EXIT INTERVIEW WITH DEBORAH SWEANEY,
SUPERVISOR, DATA PROCESSING, WHITE HOUSE
CENTRAL FILES, JANUARY 26, 1979

Interviewed in OEOB 492, at 10:00 A.M. by David Alsobrook of NLC.
Lyndon Flood of NLC prepared the questions and conducted the
research for this interview.

During the summer of 1974, Deborah Sweaney worked as an intern in John
Nesbitt's office in the EOB. She worked with the photograph identifica­
tion project during her internship. After Nixon resigned in August of
1974, she remained briefly with the Nesbitt staff as a temporary employee.
Later Frank Matthews of Central Files interviewed her for a job with his
staff. She began working in Central Files on September 28, 1974. She
will be leaving her White House job for a position as a records manage­
ment consultant with a legal research organization.

Deborah is a native of Missouri and took a B. A. in history from Drake
University in Des Moines, Iowa. Her internship in Nesbitt's office grew
out of a program that Drake sponsors in which students can spend a semester
in Washington. Earlier she had worked on a study of Presidential libraries.
She visited the Truman and Hoover libraries and talked with some of the
staff in central office of Presidential Libraries(including Martin Elzy now
of NLJ). Deborah recently completed an M. A. in Public Administration.

She is very much in favor of computer retrieval systems and is a strong
advocate of their application in the White House and in Presidential Libraries.
She said that she hoped that the future Carter Presidential Library would
be located near a university where the staff could "share" a computer system
of some type.

According to Deborah, the term "Central Files" is a misnomer since each White
House unit maintains its own records. She said that White House units do
not send materials to Central Files on a systematic basis.

Deborah's title is "Supervisor of Data Processing," in Central Files. In the
administrative scheme of things, she reports to Doris Austin, Chief of Central
Reference in Central Files. Yet, Deborah also goes to Frank Matthews with
questions about overall duties of the office. She has worked closely with
Clarence "Biff" Henley in implementing the various computer systems in the
White House. Some of these computer systems are described in some detail
in the attached breakdown). For the past several months, Deborah has super­
vised several ADP keypunch technicians, namely: Diane Richey, Roberta
O'Lare, and Joan Hios. O'Lare will be assuming Deborah's job after today.

During Deborah's tenure in the White House, her office worked closely with
the First Lady's Office(i.e., Rhonda Bush), Presidential Correspondence(with
all of Landon Kite's staff, esp. Pam Zinn, who was involved in MI mail and
special referrals). On one occasion, Ralph Peck of Val Giannini's office
requested a special report on all letters received from Georgia in regard
to the Panama Canal Treaties. Peck had received this job from Betty Rain­
water's office.
According to Deborah, a great deal of discussion has arisen over the computer system and the alpha and subject filing systems. At present, Central Files does cross referencing work between the alpha and subject files. Under the proposed system, such work will cease, and a numerical coding will be substituted for the present subject file designation.

Deborah felt that the use of computers in the White House is a good idea, but that initially, there were some conceptual problems that were not effectively resolved. She also mentioned briefly the tremendous pressure involved in meeting deadlines within the White House.

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