Extent

10 folders, approximately 339 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material from White House Staff and Office files with any reference to Larry Ellison, Chief Executive Officer of Oracle. It contains correspondence, testimony, memoranda, newspaper articles, press releases, schedules, reports, drafts, and report summaries.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in 2018-0016-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. White House Staff and Office files responsive to this FOIA request derive from the records of the Chief of Staff, Cabinet Affairs, and Public Liaison. In the files of the Chief of Staff there is correspondence, testimony, memoranda, newspaper articles, and lists that all have to do with the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) as it related to the sale of computer software overseas. In 1997, the Clinton Administration passed a Taxpayers Relief Act which included a clarification on the FSC. Ellison wrote a letter to John Podesta in which he congratulated him on his efforts to get the legislation through Congress. He declared, “With the clarification of the Foreign Sales Corporation benefits for software, U.S. software companies will be afforded the same tax treatment as is available to all other U.S. exporters. These benefits will enable U.S. software companies to better compete abroad. . .” Included in the remaining material is a lengthy letter from Ellison to President Clinton pointing out that Treasury seemed determined to continue the present discriminatory policy despite the opposition of the Department of Commerce and over members of Congress. He ended by saying, “Treasury seems determined to single out software for discriminating treatment. There is no rational basis for this action. There is no logical defense of it. It is bad policy and bad politics.” Cabinet Affairs contains

memoranda, fax cover sheets, press releases, newspaper articles, schedules, and reports concerning the efforts of Ellison and Oracle to get a videotaped message from President Clinton in support of the company's program to get network computers into the hands of children in low income schools. Specifically, Ellison was scheduled to inaugurate Oracle's Promise school sites at three locations in the Los Angeles area on September 20, 1997. Oracle even provided a script for the occasion. In the opening paragraph, the President made the following remarks: "Larry, it is my pleasure to join with so many Americans—in Los Angeles and throughout the country—in thanking you and Oracle Corporation for your $100 million commitment to provide network computers in every classroom in every public school in the nation." Many of the memoranda and press releases originated with Oracle as he promoted his pledge of putting network computers into schools all over the United States. Public Liaison includes a report entitled "California Alliance for Software Exports (CASE)" with a further breakdown under the heading of "Briefing Materials—Foreign Sales Corporations." Within this document different types of records can be found: press releases, summaries, correspondence, and drafts. The highlight of the package is a letter from 150 California technology executives to President Clinton. They call for equal treatment under the present law. Their overriding concern was for the Treasury Department to modify the 1987 temporary rules "to include software exports and end this discrimination so that U.S. software companies can continue to create high skill, wage jobs for California."

Biographical Note

Larry Ellison, a native of Chicago, got his start in 1977 when he co-founded Software Development Laboratories. For a period of two years Ellison and his partners worked on a project called "Oracle". From there they formed Relational Software Inc. in 1979; three years later, in 1982, the company changed its name and became Oracle Systems Corporation.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in this collection area—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. Staff and Office files are maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. 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 not wholly responsive to the subject area.

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 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.

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2017. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-12-21

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of folders processed in response to 2018-0016-F:

Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Chief of Staff
Ickes, Harold
Oracle Corporation – General [OA/ID 9176]
Oracle – General [OA/ID 9157]
Middleton, Mark
Oracle [empty] [OA/ID 4510]
Podesta, John
[Folder #2] [August 19, 1997 – Incoming Letter from Larry Ellison to John Podesta Thanking Him for His Help on the Foreign Sales Corporation Clarification Recently Included in the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997] [OA/ID 11234]
Cabinet Affairs
Martinez, Irma
Oracle Corporation [loose VHS] [OA/ID 16785]
Silverman, Stephen
Oracle [1] [OA/ID 11409]
Oracle [2] [OA/ID 11409]
Oracle [3] [OA/ID 11409]
Public Liaison

Subject Files
Oracle Corp. [OA/ID 14433]
Scheduling Office
Streett, Stephanie
248283 [Larry Ellison] [OA/ID 10208]

Content Available Online