Extent

22 folders, approximately 618 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material dealing with the possible appointment of Felix Rohatyn to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. President Clinton considered the idea of nominating him as Vice Chairman of one of America’s most important financial institutions. In the end, he never put Rohatyn forward as a nominee because of widespread Republican opposition. The collection contains handwritten notes, memoranda, correspondence, speeches, and newspaper articles.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2015-0245-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. Felix Rohatyn, was considered for the position of Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve by the Clinton Administration in 1996. Rohatyn never got formally nominated and he eventually requested that President Clinton remove him from the list of prospective nominees. He would served as the American Ambassador to France from 1997-2000. Making his name as an investment banker, Rohatyn joined the New York office of the firm of Lazard Freres and became a partner in 1961. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alpha File contains correspondence, speeches, handwritten notes, newspaper articles, and memoranda that deal (at least to a limited extent) with the proposed appointment of Felix Rohatyn to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The WHORM-Subject File-General contains memoranda and correspondence related to the possibility of Rohatyn being appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. In a letter Rohatyn asked President Clinton to drop his name from consideration for that post because “my nomination would result in protracted and extraordinarily divisive hearings in which ideological

issues will overwhelm any possibility of rational dialogue.” White House Staff and Office Files contain newspaper articles and court cases regarding Rohatyn (the result of Lexis/Nexis Research) and a speech by Rohatyn in the records of the First Lady’s Press Office. This material covered the period from 1974-1997 and concerned primarily Rohatyn and his appointment as Ambassador to France, the role he played in preventing New York City from descending into bankruptcy, and the potential appointment to the Federal Reserve.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alpha Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, and Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Alpha file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management from 1993 – 1996 and is a series of documents arranged by name of persons, organizations, or events. The WHORM Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. FOIA 2105-0245-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: [BE] [Business – Economics] [FG143] [Federal Reserve System, Board of Governors] [PE002] [Employment – Appointments] [PU] [Publications]

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2015. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2016-06-02

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to 2015-0245-F:

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Alpha File

[Felix Rohatyn] [November 16, 1994] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [September 21, 1995] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [November 9, 1995] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [February 26, 1996] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [August 19, 1996] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [August 21, 1996] [OA/ID 16203]

[Felix Rohatyn] [September 11, 1996] [OA/ID 16203]

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File

Category Case Number

BE 147254SS

[FG143] 151852

PE002 170497

PU 152135

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files

Counsel’s Office

O’Connor, Mike

Rohatyn, Felix [1] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [2] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [3] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [4] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [5] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [6] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [7] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [8] [OA/ID 13635]

Rohatyn, Felix [9] [OA/ID 13635]

First Lady’s Office

Press Office – Finney, Karen

Rohatyn, [Felix] Speech [OA/ID 11104]

Verveer, Melanne

Rohatyn [U.S. Ambassador to France] [OA/ID 20050]