Extent

11 folders, approximately 748 pages

Summary

This collection consists of audio tapes, transcripts and correspondence concerning taped conversations with President Clinton created for the use of White House speechwriters. It contains audio cassette tapes containing recordings of President Clinton conversing with speechwriting advisers and practicing his upcoming 1998 State of the Union address. This collection also consists of emailed correspondence concerning taped speech preparation meetings with the President of the United States and transcriptions of those meetings. Email correspondence includes transcriptions of speech preparation for 1997 Inaugural Speech, 1997, State of the Union (SOTU), and an unidentified 1998 speech, 1999 SOTU, and 2000 SOTU.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2014-0496-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about additional related materials. FOIA 2014-0496-F concerns audio tapes, transcripts and correspondence concerning taped conversations with President Clinton created for the use of White House speechwriters. Records include emailed correspondence concerning taped speech preparation meetings with the President of the United States and transcriptions of “speech prep” meetings. Emailed correspondence contains transcriptions of speech preparation for 1997 Inaugural Speech, 1997, State of the Union (SOTU), and an unidentified 1998 speech, 1999 SOTU, and 2000 SOTU. Responsive records also include three audio cassette tapes. The first of three audio cassettes in this collection is labeled: “1:24pm 457 F1.” This audio cassette contains a recording of President Clinton conversing with speechwriting advisers and practicing his upcoming 1998 State of the Union address. The second audio cassette is labeled: “SOTU 1/26/98.” This audio cassette contains a recording of President

Clinton conversing with speechwriting advisers and practicing his upcoming 1998 State of the Union address. The third cassette is labeled on both sides of the cassette: Side A is labeled “SOTU 1/26/97 (Blank ?),” and Side B is labeled: “SOTU 1/26/98.” Side A contains a recording of a staffer, approximately 4 seconds in length, and the rest of the side is ambient noise. Side B contains a recording of President Clinton conversing with speechwriting advisers and practicing his upcoming 1998 State of the Union address. Though the records include transcriptions of audio tapes containing “speech prep” between the speech writing staff and the President, not all of the audio tapes are found in the archival collection at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) addressed this issue after releasing a transcribed audio recording of 1999 State of the Union “speech prep” meeting. NARA stated that “The creation of this particular audio tape, its use, and any transcription [aides] chose to make were all done by White House staff prior to the transfer of Clinton Presidential records to NARA, and as such we simply don’t know much more than what can be found by searching the holdings as our Archival staff has done.”

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collections areas— Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files; and Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS database is comprised of six sub-series of email records called "buckets." The buckets generally represent a specific White House office. The buckets are titled: NPR for National Performance Review, OPD for Office of Policy Development, POTUS for President of the United States, WHO for White House Office, CEA for Council of Economic Advisers, and Default for emails not

associated with an office. The WHO bucket contains email created or received by individual with an Executive Office of the President White House user account not identified as CEA, NPR, or OPD. ARMS emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date.

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, 2014. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released

Last Modified Date

2016-07-15

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2014-0496-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Speechwriting
Tamagni, Jordan
[Audio Cassette Tapes] [OA/ID 14675]
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Gottheimer, Tape, Transcript]
[01/06/1999 – 01/24/2000]
[01/24/2000 – 01/25/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Gottheimer, Tape, Transcript]
[02/08/2000] [1]
[02/08/2000] [2]
[03/01/2000 – 08/02/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Hurlburt, Tape, Transcript]
[01/11/1999 – 08/04/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Shesol, Tape, Transcript]
[01/11/1999 – 08/04/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Shih, Tape, Transcript]
[05/11/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Silver, Tape, Transcript]
[08/09/2000 – 08/10/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Tamagni, Tape, Transcript]
[01/09/1997 – 09/16/1999]

WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Waldman, Tape, Transcript]
[01/31/1997 – 01/11/1999]