Extent

53 folders, approximately 3,943 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records from the National Security Council and other textual records concerning the Fast Track trade authority granted to the President under the Trade Act of 1974. It contains memoranda, correspondence, briefing papers, press releases, vote whip counts, talking points and press clippings related to the use of the authority and to the congressional debate on the granting of the authority. The collection also includes administrative paperwork, emails, and legislative drafts.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2017-0396-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 records from the National Security Council and CF (Confidential) textual records. Specifically the request was for a subject line search of all records related to the Fast Track trade authority granted to the President under the Trade Act of 1974. This collection contains memoranda, correspondence, briefing papers, press releases, vote whip counts, talking points and press clippings related to the use of the authority and to the congressional debate on the granting of the authority. The collection also includes administrative paperwork, emails, and drafts. Fast Track trade authority is the common name for the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). Trade Promotion Authority is the delegation by the United States Congress of their constitutional authorities to regulate trade matters to the President. Congress first gave expanded trade agreement 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 this collection area—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their

individual offices and document all levels of administration activity.

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

2019-06-26

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2017-0396-F:

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files

National Economic Council

Brainard, Lael

Fast Track - 1997 [OA/ID CF 1187]

Fast Track Commitments 1998 [OA/ID CF 1360]

Fast Track – Labor & Environment [OA/ID CF 1360]

Tarullo, Daniel

Fast Track [OA/ID CF 1007]

Tyson, Laura

Fast Track [OA/ID CF 717]

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (continued)

National Security Council

International Economic Affairs

Hendricks, Lori

Fast Track [OA/ID 2139]

Samans, Richard

Fast Track [1] [OA/ID 3943]

Fast Track [2] [OA/ID 3943]

Fast Track / Trade Agenda [1] [OA/ID 3940]

Fast Track / Trade Agenda [2] [OA/ID 3940]

Legislative Affairs

Davis, William

Fast Track [1] [OA/ID 957]

Box 2

Fast Track [2] [OA/ID 957]

Fast Track [3] [OA/ID 957]

Fast Track [4] [OA/ID 957]

Office of Press and Communications

Gobush, Matthew

Fast Track – Administration Supporting Statements, August 1997 [OA/ID 3303]

Fast Track – Berger Press Briefing, September 10, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]

Fast Track – Endorsements, September 1997 [OA/ID 3303]

Fast Track – Post Vote Themes & Talking Points, November 1997 [OA/ID 3303]

Fast Track – Pundits Briefing, September 9, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track – Q & A's, September 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track – Rollout Amplification, September 9, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track – Statement of Administration Policy, August 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track – Transmittal Letter. September 15, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track & American Leadership, October 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Bill, September 15, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Calendar [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Communications Plan, August 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Endorsement Event, October 7, 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Polling, August 1997 [1] [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Polling, August 1997 [2] [OA/ID 3303]
Box 3
Fast Track Press Clips, August 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Strategy Memos, July 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Talking Points, April 1997 [1] [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Talking Points, April 1997 [2] [OA/ID 3303]
Fast Track Talking Points, November 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Gephardt on Fast Track, September 1997 [OA/ID 3303]
Leavy, David
Fast Track [1] [OA/ID 1285]
Fast Track [2] [OA/ID 1285]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (continued)
National Security Council
Speechwriting
Benjamin, Daniel
Fast Track Radio Address 8/23/97 [OA/ID 1856]
Blinken, Antony
Fast Track – Kick Off Event Speech 9/10/97 [OA/ID 3389]
Fast Track – Kick Off Event Speeches 9/10/97 [OA/ID 3389]
Fast Track Radio Address 8/97 [OA/ID 3389]
Box 4
Special Envoy for the Americas
Farnsworth, Eric
May 1997 Thru June 1998: Fast Track / Trade Issues [1] [OA/ID CF 1047]
May 1997 Thru June 1998: Fast Track / Trade Issues [2] [OA/ID CF 1047]
Lesmez, Daniel

Fast Track Endorsements [OA/ID CF 1046]
Fast Track Legislation [OA/ID CF 1046]
Fast Track Roll Out & Op Eds [CF 1046]
Fast Track Strategy [OA/ID CF 1046]
Fast Track Success Stories [OA/ID CF 1046]
McLarty, Thomas (Mack)
Fast Track: Fast Track Trade [1] [OA/ID CF 1044]
Box 5
Fast Track: Fast Track Trade [2] [OA/ID CF 1044]
Fast Track: Fast Track Trade [3] [OA/ID CF 1044]
Fast Track: NAFTA Review [OA/ID CF 1044]