4/79  
Health, 5/79-7/79  
Health, 8/79-10/79  
Health, 11/79-3/80  
Health, 4/10/80-4/14/80  
Health, 4/22/80-6/25/80  
Health, 6/26/80-7/23/80  
Health, 7/25/80-8/1/80

### **Container 22**

Health, 8/5/80-9/9/80  
Health, 9/23/80  
Health, 9/24/80-11/80  
Health and Human Services (HHS) 9/78-2/79  
HHS, 3/79-2/80  
HHS, 3/80-9/80  
Health Care Cost Containment, 5/79-8/79  
Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) - Demonstration Project, 6/79-12/79

HEW - Demonstration Project, 1/80-2/80  
HEW - Demonstration Project, 3/80

### **Container 23**

HEW - Demonstration Project, 4/1/80-4/14/80  
HEW - Demonstration Project, 4/17/80-7/80  
Holiday Inn, 3/79  
Home Builders, 10/79-1/80  
Housing, n.d.  
Housing, 11/78-4/79  
Housing, 5/79-10/79  
Housing, 11/79  
Housing, 12/79-11/80  
Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 5/79-3/80  
HUD - 4/80-5/80

### **Container 24**

HUD - Demonstration Project, 11/79-2/80  
HUD - Demonstration Project, 3/80-11/80  
Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, 10/78  
Hydro-Small, 7/80-10/80  
Illinois Brick, 1/79-4/80  
Income Policy, 11/78-7/80  
Industry Briefings, 10/79  
Industry Briefing - Accounting, 5/1/80, Roosevelt Room, 11/79-6/80  
Industry Briefing - Agricultural Industry, 5/8/80, Roosevelt Room, 5/80-6/80  
Industry Briefing - Chemical Companies, 4/11/80, Roosevelt Room, 4/80  
Industry Briefing - Chemical Companies, 4/11/80, Roosevelt Room, 4/80-5/80  
Industry Briefing - Food Processors, 6/3/80, Roosevelt Room, 5/80-6/80  
Industry Briefing - Health Care Industry, 3/27/80, Roosevelt Room, 3/80-4/80

### **Container 25**

Industry Briefing - Hotel/Motel Industry, on 5/21/80, Roosevelt Room, 5/80-6/80  
Industry Briefing - Machinery, on 6/5/80, Roosevelt Room, 6/80  
Industry Briefing - Metals and Metal Products Industry on 4/24/80, Roosevelt Room, 4/80-5/80  
Inflation, 10/77-3/79  
Inflation, 4/79-6/79  
Inflation, 8/79-4/80  
Inflation, 5/80-11/80  
Inflation Strategy, 2/79-4/79  
Inflation Strategy, 5/79

### **Container 26**

Inflation Strategy, 6/79-5/80  
Insurance, 11/78-11/79  
Interest Rates High, 4/80-6/80

Interior, Department of, 2/79-9/79  
Interstate Commerce Commissioner (ICC), 9/78-10/79  
ICC, 11/79-9/80  
Issues Paper, 6/80  
Issues Paper, 7/80-9/80  
Justice, Department of, 12/78-9/80

### **Container 27**

Kemeny Report, 9/79-10/79  
Labor - AFL-CIO, 8/78-2/79  
Labor - AFL-CIO, 3/79-4/79  
Labor - AFL-CIO, 6/79-7/80  
Labor - Collective Bargaining, 4/79-6/80  
Labor - Communications Workers, 7/79  
Labor - Construction Workers, 4/80-7/80  
Labor - General, 11/78-1/79  
Labor - General, 2/79-4/79  
Labor - General, 5/79-7/79  
Labor - General, 8/79-7/80  
Labor - National Accord, 8/79-9/79  
Labor - Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, (OCAW) 11/78-5/80  
Labor - Rubber Workers, 4/79-2/80

### **Container 28**

Labor - Teamsters, 11/78-3/79  
Labor - United Auto Workers (UAW) 10/78-12/79  
Labor Department, 11/78-7/79  
Labor Department, 8/79-9/80  
Letters to the Big 7 (Weekly) 5/79-6/79  
Liberty House, 11/79-12/79  
Linkler, Kahlman, 6/78-1/79  
Mandell, Missy - Letters/Memos, 2/79-7/79  
Mandell, Missy - Letters/Memos, 8/79-6/80  
Mandell, Missy - Memoranda to Alfred Kahn, 3/79-2/80  
Maritime, 11/78-1/80  
McClure Amendment, 11/79-2/80

### **Container 29**

Memoranda, 1/80-2/18/80  
Memoranda, 2/19/80-3/18/80  
Memoranda, 3/20/80-4/23/80  
Memoranda, 4/24/80-5/20/80  
Memoranda, 5/21/80-6/13/80  
Memoranda, 6/16/80-12/15/80  
Metals, 12/79-8/80  
Milstein, Abby - Memoranda to Julie Clark, [Monitoring Gas Prices in Manhattan] 6/79-8/79

Minimum Wage Exemption, n.d.  
Multi-Trade Negotiations, 2/79-4/79  
Multi-Trade Negotiations, 5/79-7/79  
National Accord, 9/17-27/79

### **Container 30**

National Accord, 9/28/79-11/79  
National Association of Attorney Generals, 1/80-4/80  
National Association of Counties (NACO) 3/79-7/79  
National Association of Manufacturers, 10/78-5/80  
National Conference of State Legislators, 3/79-8/79  
National Education Association, 11/79  
National Governor's Association, 2/79-7/79  
National League of Cities, 3/79-1/80  
National Safety Council, 3/79-6/79  
New Companies/Briefings/Cross-Files/John Brady, 4/3/80  
New Companies/Briefings/Cross-Files/John Brady, 4/8/80-5/80  
New Companies/Industry Briefings/Meetings, 2/80-6/80  
New Companies/Meetings, 11/79-12/79  
Non-Compliance, 5/79-3/80  
Non-Compliance, 4/80-5/80

### **Container 31**

Non-Compliance, 6/80-10/80  
Occupational Licensing, 10/79-11/79  
Occupational Licensing, 12/79  
Occupational Licensing - Manuals, 1978-1979  
Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 11/78-2/80  
OMB, 3/80  
OMB, 4/80-7/80  
Office of Science and Technology Policy, 2/79  
Outreach Program, 5/78-12/6/78  
Outreach Program, 12/8/78-1/79  
Outreach Program, 3/79-8/79

### **Container 32**

Outreach Program, 9/79-8/80  
Pay Advisory Committee, 3/79-10/12/79  
Pay Advisory Committee, 10/15-16/79  
Pay Advisory Committee, 10/17/79-11/5/79  
Pay Advisory Committee, 11/6/79-11/30/79  
Pay Advisory Committee, 12/80-1/23/80  
Pay Advisory Committee, 1/24/80-3/80  
Pay Advisory Committee, 4/80-6/16/80

**Container 33**

Pay Advisory Committee, 6/17/80-8/21/80  
Pay Advisory Committee, 8/27/80-10/80  
Pay Standard/Pay Board, 8/79-2/80  
Personnel Staffing, 11/78-12/79  
Personnel Staffing, 2/80-9/80  
Personnel Staffing [Resume's, SF 171's]  
Pre-Notification, 4/80-5/80  
Presidential File, 10/78-1/16/79  
Presidential File, 1/24/79-3/28/79  
Presidential File, 3/29/79-6/21/79  
Presidential File, 6/22/79-9/79

**Container 34**

Presidential File, 10/79-1/2/80  
Presidential File, 1/4/80-4/19/80  
Presidential File, 4/21/80-5/23/80  
Presidential File, 5/30/80-12/15/80  
Presidential Involvement in Anti-Inflation Effort, 11/78-10/3/79  
Presidential Involvement in Anti-Inflation Effort, 10/19/79-5/80  
Presidential Memo, 7/79  
Price Advisory Committee, 7/79-10/26/79

**Container 35**

Price Advisory Committee, 10/29/79-12/6/79  
Price Advisory Committee, 12/10/79-3/7/80  
Price Advisory Committee, 3/20/80-5/9/80  
Price Advisory Committee, 5/13/80-6/11/80  
Price Advisory Committee, 6/19/80-10/80  
Price Monitoring, 11/78-5/79  
Price Monitoring, 8/79-1/80  
Price Monitoring, 2/80-6/80

**Container 36**

Price Monitoring, 7/80-10/80  
Procurement, 11/78-4/13/79  
Procurement, 4/18/79-6/79  
Producer Price Index (PPI) 1/79-12/79  
PPI, 1/80-10/80  
Productivity, 8/78-11/78  
Productivity, 12/78-3/79

**Container 37**

Productivity, 4/79-5/79  
Productivity, 7/16/79-7/23/79  
Productivity, 7/24/79-8/79

Productivity, 10/79-1/80  
Productivity, 2/80-7/11/80  
Productivity, 7/12/80-8/20/80  
Productivity, 8/25/80-10/80  
Profit Margins, 12/78-7/79  
Profit Margins, 8/79-7/80

### **Container 38**

Profit Sharing, 6/79-4/80  
Public Interest Groups (PIGS) 12/78-3/79  
PIGS, 4/79-8/79  
PIGS, 10/79-5/80  
Quadriad [Federal Reserve Board] 5/80  
Railroads, 11/78  
Railroads, 12/78-9/80  
Reading File, 2/79-5/7/79  
Reading File, 5/8/79-6/4/79

### **Container 39**

Reading File, 6/5/79-6/26/79  
Reading File, 6/27/80-1/16/80  
Reading File, 1/17/80-2/13/80  
Reading File, 2/14/80-3/15/80  
Reading File, 3/17/80-6/11/80  
Reading File, 6/16/80-11/80  
Real Wage Insurance, 11/78-12/78  
Real Wage Insurance, 1/8-17/79  
Real Wage Insurance, 1/18/79-4/79

### **Container 40**

Regulatory Agencies, 2/79-6/80  
Regulatory Council, 11/78-6/79  
Regulatory Council, 8/79-9/80  
Regulatory Reform, 3/78-12/78  
Regulatory Reform, 1/79-3/79  
Regulatory Reform, 4/79-5/79  
Regulatory Reform, 7/79-9/79  
Regulatory Reform, 10/79-11/79  
Regulatory Reform, 12/79-3/80

### **Container 41**

Regulatory Reform, 4/80  
Regulatory Reform, 5/80  
Regulatory Reform, 6/80  
Regulatory Reform, 7/80-11/80  
Regulatory Reform - Database for Regulatory Hearings, 6/79-7/79

Regulatory Reform - General, 5/79-7/79  
Regulatory Reform - General, 9/79-10/79  
Regulatory Reform - General, 11/8/79  
Regulatory Reform - General, 11/15/79-12/79  
Regulatory Reform - General, 1/80-2/80

#### **Container 42**

Regulatory Reform - State and Local, 10/78-10/79  
Regulatory Reform - State and Local, 2/80  
Responses (Kahn and General Motors (G.M.) 5/79-6/79  
Retailers, 1/79-3/79  
Ryan, Mary K. to Julie Clark [National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators,  
(NACAA)] 5/79-7/79  
Small Business, 1/79-2/79  
Small Business, 3/79-7/80  
Small Business Guidelines, 1/79-9/79  
Small Scale Hydroelectric Conference, 5/79-9/80  
Small Scale Hydroelectric Conference, 10/80  
[Small Scale Hydroelectric Development Seminar - Los Angeles, 5/80]

#### **Container 43**

[Small Scale Hydroelectric Policy Project, 7/80]  
Small Scale Hydroelectric Project (Regulatory Reform Follow-up) 6/80-7/80  
Small Scale Hydroelectric Project (Regulatory Reform Follow-up) 8/80-10/80  
Social Security, 12/78-7/79  
Social Security, 8/79-1/80  
Soft Drinks and Beverages, 11/79-7/80  
Sommers, Albert T. [The Conference Board] 4/79-3/14/80  
Sommers, Albert T. [The Conference Board] 3/17/80-9/80  
Speaker's Bureau, 4/79-11/79

#### **Container 44**

Speaking Events, 9/79-12/79  
Speaking Events, 1/80-9/80  
Staff Memos, 2/79-8/80  
Standards - Pay Price, 11/78-12/12/78  
Standards - Pay Price, 12/13/78-3/17/79  
Standards - Pay Price, 3/27/79-4/79  
Standards - Pay Price, 5/79-6/12/79  
Standards - Pay Price, 6/13/79-8/79  
Standards - Pay Price, 9/79-12/79

#### **Container 45**

Standards - Pay Price, 2/80-4/80  
Standards - Pay Price, 5/80-11/80  
Standards - Second Year, 2/79-8/7/79

Standards - Second Year, 8/17/79-9/79  
Standards - Second Year, 10/79-2/80  
Standards - Second Year, 3/80-6/80  
Standards - Third Year, 5/80-10/80  
State Department, 11/78-5/79

#### **Container 46**

State and Local, 11/78  
State and Local, 12/78-1/79  
State and Local, 2/79-5/79  
State and Local, 6/79-1/80  
State and Local, 2/80-8/18/80  
State and Local, 8/29/80-9/80  
Steel, 11/78-8/79  
Steel, 9/79-12/3/79  
Steel, 12/4/79-12/27/79

#### **Container 47**

Steel, 1/80-3/18/80  
Steel, 3/21/80-10/80  
Sunset Reviews - Arkansas, 12/79  
Sunset Reviews - Colorado, 12/78[1]  
Sunset Reviews - Colorado, 12/78[2]  
Sunset Reviews - Colorado, 12/78-1/79  
Sunset Reviews - Florida, 9/79  
Sunset Reviews - Montana, 7/79

#### **Container 48**

Taxes, 1/79-8/79  
Taxes, 9/79-5/80  
Taxes, 6/80-11/80  
Telecommunications, 7/79-7/80  
Telephone Memo Logs - Kahn, 12/78-7/79  
Telephone Memo Logs - Kahn, 8/79-12/79  
Telephone Memo Logs - Kahn, 1/80-4/80

#### **Container 49**

Telephone Memo Logs - Kahn, 5/80-7/80  
Telephone Memo Logs - Kahn, 8/80-11/80  
Telephone Memo Logs - Missy Mandell, 1/80-2/80  
Telephone Memo Logs - Missy Mandell, 3/80-8/80  
Timber, 5/79-7/80  
Transportation, 11/78-6/79  
Transportation, 7/79-3/80  
Treasury, Department of, 1/79-7/79

### **Container 50**

Treasury, Department of, 8/79  
Treasury, Department of, 10/79-8/80  
Trucking, 6/78-2/79  
Trucking, 3/79-6/79  
Trucking, 8/79-8/80  
Unemployment, 1/79-9/80  
U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2/79-9/80  
U.S. Regulatory Council (USRC), 9/79-7/80  
Utilities, 11/78-2/79

### **Container 51**

Utilities, 3/79-10/79  
Utilities, 11/79-1/80  
Utilities, 3/80-6/80  
Utilities, 7/80-10/80  
Utilities - National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC) 12/78-3/79  
Veterans Administration, 4/79  
Vice-President, 4/79-10/80  
Wage/Price Control, 2/80-3/13/80  
Wage/Price Control, 3/18/80  
Wage/Price Control, 3/21/80-4/80  
Wage/Price Control, 5/80-8/80  
Weekly Activity Reports, 3/79-9/14/79

### **Container 52**

Weekly Activity Reports, 9/20/79-11/9/79  
Weekly Activity Reports, 11/10/79-12/79  
Weekly Activity Reports, 1/80-5/20/80  
Weekly Activity Reports, 5/23/80-10/80  
Wirth Seminar, 2/79-8/79  
Wirth Seminar, 1/80-7/80  
W.R. Grace and Company, 8/80-9/80  
W.R. Grace and Company, 10/80-11/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Alfred Kahn's Correspondence Files**

#### **Container 53**

Correspondence (from Gale Matheson's Office, Assistant to Alfred Kahn)  
Correspondence - A-Ai  
Correspondence - Ak-Al  
Correspondence - Am  
Correspondence - An-Ay  
Correspondence - Ba-Bear

Correspondence - Beat-Berg  
Correspondence - Berk-BI  
Correspondence - Bo-Brea  
Correspondence - Brec-Bum

**Container 54**

Correspondence - Bun-By  
Correspondence - Ca-Carb  
Correspondence - Care-Chap  
Correspondence - Chas-CI  
Correspondence - Co-Com  
Correspondence - Con-Corn  
Correspondence - Coro-Cu  
Correspondence - Da-Dir

**Container 55**

Correspondence - Dis-Dy  
Correspondence - Ea-El  
Correspondence - Em-Ex  
Correspondence - Fa-Fied  
Correspondence - Fiel-Forb  
Correspondence - Ford-Fu  
Correspondence - Ga-Geo  
Correspondence - Gep-Go

**Container 56**

Correspondence - Gr-Gu  
Correspondence - Ha-Harn  
Correspondence - Harr-Hei  
Correspondence - Hel-House  
Correspondence - House of Representatives (Ames-Lee)  
Correspondence - House of Representatives (Lehman-Zablocki)  
Correspondence - Housewives-Hymens  
Correspondence - I

**Container 57**

Correspondence - J  
Correspondence - Ka-Kid  
Correspondence - Kie-Ky  
Correspondence - La-Les  
Correspondence - Leu-Ly  
Correspondence - Ma-Mar

**Container 58**

Correspondence - Mas-Meb  
Correspondence - Mec-Mil  
Correspondence - Mim-Mon

Correspondence - Moo-My  
Correspondence - Na-National (Economic)  
Correspondence - National (Federation)-New Jersey  
Correspondence - New Mexico-New York  
Correspondence - Nex-Nu

### **Container 59**

Correspondence - O  
Correspondence - Pa-Pep  
Correspondence - Per-Pl  
Correspondence - Pm-Pu  
Correspondence - Q  
Correspondence - Ra-Rh  
Correspondence - Ri-Ron  
Correspondence - Roo-Ry  
Correspondence - Sa-Sch

### **Container 60**

Correspondence - Sci-Sel  
Correspondence - Senate, U.S. (Baucus-Williams)  
Correspondence - Senc-Simm  
Correspondence - Simo-Soul  
Correspondence - Sout-Stee  
Correspondence - Stei-Sz  
Correspondence - Ta-Ti  
Correspondence - To-Ty  
Correspondence - U

### **Container 61**

Correspondence - V  
Correspondence - Wa-Weine  
Correspondence - Weing-Wille  
Correspondence - Willi-Wy  
Correspondence - X  
Correspondence - Y  
Correspondence - Z

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Alfred Kahn's State Files**

#### **Container 61 con't**

Alabama, 8/78-8/80  
Alaska, 12/78-1/80  
Arizona, 12/78-5/80  
Arkansas, 8/78-7/79  
California, 8/78-4/79

**Container 62**

California, 5/79-9/79  
California [Newspaper Articles] 5/79-11/79  
Colorado, 11/78-11/79  
Connecticut, 8/78-9/79  
Delaware, 8/78-6/79  
District of Columbia, 8/78-1/79  
District of Columbia, 2/79-10/79  
Florida, 8/78-3/79  
Florida, 4/79-9/79  
Florida, 11/79-10/80

**Container 63**

Georgia, 8/78-1/80  
Guam, 6/79  
Hawaii, 12/78-8/79  
Idaho, 2/79-5/79  
Illinois, 8/78-2/79  
Illinois, 3/79-12/79  
Indiana, 8/78-6/79  
Iowa, 8/78-6/79  
Kansas, 8/78-8/79  
Kentucky, 8/78-3/80  
Louisiana, 8/78-6/80  
Maine, 8/78-5/80  
Maryland, 8/78-4/80  
Massachusetts, 8/78-6/79  
Massachusetts, 8/79-10/80

**Container 64**

Michigan, 8/78-6/22/79  
Michigan, 6/25/79-7/79  
Michigan, 8/79-8/80  
Minnesota, 8/78-11/79  
Mississippi, 8/78-3/80  
Missouri, 8/78-8/79  
Missouri, 9/79-7/80  
Montana, 8/78-8/79  
Nebraska, 8/78-8/79  
Nevada, 12/78-8/79  
New Hampshire, 8/78-7/79  
New Jersey, 8/78-5/80  
New Mexico, 12/78-9/80

**Container 65**

New York, 8/78-3/79  
New York, 4/79-5/79  
New York, 6/79-10/80  
North Carolina, 8/78-2/79  
North Carolina, 3/79-10/80  
North Dakota, 12/78-8/79  
Ohio, 11/78-10/79  
Oklahoma, 12/78-4/80  
Oregon, 11/78-5/80  
Pennsylvania, 11/78-2/79  
Pennsylvania, 3/79-11/80

### **Container 66**

Puerto Rico, 12/78-8/79  
Rhode Island, 12/78-5/80  
South Carolina, 12/78-8/79  
South Dakota, 2/79-6/79  
Tennessee, 12/78-6/79  
Texas, 12/78-3/79  
Texas, 4/79-10/80  
Utah, 12/78-6/79  
Vermont, 12/78-6/79  
Virgin Islands, 12/78-10/79  
Virginia, 12/78-10/80  
Washington, 12/78-5/80  
West Virginia, 12/78-8/79  
Wisconsin, 12/78-9/80  
Wyoming, 12/78-6/79

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Alfred Kahn's Speech and Testimony Files**

#### **Container 67**

[Correspondence Relating to Speeches and Testimony, 12/78-8/80]

Good Morning America [Empty]

Remarks of Terry L. O'Rourke before the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

Transcript of Kahn's part in the symposium on the "Changing Environment of International Air Commerce," 5/24/78

Address to the 3rd Annual Colloquium on Research and Development Policy, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 6/21/78

Speech by Alfred E. Kahn and Michael Roach, "A Paen to Legal Creativity," before the Standing Committee on Aeronautical Law of the American Bar Association, 8/8/78

Transcript of Hearing on Anti-Inflation before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, 11/3/78

Testimony before the Subcommittee on Economic Stabilization, House Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing, 11/22/78

Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, 12/6/78  
Address before the National Urban Coalition, 1/10/79  
Testimony before the House Committee on the Budget, 1/30/79  
Testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means, 1/30/79  
Speech at Governor's Conference on Fighting Inflation, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2/1/79  
Speech before the Florida Council of 100, 2/1/79  
Testimony before the Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, 2/6/79  
Testimony before Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer, and Monetary Affairs, 2/7/79  
Testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 2/9/79  
Testimony of Barry P. Bosworth before the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and Government Affairs, 2/14/79  
Testimony before the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Services and General Government, 2/14/79  
Remarks to White House Conference on Small Business, 2/15/79  
Remarks to the Inland Daily Press, Chicago, 2/19/79  
Testimony before Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution, 2/27/79  
Testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, 3/7/79  
Testimony before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, 3/12/79  
Remarks to the Economic Club of Chicago, 3/13/79  
Testimony before the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, 3/13/79  
Remarks at National News Association, 3/16/79

### **Container 68**

Remarks before the National Air Pollution Control Association, 3/21/79  
McNeil/Lehrer Interview, 3/23/79  
Remarks at Regional Conference on Inflation, Fordham University in New York, 3/28/79  
Remarks to the National Association of Manufacturers, 3/29/79  
Meeting with Major Business Leaders, 3/29/79  
Testimony before the Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations and Nutrition, 4/4/79  
Statement of Alfred E. Kahn Relating to Consumer Affairs, 4/6/79  
Testimony before Subcommittee on Anti-Trust and Monopoly, 4/6/79  
Remarks at the AFL-CIO Conference, 4/9/79  
Remarks at the Anti-Inflation Conference in Boston, 4/12/79  
Statement by Alfred E. Kahn and Esther Peterson Regarding Food Prices, 4/19/79  
Remarks at Democratic National Finance Council Meeting, 5/9/79  
Remarks in Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco, 5/15-16/79  
Remarks to National Association of Home Builders, 5/22/79  
Testimony before the Legislative Process of the House Rules Committee, 5/23/79  
Testimony before the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, 5/24/79  
Testimony of Barry P. Bosworth before the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, 5/24/79  
Remarks at the University of Massachusetts Commencement, 5/26/79  
Remarks at Cornell University Alumni Reunion, 6/8/79  
Address to Ford Editor's Conference, 6/11/79

Briefing at National Council of Farmer's Cooperative, 6/20/79  
Testimony before Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, 6/26/79  
Remarks at Citizens in Favor of Inflation in the Necessities (COIN), 6/27/79  
Testimony of Barry Bosworth before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs, 6/28/79  
Testimony of Alfred Kahn before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs, 6/28/79  
[Itinerary for ABC Luncheon], 7/3/79  
Testimony of Barry P. Bosworth before the Joint Economic Committee, 7/13/79  
Speech at Aspen Seminar, 7/18/79  
President's Energy Speech, 8/79  
Comments before the U.S. Postal Service, Restrictions on Private Carriage of Letters, 8/10/79  
Remarks at Food Industry Meeting with the President, 8/13/79  
Speech to American Bar Association, 8/15/79  
Talking Points for International Food Manufacturers Association, 9/11/79  
Talk to Florida Politicos, 9/14/79  
Meeting with National Congressional State Leaders, 9/20/79  
Plans for Meeting with the New York State Telephone Association Inc., 9/26/79

### **Container 69**

Good Morning America  
Speech at LBL 79th Convention, New Orleans, 10/2/79  
Remarks to Y Group Dinner, 10/3/79  
Speech to United Press International (UPI), 10/8/79  
Briefing for Jewish Federation, 10/9/79  
Testimony of R. Robert Russell before the House Economic Stabilization Subcommittee, 10/11/79  
Interview with U.S. News and World Report, 10/11/79  
Interview with Face the Nation, 10/14/79  
Statement of Richard Boyce, Senior Economist, before the Committee on Small Business, 10/17/79  
Remarks before the ICC Federal/State Workshop on Motor Carrier Regulation, 10/23/79  
Testimony of Congressman Dingell before Energy and Power Subcommittee, 11/8/79  
Press Conference, Chrysler, 11/11/79 [Empty]  
Briefing in Minnesota, 11/14/79  
Testimony before Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 11/15/79  
Press Conference on Soft Drinks, 12/5/79  
Speech at Carter/Mondale Fundraiser in Miami, 12/6/79  
Remarks at White House Conference on State and Local Regulatory Reform, 1/11/80  
Remarks at White House Conference on Small Business, 1/15/80  
Remarks before American Association of Retired Persons, 1/22/80  
Testimony before House Budget Committee Inflation Task Force, 1/24/80  
Statement on 1980 Supplemental Appropriations Request, 2/4/80  
Address to the Joint Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, 2/11/80  
Testimony of R. Robert Russell before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs, 3/11/80  
Testimony before Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 3/17/80

Testimony before Senate Finance Committee on Health, 3/19/80  
Testimony before Economic Stabilization Committee, 3/19/80  
Interview on "Issues and Answers" Program, 3/23/80

### **Container 70**

Testimony before Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Services and General Government, 3/31/80  
Text of Conversation at American Enterprise Institute, 4/3/80  
Speech at American Society of Newspaper Editors, 4/9/80  
Testimony before Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 4/21/80  
Testimony before Senate Committee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, 4/23/80  
Speech at U.S. Conference of Mayors [Speech Missing], 5/80  
Testimony before the Subcommittee on Economic Stabilization [Also includes Testimony by R. Robert Russell] 5/6/80  
Speech before Alumni Forum at University of North Carolina, 5/10/80  
Speech at Ripon College, 5/17-18/80  
Speech at the National Journal Health Policy Conference, 6/17/80  
Speech to the U.S. Regulatory Council Conference on Innovative Regulatory Techniques, 7/22/80  
Statement by Arthur F. Burns on Key Issues in Fiscal Policy before the Committee on Ways and Means, 7/24/80  
Speech, Liberalism in an Age of Inflation, 8/25/80[Correspondence Relating to McNeil/Lehrer Interview, 8/27/80]  
Speech to Common Cause, 9/80  
Speech - "Why We Oppose Mandatory Wage and Price Controls", 9/17/80  
Speech to American Enterprise Institute Conference on Health Care, 9/25/80  
Speech to Virginia's Conference on Regulatory Reform, 10/6/80  
Speech to National Press Club, 11/6/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Alfred Kahn's Trip Files**

#### **Container 70 con't**

Alabama, Birmingham/Anniston Trip, 9/3-4/80  
Alabama, Montgomery, 5/30/80  
Alabama, Montgomery, 2/7-8/80

#### **Container 71**

Arizona, Phoenix, 4/6-8/79  
California, Los Angeles, 6/1-2/80  
California, San Francisco and San Jose Trip, 9/26-27/80  
District of Columbia, Washington, 9/11- 27/79  
District of Columbia, Washington, 10/ 3-22/80  
District of Columbia, Washington, 1/15- 22/80; 3/15-18/80; 9/8/80  
England, London, 11/21-28/79  
Florida, Miami, 12/6/79

Georgia, Atlanta, 2/15/79  
Georgia, Atlanta, 10/18-21/79  
Illinois, Chicago, 9/30/79  
Kentucky, Lexington, 2/10-11/79  
Louisiana, New Orleans, 9/25/79  
Maryland, Baltimore, 10/9/79  
Massachusetts, Boston, 3/3-7/80  
Massachusetts, Boston, 9/23/80  
Michigan, Lansing, 6/19/79  
Minnesota, Minneapolis, 6/6-7/80  
Minnesota, St. Paul, 11/7/80  
New Jersey, Paramus, 10/7/79

### **Container 72**

New Jersey, Patterson, 6/6/79  
New York, Buffalo, 5/1/80  
New York, Ithaca, Buffalo, and New York City, 10/14-16/80  
New York, New York, 10/19/79  
New York, New York, 4/21/80  
New York, New York, 10/10/80  
New York, Rochester, 9/26/79  
North Carolina, Raleigh, 2/1/79  
North Carolina, Raleigh, 9/ 30/80  
Ohio, Cleveland, 5/15/80  
Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, 10/ 4/79  
Pennsylvania, 10/30-31/80  
Texas, Dallas, 5/15-16/79  
Texas, Dallas, 4/17-18/80  
Texas, Houston, 10/8/79  
Virginia, Norfolk, 10/6/80  
Virginia, Reston, 10/23/79  
Wisconsin, Ripon, 5/18/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Alfred Kahn's Anti-Inflation Conference Files**

#### **Container 72 con't**

Announcement by Alfred E. Kahn and Esther Peterson for Consumer Involvement Program,  
4/6/79  
Anti-Inflation Conference, General Correspondence, 2/79-4/79  
California, Los Angeles, 5/16/79  
California, San Francisco, 4/18/79  
Colorado, Denver, 4/18/79 [1]  
Colorado, Denver, 4/18/79 [2]

**Container 73**

Connecticut, West Hartford, 11/8/78  
District of Columbia, Washington, 2/21/79 [1]  
District of Columbia, Washington, 2/21/79 [2]  
Georgia, Atlanta, 4/5/79  
Illinois, Chicago, 4/5/79  
Massachusetts, Boston, 4/12/79  
Missouri, Kansas City, 4/2/79  
New Mexico, Santa Fe, 5/21/79  
New York, New York, 3/28/79  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 3/20/79 [1]

**Container 74**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 3/20/79 [2]  
Texas, Dallas, 3/21/79  
Washington, Seattle, 4/21/79  
Wisconsin, Madison, 5/23/79

[Return to Series List](#)

**Alfred Kahn's White House Regulatory Reform Conference Files****Container 74 con't**

Background Papers (Originals) 1/11/80  
Budget/Logistics, 11/79-1/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 10/79-12/3/79  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 12/4/79-12/20/79  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 12/21/79-12/31/79  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 1/2/80-1/10/80

**Container 75**

Correspondence (Follow-up) 1/11/80-1/22/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 1/23/80-1/28/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 1/29/80-2/4/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 2/13/80-2/27/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 2/22/80-5/14/80  
Correspondence (Follow-up) 5/21/80-10/80  
Handouts - Federal Regulatory Reform, 1/11/80  
Handouts - Federal/State/Local Regulatory Relationship, 1/11/80

**Container 76**

Handouts - Health Care Workshop, 1/11/80  
Handouts - Housing Workshop, 1/11/80  
Handouts - Kahn's Opening Remarks, 1/11/80  
Handouts - Occupational Licensing, 1/11/80  
Handouts - President's Remarks, 1/11/80  
Handouts - Program Participant Biographies, 1/11/80

Handouts - Regulatory Process and Procedures, 1/11/80  
Handouts - State and Local Regulatory Reform, 11/80  
Invitation Lists, 11/79-12/79  
Lapore Working File - Participant's Lists, 11/79-12/79  
Literature, 1978-1980 [1]  
Literature, 1978-1980 [2]

### **Container 77**

Literature, 1978-1980 [3]  
Literature, 1978-1980 [4]  
Press Book, 1/11/80  
Press Kit, 1/11/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Ron B. Lewis' Subject Files**

#### **Container 78**

Ammonia, 10/79-6/80  
Autos, 11/79-2/80  
Autos, 3/80-5/80  
Autos, 6/80-10/80  
Bottler's Bill, 6/80  
Cable TV - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 9/79-12/79  
Carcinogens, 7/79-2/80  
Chicago Home Builders, 6/79-7/79  
Chrysler, 11/79-12/79  
Coal Conversion, 4/79-5/10/79

#### **Container 79**

Coal Conversion, 5/14/79-10/79  
Color TV - Special Trade Representative, 4/80-5/80  
Diesels - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 11/79-2/80  
Electrical Standards - Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 5/80-7/80  
Executive Order 12044 - Improving Government Standards, 3/78-7/80  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - Statutory Reform, 7/79  
Food and Drug Regulations, 6/79  
Food Safety Laws Revision, 4/79  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) - Request, 8/79  
Grazing Rights - Bureau of Land Management, 10/79-12/79  
International Trade - General, 11/79-3/80  
Job Applicants, 2/79-4/79

#### **Container 80**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 4/79-10/79  
New Source Performance Standards - EPA [Steam Electric Generating Plants] 11/78 [1]  
New Source Performance Standards - EPA [Steam Electric Generating Plants] 11/78 [2]

New Source Performance Standards - EPA [Steam Electric Generating Plants] 12/78-4/6/79  
New Source Performance Standards - EPA [Steam Electric Generating Plants] 4/20/79-12/79  
Nitrates, 3/77 [1]  
Nitrates, 3/77 [2]

### **Container 81**

Nitrates, 8/78-1/79  
Nitrates, 2/79  
Nitrates, 3/1/79-3/12/79  
Nitrates, 3/13/79-4/79  
Nitrates, 5/1/79-5/17/79  
Nitrates, 5/18/79-6/79  
Porcelain Cookware - Special Trade Representative, 12/79  
Radio Deregulation - FCC, 12/79-4/80

### **Container 82**

Regulatory Analysis Review Group (RARG) 5/78-10/78  
RARG, 11/78-1/79  
RARG, 3/79  
RARG, 10/9/79-10/19/79  
RARG, 10/31/79-12/79  
RARG, 1/80  
RARG, 2/80  
RARG, 3/80-4/80

### **Container 83**

RARG, 6/80-9/12/80  
RARG, 9/16/80-10/80  
RARG - Building Energy Performance, 1/80-6/80  
Regulatory Reform Process, 3/79-4/79  
Steel Industry, 8/78-11/79  
Steel Industry, 12/79  
Steel Industry, 1/80  
Steel Industry, 2/80-3/80  
Steel Industry, 4/80

### **Container 84**

Sugar Policy, 1/79  
Sugar Policy, 2/79-4/79  
Testimony, 2/79-7/79  
Timber Set Aside Program, 4/79  
Transportation Energy Initiatives, 7/79-8/79  
Used Car Regulations - Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 10/76-8/79  
Water Best Conventional Technology, 12/78-2/80  
Water Best Conventional Technology, 3/80-9/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Ron B. Lewis' Chronological Files**

#### **Container 85**

Chronological File, 1/79-3/79  
Chronological File, 4/79-7/79  
Chronological File, 8/79  
Chronological File, 9/79  
Chronological File, 10/79  
Chronological File, 11/79-12/79  
Chronological File, 1/80-2/80  
Chronological File, 3/80-5/80  
Chronological File, 6/80-10/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Steven Kuney's Subject Files**

#### **Container 86**

Bottler's Bill, 10/79-7/80  
Coal Leasing, 5/79-10/79  
Coast Guard - Oil Barge Regulations, 10/79  
Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) Filings - Quick Review, 2/80  
COWPS Filings - Quick Review, 3/80-6/80  
COWPS Filings - Quick Review, 7/80-9/12/80  
COWPS Filings - Quick Review, 9/17/80-10/80

#### **Container 87**

Department of Labor - Service Contract Agreement, 3/80  
Department of Labor - Service Contract Act, n.d.  
Department of Labor - Service Contract Act, 3/80-4/80  
Department of Labor - Service Contract Act, 5/80  
Department of Labor - Service Contract Act, 6/80-9/80  
Department of Transportation (DOT) - Fuel Use Act, 6/79-7/79  
Department of Transportation (DOT) - Windfall Spending Program, 7/79-8/79  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Air Cancer Policy, 1/80

#### **Container 88**

EPA - Carolina Power and Light Company, 1/80  
EPA - Carolina Power and Light Company, 2/80-5/80  
EPA - Central Hudson Gas and Electric Cooling Towers, 8/79-11/79  
EPA - Hydrocarbon and Carbon Monoxide Emissions, 8/80-9/80 [Light Duty Trucks]  
EPA - Ohio Water Quality Filing, 6/79-10/16/79  
EPA - Ohio Water Quality Filing, 10/18/79  
EPA - Railroad Noise, 6/79  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - Cellular Mobile System, 1/80-7/80

### **Container 89**

FCC - Regulation of Non-Dominants, 1/80-3/80  
Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) - Construction Differential Subsidy (CDS) 7/80-8/80  
Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - Congress and Legislative Veto, 12/78-2/80  
FTC - Kroger Case, 6/79-7/79  
FTC - Kroger Case, 8/79  
Handicapped - Filings and Legislation, 7/79-6/80  
Housing - Costs Report, 5/79  
Housing - Initiatives, 5/79-10/79

### **Container 90**

Housing - State and Local Conference, 2/79  
Housing - State and Local Conference, 5/79  
Housing - State and Local Conference, 8/79  
Industrial Policy, 7/79  
Industrial Policy, 1/80-5/80  
Industrial Policy, 6/80-7/80  
Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), Rail Car Service Rules, 6/79-7/79  
ICC - Rail Contract Rates, 1/79-7/80

### **Container 91**

ICC - Rail Market Dominance, 1/80-4/80  
ICC - Southern Motor Carrier Rate Conference (SMRC) 5/79-7/79  
Maritime - Controlled Carrier Reviews, 4/80-8/80  
Maritime - Minor Legislative Matters, 11/79-7/80  
Regulatory Reform - Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) and Regulatory Analysis Review Group (RARG) Functions, 10/77-11/79  
Regulatory Reform - Minutiae Dispatched, 10/78-4/79  
Regulatory Reform - Minutiae Dispatched, 5/79-7/80  
Small Hydros, 5/79-9/80

### **Container 92**

Small Hydros, 10/80  
State and Local - Conferences, 12/78-1/80  
State and Local - Conferences [Printed Material] 4/78-10/79  
State and Local - Insurance, 11/79-3/80  
State and Local - Minutiae, 12/79-3/80  
State and Local - Trucking Deregulation, 1/79-5/79  
State and Local - Trucking Deregulation, 6/79-11/79  
Steel, 7/80-10/80

### **Container 93**

Third Year Standards, 11/78-5/80  
Trade Matters - General, 7/80 [1-2]  
Trade Matters - General, 8/80

Trade Matters - Light Truck Reclassification, 10/79-12/79  
Trade Matters - Light Truck Reclassification, 1/80-5/12/80  
Trade Matters - Light Truck Reclassification, 5/13/80-8/80

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Stewart Gamage's Subject Files**

#### **Container 94**

Small Hydro Power Projects, 7/80-8/11/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 8/19/80-8/31/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 9/2/80-9/11/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 9/12/80-9/21/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 9/22/80-9/25/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 9/26/80-10/8/80  
Small Hydro Power Projects, 10/9/80-1/81

[Return to Series List](#)

### **Betty Ross' Subject Files**

#### **Container 95**

Articles and Appearances, 10/78-12/79  
Articles and Appearances, 1/80-4/80  
Articles and Appearances, 5/80-8/80  
Articles and Appearances, 9/80-11/80  
Biography, n.d.  
[General Information Relating to Interviews and Articles, 2/80-9/80]  
Interviews, 10/78-6/80  
Invitations - Press, 10/78-4/80  
Issues - [Inflation] 3/79-6/80  
Op-ed, 8/80

#### **Container 96**

Press Inquiries, 2/80-6/80  
Press Lists, 7/79  
Speeches - Public Appearances, 11/78-7/79  
Speeches - Public Appearances, 9/79-6/80  
Tape Recordings, 3/79-11/80  
Travel - Press Coverage, 1/79-6/79  
Travel - Press Coverage, 8/79-7/80

[Return to Series List](#)

[Return to collection summary](#)

Last modified: October 2013

## Biographical Information

### **Alfred Kahn**

Alfred E. Kahn was born on October 17, 1917 in Paterson, New Jersey. He received his BA and MA from New York University from 1936-1937. In 1942, he earned his PhD in Economics from Yale University. From 1945-1947, Kahn was Chairman, Department of Economics at Ripon College, and subsequently served as Chairman, Department of Economics at Cornell University from 1947-1974. While at Cornell, Kahn served on the Attorney General's National Committee to Study the Antitrust Laws (1953-1955); he then served on the President's Council of Economic Advisors (1955-1957). He sat on the Economic Advisory Council of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) from 1968-1974. In 1974, he took leave from Cornell University to assume the Chairmanship of the New York Public Service Commission until June of 1977.

On June 10, 1977, he was appointed by President Carter to serve as the Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board. On October 24, 1978, he was appointed by the President to serve as Advisor to the President on Inflation and Chairman of the Council on Wage and Price Stability. He served in these positions through November 1980. He returned to Cornell University as a Professor in Economics.

### **Ron B Lewis**

Ron Lewis was born on August 31, 1940 in Chicago, Illinois. He received his AB from Harvard College in 1962. In 1965, he received his LLB from Harvard Law School. Lewis attended the University of London, London School of Economics from 1965-1966. He worked for the Department of Justice as an Attorney on the Policy Planning Staff in the Anti-Trust Division from 1966-1967. He was Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General from 1968-1969.

From 1969-1972, he worked for the Caplin and Drysdale Law Firm, becoming a full partner in 1972. Lewis served as Alfred Kahn's Deputy Advisor for Regulatory Policies from 1978-1980.

### **Steven R. Kuney**

Steven Kuney earned his BA in economics in 1970 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He received a Masters in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1972. In May of 1978, he earned his JJD and MA in Policy Analysis at the Law School of Public and Urban Policy, University of Pennsylvania. Later, he obtained a position as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Anti-Trust Division in Washington, D.C. He was detailed from the Anti-Trust Division to the Office of Alfred E. Kahn shortly after Kahn's appointment as the Special Advisor on Inflation. He continued to work in Kahn's office through November 1980.

### **Stewart Gamage**

Stewart Gamage served under Alfred Kahn as Special Assistant for Regulatory and State Legislation.

### **Betty Ross**

Betty Ross served as press secretary to Alfred Kahn for the year 1980.