Extent

566 folders, approximately 24,076 pages, 2 electronic files

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Presidential Fast Track Trade Authority, which is the common name for the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). It contains memoranda, correspondence, emails, briefing papers, handwritten notes, lists, schedules, speeches, reports, talking points, press releases, and news articles. It also contains memoranda and correspondence related to administration attempts to regain the authority after it expired in 1994

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2017-0401-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. This Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was for all unclassified textual records related to Fast Track trade authority granted to the President under the Trade Act of 1974. This collection contains memoranda, correspondence, emails, briefing papers, handwritten notes, lists, schedules, speeches, reports, talking points, press releases, and news articles. It also contains memoranda and correspondence related to administration attempts to regain the authority after it expired in 1994. The collection includes administrative paperwork, emails, and drafts. The collection also contains two 3½“ diskettes, which consists mostly of questions and answers regarding Fast Track. The materials from these diskettes have been processed electronically and are available for research in and electronic format.

Biographical Note

Fast Track trade authority is the common name for the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA is a legislative procedure that was written by the United States Congress. It allows the administration to negotiate trade agreements without any interference. Congress first gave expanded trade agreements authority to the President under the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1934 (RTAA). Under the RTAA the President was given the authority to reduce tariffs within limits set by Congress. Congress continued to give limited and specific authorities to the President through the end of the 1963-1967 round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT negotiations in 1963-1967 revealed that modern trade discussions were increasingly multilateral trade negotiations. These negotiations often focused on non-tariff barrier rules—rules of trade not related to tariffs such as antidumping agreements, customs valuation, import/export quotas, subsidies and the like. In looking toward a way to address this increase in non-tariff negotiations Congress also realized that nontrade policies might have a detrimental impact on foreign trade. Domestic economic forces in 1973-1974 encouraged the Congress to look to any solution that might increase trade and improve the economy. As a result Congress passed the Trade Act of 1974. The Trade Act of 1974 was groundbreaking legislation. In the act Congress delegated to the President the authority to negotiate non-tariff trade issues. Congress however did limit the President to negotiations with specific countries or on specific non-tariff issues. Following negotiation with Congressional advisory committees the President could bring a finalized trade agreement before Congress and get a vote without amendment or filibuster. These fast track authorities, as they came to be called, were renewed a number of times for specific trade negotiations. The final extension was under House Resolution 1876 (Public Law 103-49) that extended the fast track authority of the President to April 16, 1994. This extension was made to close out the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of GATT. Though the Uruguay Round failed to close in April 1994 Congress did not extend the authority. President Clinton’s administration would try in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 1999 to gain a new fast track authority. In 1997, Congress brought a bill to the floor but it failed to pass. Fast Track authority would not again be given to the President until the passage of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002.

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) Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files CF, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM (OP) 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 Subject file was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. In addition, there are WHORM (OP). 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 2017-0401-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: BE004 Business – Economics: National Economy CM003-02 Commodities: Coal CO001-08 Countries: North America CO001-09 Countries: South America – Central and Latin America CO008 Countries: Argentine Republic (Argentina) CO037 Countries: Chile CO038 Countries: China FG Federal Government – Organizations FG001 Federal Government – Organizations: President of the United States FG001-07 Federal Government – Organizations: Appointments Granted – Presidential FG001-08 Federal Government – Organizations: Presidential Telephone Calls FG006-10 Federal Government – Organizations: USTR, Office of FG031 Federal Government – Organizations: Congress of the United States FG038 Federal Government – Organizations: Vice President HE Health IT012 International Organizations: General Agreement of Tariff and Trade (GATT) IT086 International Organizations: Secretariat, United Nations IV097 Invitations LA002 Labor Management (Non – Government): Conditions – Employment— Unemployment PL005-02 Political Affairs: Democratic Party PR012 Public Relations: Petitions – Resolutions – Multiple Signatures PR013-08 Public Relations: Opinions – Statements – Questionnaires – Articles PU001-07 Publications: Clippings Viewed by the President SC Sciences SP230-98 Speeches: State of the Union, 1998 SP297-56 Speeches: Draft Legislation Export Expansion &

Reciprocal Trade Agree Act 97 SP400 Speeches: Radio Addresses SP1153 Speeches: Address to the House Democratic Caucus, The Capitol, 09/16/97 TA Trade TA003 Trade: Exports TA005 Trade: Trade Agreements WE Welfare.

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, 2019. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2019-03-26

Container List

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

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2017-0401-F:

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Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM): Subject
Files
Category Case Number
BE004 199164
CM003-02 237420
CO001-08 203597
CO001-08 209640
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CO001-09 241559
CO008 264155
CO037 063727
CO037 131526SS
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PR012 279495
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PR013-08 284300SS
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PU001-07 119804 [WJS, Decision on Fast Track for GATT to come soon]
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219047 [Fast Track Authority]
237854 [Support for Executive Fast Track Negotiating Authority]
239431 [Fast Track Authority]
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Hubbard, Katherine Bibb
Fast Track [OA/ID 13185]
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Bowles, Erskine
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[Agriculture Coalition for Fast Track Edna Lake] 249185 Folder #2 [OA/ID 10843]
[Agriculture for Fast Track] 268825 Folder #2 [OA/ID 11836]
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Fast Track Recommendations – Sam M. Gibbons 12/09/97 [December 9, 1997]
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[Fax to Kevin Moran from Jane von Kaenel – Reference her Fast Track Work –
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5, 1998] [loose] [OA/ID 15110]

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[Agenda for Fast Track Coalition Meeting with Colorado Delegation – October 22, 1997]
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Clinton sees Fast-Track Victory, Commerce Across Americas – October 14, 1997]
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[Contra Costa Newspapers Inc.: Fast Track for President – September 2, 1997]
[loose]
[OA/ID 13863]
[Democratic Leadership Council Fights Back with Fast Track Ads – October 21, 1997]
[loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Draft – President William J. Clinton Statement on Fast Track, The White House – November 10, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Fast Track Historical Background – October 23, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
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On Fast Track – October 24, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
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By Jay Berman] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Fax from Jane von Kaenel to Bill Johnstone/Senator Max Cleland – Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Fax from Lara Battles to Jane von Kaenel – Regarding Fast Track – October 22, 1997]

[loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Fax from Lara M. Battles to Jane von Kaenel – A copy of Congressman Skelton's Letter
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[Journal of Commerce – Clinton see Deferring to GOP in Order to Stay on Fast Track – September 8, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Latino Members of Congress Disappointed in President's Proposed Fast Track Bill – September 16, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
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[Memorandum – To: America Leads on Trade Coalition Members – From: James T. Christy – Re: Fast Track Alert – Speaker Gingrich's Challenge – November 3, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Memorandum – To: Fast Track Business Leaders – From: David Hirschmann, Stephen
Jordan, Mary Irace – Re: Hill Visits for Fast Track – November 3, 1997]
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[National Journal's Congress Daily – Status of Fast Track – September 29, 1997]

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[Press Briefing by Mike McCurry RE: Fast Track – August 7, 1997] [loose]
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[RSVP [Répondez S'il Vous Plaît] – Fast Track Campaign – November 4, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Special Issue: Latino Review of NAFTA [North America Free Trade Agreement] de las Americas – August 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Staff Analysis – Republican Fast Track Proposal – "Reciprocal Trade Agreement Authorities Act of 1997" H.R. 2621 – October 8, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Statement by Congressman George Miller on Renewal of Fast Track Authority – September 16, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Statement of Chairman Bill Archer from Way and Means RE: Fast Track – October 6, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Statement of U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (Democrat – West Virginia) Supporting Renewal of Fast Track Authority – September 17, 1997] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
[Statement of U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, Senate Finance Committee Hearing, Fast Track
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[Support the Senate Finance Committee's Bipartisan approach to Fast-Track and Trade
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[The United States Trade Agenda: What is Fast Track For] [loose] [OA/ID 13863]
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Spector, Stacie
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