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Records of the Office of the Special Counselor on Inflation: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Office of the Special Counselor on Inflation

Title: Records of the Office of the Special Counselor on Inflation

Dates: 1978-1979

Quantity: 7 linear feet, 5 linear inches, 17 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

Archival Research Catalog (ARC) Identification Number: 591093

Scope and Content:

This collection contains correspondence, memoranda, briefing papers, speeches, polling samples, resumes, and printed matter. The material relates to Strauss' duties as Special Counselor on Inflation. In addition to administrative correspondence, the material includes extensive communications between Strauss and his staff to business and labor leaders. This correspondence contains surveys of their opinions about the Carter administration's inflation program.

Creator Information: Office of the Special Counselor on Inflation

In 1978, Strauss was appointed by President Carter as Special Counselor on Inflation. The office was responsible for the development and implementation of the President's anti-inflation program and organizing and coordinating the government's approach to business and labor on specific wage agreements and price issues. Strauss assisted the President on analyzing the inflationary impact of various proposals and legislation.

[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.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: White House Central Files, Business Economics 4-2 and Federal Government-Organization 6-1-1/Strauss, Robert; White House Central Files, Name File, Strauss, Robert; Domestic Policy Staff, Stu Eizenstat; Office of the Special Adviser on Inflation, Alfred Kahn

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category
Persons: Robert Pender, Irwin Scott, Barry Bosworth

Organizations: Environmental Protection Agency

Subjects: Government regulation, inflation, labor, legislation, finance, business, price regulation

Places: St. Louis, Missouri; Los Angeles, California

Types of Material: Correspondence, memoranda, notes, briefing papers, 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 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. The dates for the remaining series are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Office of the Special Counselor on Inflation are divided into seven series:

Series Title	Series ID (ARC)
Robert Strauss' Business Community Files	591108

Robert Strauss' Labor Files	591197
Robert Strauss' Government Files	591199
Robert Strauss' Program Files	591201
Robert Strauss' Speech Files	591202
Robert Strauss' Correspondence Files	591203
Robert Pender's Files	591204

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Robert Strauss' Business Community Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-2. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, and printed material related to various businesses. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Strauss' Labor Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 3. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, and printed material related to labor. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Strauss' Government Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 4-7. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, and printed material. Topics include civil service reform, inflation, trucking deregulation, veterans, and public works. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Strauss' Program Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 8-11. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains correspondence, memoranda, notes, and printed material related to inflation. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Strauss' Speech Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 12. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains transcripts, memoranda, speeches, back-up material, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Strauss' Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 13-15. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains correspondence to and from Robert Strauss, back-up material, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Robert Pender's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 16-17. This series was opened in April 1992. This series contains transcripts, memoranda, speeches, back-up material, and printed material. Topics include inflation, urban policy, and hospital cost containment. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Return to Series List](#)

Container List

Robert Strauss' Business Community Files

Container 1

American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Economics [O/A 6738] [Empty]
American Petroleum Institute [O/A 6738]
Anti-Trust [O/A 6738]
American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Inflation Program [O/A 6738]
Auto Companies [O/A 6738]
Blumenthal Letters [1] [O/A 6738]
Blumenthal Letters [2] [O/A 6738]
Business Roundtable [O/A 6738]
Commitments on Anti-Inflation [O/A 6738]
Executive Compensation [O/A 6738]
Food Industries [O/A 6738]
Fortune 500 Letters [O/A 6738]

Container 2

Halliburton Company [O/A 6738]
Meat Imports [O/A 6738]
National Association of Homebuilders [O/A 6738]
National Retail Merchants Association [O/A 6738]
National Utility Contractors Association [O/A 6738]
New York Stock Exchange Capital Market Study [O/A 6738]
Railroad Negotiations [O/A 6738]
Responses to Anti-Inflation Program [O/A 6738]
Securities Industries Association [O/A 6738]
Steel Companies [O/A 6738]
Trucking Industry [O/A 6738]
Trucking Association [O/A 6738]
Utilities Industry [O/A 6738]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Strauss' Labor Files

Container 3

Labor - General [O/A 6738]
Labor Law Reform [O/A 6738]
Lumber and Paper Negotiations [O/A 6738]
New York Construction Negotiations [O/A 6738]
Norfolk and Western Strike [O/A 6738]
Postal Negotiations [O/A 6738]
Teamster Negotiations [O/A 6738]

Textile Labor Management Commission [O/A 6738]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Strauss' Government Files

Container 4

Backhaul Bill for Diesel Fuel and Gasoline Conservation [O/A 6739]

Civil Service Reform [O/A 6739]

Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) [1] [O/A 6739]

Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) [2] [O/A 6739]

Energy Bill - Government Legislation [1] [O/A 6739]

Energy Bill - Government Legislation [2] [O/A 6739]

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Motorcycle Noise Regulation [O/A 6739]

EPA - New Source Performance Standards [O/A 6739]

EPA - Public Service Indiana [O/A 6739]

Container 5

Environmental Reorganization - Government [O/A 6739]

Equipment [O/A 6596]

Federal Employee Pay Raise [O/A 6739]

Federal Purchasing [O/A 6739]

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Reform and Inflation [O/A 6739]

Gonzalez Affair - San Antonio Coal [O/A 6739]

Government Legislation - Congress [O/A 6739]

Government Legislation - General [O/A 6739]

Government Printing Office [O/A 6739]

Hospital Cost Containment Bill - Government Legislation [O/A 6739]

Housing Cost Report [O/A 6739]

Inflation Key Documents [O/A 6739]

Inflation Policy [1] [O/A 6739]

Inflation Policy [2] [O/A 6739]

Container 6

National Governors Conference [O/A 6739]

Personnel [O/A 6596]

Postal Reform Act - Government Legislation [O/A 6739]

Public Works Bill - Government Legislation [O/A 6739]

Regulatory Government Reform [O/A 6739]

State and Local Government Anti Inflation Programs and Memoranda [O/A 6739]

Sugar Bill - Government Legislation [O/A 6739]

Surface Transportation - Bill Government Legislation [O/A 6739]

Tax-Based Incomes Policies (TIP) - Senate Banking Testimony [O/A 6739]

Trucking Deregulation [1] [O/A 6739]

Container 7

Records of the Office of the Special Counsel on Inflation

Trucking Deregulation [2] [O/A 6739]
Veteran's Pension Congressional Legislation [O/A 6739]
White Collar Salary Test [O/A 6739]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Strauss' Programs Files

Container 8

Administration Accomplishments - White House Material [O/A 6741]
Anti-Inflation Program [O/A 6740]
Anti-Inflation Outreach Program [O/A 6596]
Background on Inflation [O/A 6596]
Business Brochure on Inflation [O/A6741]
Community Forums and Inflation [O/A 6741]
Consumer Affairs and Esther Peterson [O/A 6740]
Council on Wage and Price Stability Organization Staff [O/A 6740]
Crown, Henry [O/A 6740]
Cutler, Lloyd Suggestions [O/A 6740]
Detroit Inflation Meeting [O/A 6740]
Economic Policy Group [O/A 6740]
Environmentalists and Inflation [O/A 6740]
Fact Sheets and Background on Inflation [O/A 6740]
Finley, Murray Meeting with the President [O/A 6741]
Golden Acres Speech in Dallas, Texas, 6/16/78 [O/A 6740]

Container 9

Hartford Inflation Forum [O/A 6740]
Hartford Inflation Forum Questionnaires [O/A 6596]
Income Policy [O/A 6740] [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Articles and Ideas [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Background Pamphlets [O/A 6741]
Inflation - Calendar [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Clippings and Notes [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Coordination Role [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Form Letters [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Meeting to Be Set Up [O/A 6741]
Inflation - Press Releases [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Program Summaries [1] [O/A 6740]

Container 10

Inflation - Program Summaries [2] [O/A 6740]
Inflation - Speaker's Bureau [O/A 6740]
Kling/Gerson Outreach [O/A 6740]
Los Angeles' Inflation [O/A 6740]
Policy Options [1] [O/A 6741]

Policy Options [2] [O/A 6741]
Policy Options [3] [O/A 6741]
Press and Inflation [O/A 6740]

Container 11

St. Louis Inflation Forum [O/A 6596]
St. Louis Inflation Forum Questionnaire [O/A 6596]
Sector Approach
S. Lee Kling Detroit Economic Club
Weekly Inflation Report
White Paper on Anti-Inflation, 9/10/78
Working Group on Efficiency [O/A 6740]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Strauss' Speech Files

Container 12

Bosworth, Barry - Testimony and Speeches [1] [O/A 6741]
Bosworth, Barry - Testimony and Speeches [2] [O/A 6741]
Harris Polls - Inflation [O/A 6741]
Hospital Cost Containment Speech [O/A 6741]
Inflation Articles [O/A 6741]
Inflation Speeches - General [O/A 6741]
Kling Lee S. - Talking Points to Retailers [O/A 6741]
Meyer and Blumenthal Testimony [O/A 6741]
Public Works Bill Speech [O/A 6741]
Real Wage Insurance Speech [O/A 6741]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Strauss' Correspondence Files

Container 13

Elkins File [O/A 6596]
Non-Strauss Correspondence - Blu-Hes [O/A 6742]
Non-Strauss Correspondence - Kli-Raf [O/A 6742]
Non-Strauss Correspondence - Sa-Z [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - A-Ba [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Be-Ch [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Ci-E [O/A 6742]

Container 14

Strauss Correspondence - Fa-Fo [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Fr-Gu [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Ha-Jo [O/A 6742]

Strauss Correspondence - Ka-Lu [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Ma-No [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Oa-Ru [O/A 6742]

Container 15

Strauss Correspondence - Sa-Sch [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Se-Sw [O/A 6742]
Strauss Correspondence - Ta-Z [O/A 6742]

[Return to Series List](#)

Robert Pender's Subject Files

Container 16

American Automobile Association [O/A 6743]
Administration's Program [O/A 6743]
Apparel Industry [O/A 6743]
Budget Cutback [O/A 6743]
[Carter], Memoranda to the President [O/A 6743]
Consumer Campaign on Inflation and Necessities [1] [O/A 6743]
Consumer Campaign on Inflation and Necessities [2] [O/A 6743]
Consumer Campaign on Inflation and Necessities [3] [O/A 6743]
Congressional Correspondence [O/A 6743]
Davis-Bacon Wage Act [O/A 6743]
Detroit and New Orleans Meetings
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Motorcycle Noise Abatement [O/A 6743]
EPA - New Source Performance Standards [O/A 6743]
Form Letters [O/A 6743]
Fortune 1000 [O/A 6743]
Forum Responses [O/A 6743]
Harris Poll - Inflation [O/A 6743]
Hospital Cost Containment [O/A 6743]
Income Policy [O/A 6743]
Inflation Meeting [O/A 6743]
Inflation Pamphlets and Addresses [O/A 6743]

Container 17

Irwin Scott Suggestion [O/A 6743]
Los Angeles Forum [O/A 6743]
Milwaukee Meeting [O/A 6743]
Outreach [O/A 6743]
Postal and Railroad Correspondence [O/A 6743]
Regulatory Reform [O/A 6743]
Resumes [O/A 6743]
Small Business File [O/A 6743]
St. Louis Forum [O/A 6743]

Talking Points on Inflation [O/A 6743]
Teamsters [O/A 6743]
Travel Agencies [O/A 6743]
Urban Policy Speakers Bureau [O/A 6743]
White Collar Salary Test [O/A 6743]
White House Inflation [O/A 6743]
West Wing Anti-Inflation Meeting [O/A 6743]

[Return to Series List](#)

[Return to Collection Summary](#)

Last modified: 7/2013

Biographical Information

Robert Strauss

Robert Schwarz Strauss was born in Lockhart, Texas, on October 19, 1918. He grew up in Stamford, Texas. Strauss attended the University of Texas at Austin. There he got his first taste of politics when he worked as a clerk at the state capitol in order to support himself at school. In 1937, he worked on the campaign of Lyndon B. Johnson, who was making his first run for elected office. Johnson ran for Congress on a New Deal platform of support for Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1941, Strauss graduated from the University of Texas Law School and joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He worked as a special agent for the FBI until 1945, when he resigned and helped found a law firm—Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. In 1964, he was named president of the Strauss Broadcasting Company.

In 1968, Strauss began his long association with the national Democratic Party when he was appointed by John Connally to the Democratic National Committee. He was to become an important political force in the party for the next 12 years. In 1970, Strauss was elected treasurer of the Democratic National Committee and was charged with reducing the 1968 party debt of \$9,300,000 to manageable proportions. By the end of his tenure in July 1972, Strauss had reduced the debt by one-half, funded the 1972 Democratic National Convention, and placed the credit of the national party on a solid basis. During the 1972 campaign, he served as chairman of the National Committee to re-elect a Democratic Congress.

After the disastrous defeat of Senator George McGovern in 1972, disaffected elements of the Democratic Party representing the old established conservative wing made their bid to regain control of the party structure. Their opening gambit was to challenge Jean Westwood for the party chairmanship. Robert Strauss was their candidate. After an acrimonious, month-long struggle, Strauss was elected Democratic Party chairman, promising to use his talents to bring the party together again.

Strauss began immediately the task of conciliation between the "new" political forces that had emerged in 1972—women, African Americans, and the young—and the "old guard" Democratic establishment of labor, urban machines, and the South. The task was to define a party in which George McGovern, Shirley Chisholm, George Wallace, Mayor Daley, and George Meany could all find a place and contribute towards winning a national election. That he succeeded was evident in 1976 when Jimmy Carter was elected president.

President Carter quickly tapped Strauss to participate in a panel with ten other high level officials to select personnel for the Carter administration. In March 1977, Strauss' own nomination as special representative for trade negotiations was confirmed by the Senate. The post carried with it the rank of ambassador, and Strauss was widely regarded as an excellent choice.

In April 1979, following the Camp David accords, Strauss was named U.S. ambassador-at-large for negotiations on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While his open negotiating manner had been an asset to him on the domestic political scene, Strauss appeared to be less effective in the Middle East. He soon left this post to become chairman of President Carter's reelection committee in November 1979. In consideration of his services to the nation,

Strauss was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the United States, by President Carter in January 1981.

After the defeat of Jimmy Carter, Strauss resumed the practice of law as a partner in his old law firm. In 1983 he was appointed by President Reagan to the Bipartisan Commission on Central America Policy headed by Henry Kissinger. In the 1984 presidential campaign, he was called on to canvass party leaders for advice on behalf of Walter Mondale but played no larger role. He formed a bipartisan committee with Melvin Laird to study the primary system's place in electoral politics in March 1985. Strauss served as United States Ambassador to Russia from 1991-1993 under President George H.W. Bush.