## 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**

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

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2020-0810-F Segment 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| SP230-96 | 153785 |
| SP230-96 | 153798 |
| SP230-96 | 154048 |
| SP230-96 | 154051 |
| SP230-96 | 154381 |
| SP230-96 | 154814 |

**Box 3**

| | |
|---|---|
| SP230-96 | 155201 |
| SP230-96 | 155540 |
| 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]

[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]

**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]

**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]

Content Available Online