Extent

34 Folders, approximately 600 pages

Summary

This collection consists of correspondence between President Clinton and Congress and memoranda to and from President Clinton on labor standards and minimum wage laws in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The files contain correspondence, memoranda, email, and press reports.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2006-0167-F are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA request 2006-0201-F contains materials from a small group of agencies, including Intergovernmental Affairs and Legislative Affairs. The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is a chain of Islands that came under the control of the United States after their capture from Japan during World War II. In 1975, residents of the Northern Mariana Islands voted to enter into political union with the United States, leading to the establishment of the former UN Trust Territory as a Commonwealth. Under the terms of the agreement establishing the CNMI as part of the United States, the Commonwealth retained control of immigration and minimum wage regulations with the understanding that the United States Congress could rescind such control at any time. As the CNMI experienced an influx of foreign workers in the 1980s and 1990s, local control over these laws became an issue of extended negotiation between Federal agencies, the White House, Congress, and the Commonwealth. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Categories for this particular request regarding the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands contain five records. WHORM Subject File ST051 contains correspondence between President Clinton and members of Congress. It also includes memoranda offering a background assessment of the

labor and minimum wage situation for foreigners working in the CNMI. The WHORM Alpha Files contain no relevant records. The White House Staff and Office Files contain correspondence, memoranda, and press reports. The files of Bridget McGovern and Jason Wilson represent records produced to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources in response to a request for CNMI-related documents in August 1999. The files of Jeffrey Farrow consist of correspondence with the AFL-CIO and the “Take Pride in America Coalition” (a group composed of U.S.-based unions, businesses, and human rights organizations opposed to worker and wage standards in the CNMI), newspaper articles and press releases about the Commonwealth, and Congressional correspondence. Lucia Wyman files contain memoranda and draft copies concerning proposed legislation changing labor and wage law in the CNMI. Wyman files also include a 1996 memo highlighting a standard contract between the average foreign laborer and the Commonwealth and correspondence from members of the House of Representatives to CNMI Governor Froilan C. Tenorio. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) Emails consists largely of records where the issue of labor and wage law in the CNMI garners mention as part of a larger domestic policy issue, as is the case in a Carol Rasco Roll Call article on House of Representatives’ budget reconciliation instructions. A final draft of a letter to President Clinton from Congressional Democrats refers to wage issues in the Commonwealth as part of an overall effort in 2000 to expand the minimum wage throughout the United States. One email of interest focusing primarily on the CNMI regards a revised Statement of Administration Position (SAP) on Senate Bill 1275 (S. 1275): Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act. The record contains the Administration’s position as well as the Department of Labor’s objections to both the SAP and S. 1275. The NSC Cable and Email systems contain no relevant records. The NSC Records Management System offers two records. The first record, an April 10, 1995 letter from President Clinton to Representative Bob Filner, discusses the working conditions of Filipino nationals employed in the CNMI. The second record is an April 16, 1999 memorandum from the President authorizing the Attorney General to detain and process Chinese aliens discovered near the CNMI.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that were responsive to this FOIA request were found in four collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Records Management System. As policy, Staff and Office Files are processed at the folder level; individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. WHORM Subject and WHORM Alpha files, by contrast, are processed at the document level. While this method of processing Staff and Office Files maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. 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. A complete listing of the categories with detailed descriptions is provided in our research room.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552 as amended) and the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 22) 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 copyright law of the United States (Title 17, USC) 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, 2006. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2006-04-12

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2006-0167-F:
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files
Box 1
Category Case Number
ST051 Scanned: Case Number 105291SS
ST051 Scanned: Case Number 220628SS
ST051 Scanned: Case Number 223110
ST051 Scanned: Case Number 225704
ST051 Scanned: Case Number 231317SS

Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Counsel’s Office
Bridget McGovern and Brad Winter Files
4 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Red Folders] [OA/ID 18562]
5 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Red Folders] [OA/ID 18562]
15 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Red Folders] [OA/ID 18562]
4 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Yellow Folders] [OA/ID 18562]
5 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Yellow Folders] [OA/ID 18562]

15 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Yellow Folders] [OA/ID 18562]
Bates Copy 365-413 [OA/ID 18562]
Copy Set FAR 365-413 [OA/ID 18562]

Intergovernmental Affairs
Jeffrey Farrow Files
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) I [1] [OA/ID 24092]
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) I [2] [OA/ID 24092]
Northern Mariana Islands-Various II [1] [OA/ID 24088]
Northern Mariana Islands-Various II [2] [OA/ID 24088]
Northern Mariana Islands-Various II [3] [OA/ID 24088]
Northern Mariana Islands-Various II [4] [OA/ID 24088]

Box 2
Legislative Affairs
Lucia Wyman Files
CNMI [1] [OA/ID 11837]
CNMI [2] [OA/ID 11837]
CNMI [3] [OA/ID 11837]
CNMI [4] [OA/ID 11837]
CNMI [5] [OA/ID 11837]

Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails
OPD 1993/01-1998/12
[09/18/95] [OA/ID 250,000]

OPD 1999/11-2000/04
[03/30/00] [OA/ID 350,000]

OPD 2000/05-2001/01
[09/26/00] [OA/ID 400,000]

WHO 1993/01-1995/12
[09/18/95] [OA/ID 500,000]

WHO 1996/01-1997/12
[06/13/97] [OA/ID 550,000]

WHO 1998/01-1998/11
[07/17/98] [OA/ID 600,000]

WHO 1999/12-2000/03
[03/30/00] [OA/ID 750,000]

WHO 2000/07-2000/09
[09/26/00] [OA/ID 850,000]

Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Records Management System
PRS-Presidential Records
9500614 [OA/ID 562]
9902850 [OA/ID 3977]

Last modified: 04/12/2006