

Extent

142 folders, approximately 5,627 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records relating to the 1996 State of the Union Address. The collection contains information and statistics submitted by various government departments and working groups, suggested themes, research materials, lists of potential SOTU guests, speech drafts, responses to the SOTU, correspondence, media outreach planning, news clippings, and photocopies of signed covers of the SOTU sent to information contributors, members of the legislature, and supporters.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2020-0810-F (Seg 2) are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. This collection contains information and statistics submitted by various government departments and working groups, suggested themes, research materials, lists of potential SOTU guests, speech drafts, responses to the SOTU, correspondence, media outreach planning, news clippings, and photocopies of signed covers of the SOTU sent to information contributors, members of the legislature, and supporters.

Biographical Note

Article II, Section 3, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that the President “shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.” For much of the nation’s history, this presentation was known as the President’s Annual Message to Congress; it wasn’t until 1947 that “the State of the

Union” (SOTU) became the more commonly used name. Each year, the House of Representatives and the Senate both pass a resolution setting a time and date for the address and issue an invitation to the President for that time. Since the 1930s, the address has typically been scheduled in either late January or early February, though outliers exist. Preparations for the President’s speech begin months in advance, with various departments compiling research and statistics for working groups who construct the general theme, outline, and specific wording of the message.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— 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. In addition, there are WHORM, WHORM Counsel, WHORM (CL), WHORM (OP), WHORM (Too Late); WHORM (Various Offices); and WHORM (Alpha Project) series. Staff and Office files were 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 that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. FOIA 2020-0810-F (Seg. 2) includes WHORM records from these subject codes: SP230 State of the Union SP230-96 State of the Union, 1996.

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, 2023. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2023-09-26

Related Collections

Other materials relevant to the topic of this FOIA can be found in the following previously opened FOIA cases: 2006-0458-F Don Baer, Speechwriter; 2006-0459-F Antony Blinken, NSC Speechwriter; 2006-0461-F Carolyn Curiel, Speechwriter; 2006-0466-F Jonathan Price, Speechwriter; 2006-0469-F (Seg. 2) Michael Waldman, Speechwriter; 2010-0198-S Carol Rasco Meetings, Trips, Events Series, Domestic Policy Council; 2011-0255-S, Gaynor McCown, Domestic Policy Council; 2011-0299-S Bruce Reed Press Series, Domestic Policy Council; 2012-0726-S Deanne Benos Subject File, Domestic Policy Council; 2013-0968-S Michael Schmidt, Domestic Policy Council; 2014-0209-S Jennifer Klein, Domestic Policy Council; 2015-0734-S Karen Finney, Press Office, First Lady's Office; 2016-0666-S General Files, Speechwriting; 2017-0138-S Gabrielle Bushman, Speechwriter; and 2019-0774-S Todd Stern, Staff Secretary.

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2020-0810-F (Seg. 2):

Box 1

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File

Category Case Number

SP230 145629

SP230 194154

SP230-96 [1996 SOTU Congratulatory Notes]

SP230-96 144424SS

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File (continued)

Category Case Number

SP230-96 144691SS [1]

SP230-96 144691SS [2]

SP230-96 145195SS

SP230-96 145501SS

SP230-96 145766SS

SP230-96 146155SS

SP230-96 146508SS

SP230-96 146541SS

SP230-96 146569SS

SP230-96 146571SS
SP230-96 146917SS
SP230-96 147200SS
SP230-96 147643
SP230-96 147685SS
SP230-96 147891SS
SP230-96 148064
SP230-96 148372
SP230-96 148385
SP230-96 148647SS
SP230-96 148712SS [1]
SP230-96 148712SS [2]
Box 2
SP230-96 148712SS [3]
SP230-96 149043
SP230-96 149085
SP230-96 149095
SP230-96 149207
SP230-96 149210
SP230-96 149213
SP230-96 149359SS
SP230-96 149360SS
SP230-96 149433SS
SP230-96 149516
SP230-96 149550SS
SP230-96 149698CU
SP230-96 149734
SP230-96 149738
SP230-96 149743
SP230-96 149907
SP230-96 150091SS
SP230-96 150110SS
SP230-96 150119
SP230-96 150124
SP230-96 150392
SP230-96 150414

Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File (continued)

Category Case Number

SP230-96 150434
SP230-96 150982
SP230-96 151293
SP230-96 151338
SP230-96 151515
SP230-96 151592
SP230-96 151609SS
SP230-96 151631
SP230-96 151643
SP230-96 151677
SP230-96 152149
SP230-96 152294
SP230-96 152363
SP230-96 152553
SP230-96 153372
SP230-96 153705
SP230-96 153730
SP230-96 153784
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SP230-96 154381
SP230-96 154814
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SP230-96 157031
SP230-96 157832
SP230-96 159622
SP230-96 162921
SP230-96 163560
SP230-96 164206
SP230-96 164213
SP230-96 164216
SP230-96 168686

SP230-96 171342

SP230-96 271435 [1]

SP230-96 271435 [2]

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files

Cabinet Affairs

Balderston, Kris

[Memo for Agency Chiefs of Staff re: State of the Union Amplification] [1996] [loose]
[OA/ID 13177]

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

Cabinet Affairs

Balderston, Kris

[Memo for the President re: State of the Union Communications Plan [loose]
[OA/ID 13177]

[Memo re: State of the Union Address Roll-out] [1996] [loose] [OA/ID 13177]

[Memo re: State of the Union Follow-Through] [1996] [loose] [OA/ID 13177]

[Memo re: State of the Union process] [1996] [OA/ID 13177]

State of the Union [1996] [OA/ID 13177]

Higgins, Kitty

Box 2, Folder 2: [State of the Union - December 11, 1995-January 20, 1996] [1]
[OA/ID

7269]

Box 2, Folder 2: [State of the Union - December 11, 1995-January 20, 1996] [2]
[OA/ID

7269]

Box 4

Box 2, Folder 2: [State of the Union - December 11, 1995-January 20, 1996] [3]
[OA/ID

7269]

Inadomi, LeeAnn

State of the Union [1996] [1] [OA/ID 7257]

State of the Union [1996] [2] [OA/ID 7257]

State of the Union [1996] [3] [OA/ID 7257]

State of the Union [1996] [4] [OA/ID 7257]

Silverman, Stephen

SOU [State of the Union] - Seven Challenges [1996] [OA/ID 11409]

Chief of Staff

Bobowick, Tracy

[America's Challenge: Background on President Clinton's State of the Union Address to Congress - January 23, 1996] [OA/ID 11944]
King, Angus
Action on SOTU [State of the Union] Policies [1996] [OA/ID 10038]
Lieberman, Evelyn
State of the Union [1996] [OA/ID 8501]
Box 5
O'Conner, Jennifer
1996 State of the Union [OA/ID 8164]
Panetta, Leon; Bowles, Erskine
[January 23, 1996 - President William Jefferson Clinton - State of the Union Address] [loose] [OA/ID 15115]
Radd, Victoria
Communications Office I: [1996 State of the Union] [OA/ID 11021]
Communications Office II: [1996 State of the Union] [OA/ID 11021]
Communications Office II: [1996 State of the Union] - Scheduling [OA/ID 11021]
Communications Office II: SOTU [State of the Union] Roll-Out [OA/ID 11021]
Communications Office III: [1996 State of the Union] [OA/ID 11021]
SOTU [State of the Union] - Themes/Schedules [1996] [OA/ID 9473]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files (continued)
Chief of Staff
Stephanopoulos, George
President William J. Clinton - State of the Union - January 23, 1996 [OA/ID 8032]
Communications
General Files
Republican Responses on State of the Union - 1996 [OA/ID 11829]
Walker, Ann
SOTU [State of the Union] 1996 [OA/ID 11808]
Council of Economic Advisers
Munnell, Alicia
Budget: State of the Union Address, January 1996 [OA/ID 10100]
Stiglitz, Joseph
State of the Union (1996) [OA/ID 9540]
Counsel's Office
Wallman, Kathleen
State of the Union - 1996 [OA/ID 7946]

Domestic Policy Council

Burke, Dennis

State of the Union 96 [1] [OA/ID 9829]

Box 6

State of the Union 96 [2] [OA/ID 9829]

Legislative Affairs

Kountoupes, Lisa

SOTU [State of the Union] 1/23/1996 [OA/ID 19217]

Subject Files

[1996 State of the Union Address] [loose] OA/ID 11142]

State of the Union Talking Points 1996 [OA/ID 18361]

Management and Administration

Rutledge, Andrea

[1996 State of the Union] [OA/ID 10873]

National Economic Council

Dorval, Chris

Media Report 1/18/96 - 1/25/96: State of the Union Tyson Media Report [OA/ID 8943]

State of the Union [January 23, 1996] [OA/ID 8942]

Sperling, Gene

State of the Union Statistics [January 23, 1996] [binder] [1] [OA/ID 9251]

State of the Union Statistics [January 23, 1996] [binder] [2] [OA/ID 9251]

Subject Files

1/23/1996 State of the Union [binder] [1] [OA/ID 15085]

1/23/1996 State of the Union [binder] [2] [OA/ID 15085]

State of the Union 1996 [OA/ID 8471]

Box 7

Tseng, David

SOTU [State of the Union] 1996 [OA/ID 15044]

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

Press Secretary

Engebretsen, Jenni

State of the Union 1993 - 1996 [OA/ID 21375]

Public Liaison

Matsui, Doris

State of the Union 1/23/1996 [OA/ID 8445]

Stanek, Christine

State of the Union January 1996 [OA/ID 18261]

Subject Files

1/19/96 DC Reps Briefing - OPL [Office of Public Liaison] State of the Union [OA/ID 14432]

Wayne, Christopher

State of the Union: Conference Call - State of the Union [1996] [OA/ID 6601]

State of the Union: State of the Union [1996] [OA/ID 6601]

White, Bill

State of the Union - Disability [1996] [OA/ID 20999]

Woolley, Barbara

Budget & State of the Union [1996] [1] [OA/ID 23689]

Budget & State of the Union [1996] [2] [OA/ID 23689]

State of the Union - Seniors [1996] [OA/ID 18049]

Women's Initiative And Outreach

General Files

'96 State Validators for State of the Union [OA/ID 24076]