Extent

2 SRLs, 180 assets

Summary

This collection consists of records related to Orenthal James "O.J." Simpson. The electronic records responsive to this request came from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) and the Tape Restoration Project (TRP). Records to be opened include emails between White House staffers, USIA media reports of international news coverage, and interview transcripts.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2024-0529-F (Segment 1) are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. The researcher submitted a request for electronic records related to Orenthal James “O.J.” Simpson. On June 13, 1994, Mr. Simpson’s former spouse, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her acquaintance, Ronald Goldman, were found brutally murdered outside Ms. Simpson’s condo in Brentwood, an affluent neighborhood in Los Angeles, California. Following a police investigation, Mr. Simpson was charged with two counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances. Mr. Simpson’s attorneys arranged for him to turn himself in to the Los Angeles Police Department on the morning of June 17, 1994. Rather than doing so, Mr. Simpson led police on a low-speed chase down the 405 Freeway through Los Angeles, driven by his longtime friend Al “AC” Cowlings in Mr. Cowlings’ white 1993 Ford Bronco. According to the New York Times, the hours-long chase was shown live on “nearly every television network, even pre-empting the N.B.A. Finals.”1 The subsequent criminal trial was presided over by 1 Mather, Victor. “The Life of O.J. Simpson: A Timeline.” The New York Times, 11 April 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/11/us/oj-simpson-timeline.html. Accessed 31 July 2024. 2 Judge Lance Ito and was broadcast live daily for its duration, nearly nine months. It has been dubbed “the trial of the century” for the way it gripped national

attention and even received widespread international publicity. In October 1995, after less than four hours of deliberation, a jury found Mr. Simpson “not guilty,” and he was acquitted of the charges. In 1997, a civil case was brought against Mr. Simpson by the parents of Ms. Simpson and Mr. Goldman, and a jury found Mr. Simpson liable in the wrongful-death lawsuit. Prior to the events of the 1990s, Mr. Simpson, often referred to by his nickname “The Juice” or just “Juice,” was an American athlete, media personality, and actor. He was a star running back at the University of Southern California in the 1960s, where he won the Heisman Trophy his senior year. In 1969, he was drafted first overall to the Buffalo Bills of New York. He spent his last two seasons as a professional athlete with the San Francisco 49ers before retiring in 1979 to pursue acting full time. His on-camera career included sports commentary, commercials for companies such as Hertz and Chevrolet, and TV/films such as The Naked Gun trilogy and Roots. Mr. Simpson was arrested again in 2008, on charges of armed robbery and kidnapping following an incident in Las Vegas in 2007. He was found guilty & ultimately served nine years of a 33-year sentence in prison. He was granted parole in 2017 and then granted an early discharge from parole for good behavior in December 2021. Mr. Simpson passed away at the age of 76, on April 10, 2024, after a battle with cancer. Materials responsive to this FOIA request primarily include emails between White House staffers sharing information and discussing the O.J. Simpson arrest and trial. There are also USIA media reports of international news coverage regarding O.J. Simpson and transcripts of interviews with President Clinton where he discusses the O.J. Simpson trial or race relations stemming from the trial.

Record Type

Electronic Records

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— Clinton Presidential Records: (SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] & (SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email]. The Executive Office of the President (EOP) subsystem of the Electronic Records Archive (ERA) contains electronic records created or received by Clinton Administration officials. These

records are stored in Search and Access Sets (SAS) that represent their originating computer program. Search strings are used to locate records responsive to FOIA requests, and responsive assets are placed into Search Results Lists (SRLs). Depending on the complexity of the search, there may be multiple SRLs within each SAS. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database that contains restored emails from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) from July 1994 through June of 2000. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email.

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, 2024. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2024-07-31

Container List

The following Search and Access Sets were processed in response to FOIA 2024-0529-F (Segment 1):
Clinton Presidential Records: EOP ERA Search and Access Sets (SAS)
(SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] contains 175 assets.
(SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email] contains 5 assets.