
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:

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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.

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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.


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.