



Bradley, Melvin L.: Files 1981-1983

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Policy Development, Office of

Specialization Heading

Special Assistant to the President

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Melvin Leroy Bradley was born on January 6, 1938 in Texarkana, Texas. He spent his youth in Texas and graduated from local Dunbar High School in 1955.

After his high school graduation, Mr. Bradley moved with his family to Los Angeles, California. There he worked in a variety of occupations while periodically continuing his education. He worked as a launderer, clerk, postal carrier for the United States Postal Service and as a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. During this time he attended college classes at Los Angeles Community College and Compton College. In 1970, he left the Sheriff's Department to attend Pepperdine University in Malibu, California and to work for the Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, as assistant for community affairs. He graduated in 1973 with a B.S. degree. He continued his work for Governor Reagan through the end of 1975.

After leaving the Governor's Office, Bradley worked as director of public relations for the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School of Los Angeles from 1975-1977. He served as assistant to the vice president and account executive with United Airlines in 1977-1981. Mr. Bradley was a staff member of the Office of the President-Elect serving as special adviser to the director of the office of Presidential personnel.

From the beginning of the administration, Mr. Bradley was a Senior Policy Adviser within the Office of Policy Development staff, focusing on urban affairs and small business. He continued, on an ad hoc basis, as an adviser to Presidential Personnel on minority appointments.

Mr. Bradley was promoted in April 1982 to a Special Assistant to the President for Policy Development. He was transferred at this time from the payroll of the Office of Policy Development to the Counsellor to the President (Edwin Meese) payroll. This assured Bradley was not covered by the Hatch Act and could participate actively in the 1982 mid-term elections. At the time, his primary responsibilities were working with the Office of Policy Development staff to assure that policy analyses for the President were sensitive to the needs and priorities of the minority and disadvantaged communities.

In August 1983, Counsellor to the President, Edwin Meese, authorized a “temporary” transfer of Mr. Bradley to the White House staff working in the Office of Public Liaison. He retained his title of Special Assistant to the President for Policy Development. For some time he had been operating as an independent public liaison with the black community and this move formalized that function. His move was made permanent in 1986 although he retained his office space with the Policy Development Office throughout his time at the White House. He also continued his advisory role on minority appointments. Bradley remained with Public Liaison until he resigned in early February 1989.

Mr. Bradley is married to the former Ruth Ann Terry and they have four children.

Scope and Content Note

The Melvin L. Bradley collections are unique at the Library. His long association with President Reagan, Edwin Meese, and other former members of Governor Reagan's staff allowed Bradley to carve out an area of expertise that only he handled. This included commenting and advising on policy issues regarding African-Americans and other minorities. In addition, Bradley was heavily involved with recruitment, assignment, and vetting of minority candidates for appointments within the Reagan administration. Bradley also acted as a public liaison between minority groups and businesses needing assistance in dealing with the Reagan Administration or looking for possible work contracts. The Library had to make some careful decisions on what material was placed with the Office of Policy Development, but it is important to understand these multiple functions of Bradley made it hard to say that any one White House Office was his actual "home."

White House records show that Bradley was moved from the Office of Policy Development payroll in 1983 and he was placed on the White House payroll. This action was a request from Counselor to the President Edwin Meese, allowing Bradley to participate in political events. The Hatch Act had barred him from this activity while on the Office of Policy Development payroll. Meese also stipulated that Melvin Bradley could return to his Office of Policy Development slot after the 1984 election. This never happened.

Beginning in late 1983, Bradley was on the Office of Public Liaison payroll and reported to the President through the head of this office. In May 1986 Bradley was physically moved to the Office of Public Liaison offices and his support staff was moved over to the Office of Policy Development and payroll. His title remained Special Assistant to the President for Policy Development and this never changed throughout his tenure at the White House.

For a full idea of Bradley's functions at the White House, see also his Office of Public Liaison [collection](#).

The filing system used by Bradley's office was also unique. There are multiple and overlapping folders of the same material, especially in the Correspondence series. Bradley's office used a coding system for correspondence. The Library has not found any explanation of this coding system. One of the overlapping folders was general correspondence for 1983 and this material was all moved to the Office of Public Liaison collection.

For general subject files, Bradley's office used an alpha-numeric coding system for folders, A-1, A-2, A-3, etc. Other filing systems found in his collection did not always have this designation. The Library has tried to retain original filing for this collection, but this was not always possible. We have placed subject files within the Public Liaison collection only if there is clear evidence that Bradley was using the folders and adding material past his transition date to Public Liaison, August 1983.

All material on minority recruiting and placement has been placed in the Office of Public Liaison to maintain continuity.

The Melvin Bradley Office of Policy Development collection consists of three series: SERIES I: Subject File; SERIES II: Correspondence; and SERIES III: Chronological File.

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

SERIES III: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE

Last Modified Date

2024-10-24

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE**OA 9007**

Status	Title
OPEN	A-1 Abernathy / Williams / Evers (1)-
OPEN	A-2 Activities Report
OPEN	A-3 - Administrative (General) (1)-(5)
OPEN	A-5 - Africa (General)
OPEN	A-7 - Assault on Illiteracy Program (Packet)
OPEN	A-8 - Atlanta Crisis
OPEN	A-8 - Atlanta Crisis: The Atlanta Crisis (Missing and Murdered Black Children) (1)(2)
OPEN	A-8 - Black Issues: Black Issues 1981
OPEN	A-8 - Black Issues: Black Issues 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-10 - Black President's Roundtable (1)(2)
OPEN	A-11 - Black Republican Holdovers
OPEN	A-12 - Black Rural Land (1)-(5)
OPEN	A-14 - Boards and Commissions (General)
OPEN	A-16 - Budget (General)
OPEN	A-18 - Civil Rights Issues (General) 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-18 (a) - Colleges and Universities 05/20/1982-12/30/1982 [1982]
OPEN	A-18 (a) - Colleges and Universities 05/20/1982-12/30/1982 [January 1983- March 1983]
OPEN	A-18 (a) - Colleges and Universities 05/20/1982-12/30/1982 [April 1983- September 1983]
OPEN	A-19 - Congressional (General) (1)(2)
OPEN	A-20 - Conservative Democrats
OPEN	A-22 - Energy (General) (1)-(3)

OA 9684**Status****Title**

OPEN A-23 Enterprise Zones (1)-(8)

OPEN A-23 8(a) Set-Asides (General) (1)-(5)

OPEN [Section] 8a Correspondence 1982 (1)-(3)

OPEN A-24 - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (General) (1)(2)

OPEN A-25 - Enterprise Zones (General) (1)-(10)

OPEN A-26 - EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) (General) (1)-(10)

OPEN A-28 - Hoover Conference (1)(2)

OPEN A-29 - Import / Export (General)

OPEN A-30 - Invitations (General) [1981-1982] (1)-(8)

OA 9685

Status	Title
OPEN	A-30 - Invitations (General) [1983] (1)-(7)
OPEN	A-30 - Invitations (General) [Formal Invitations, 1981-1982] (1)(2)
OPEN	A-30 - Invitations (General) [Formal Invitations, 1983] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Invitations, 1981-1983 [1981 Invitations/Responses] (1)-(7)
OPEN	Invitations, 1981-1983 [1981 Formal Invitations] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Invitations, 1981-1983 [1982] (1)-(7)

OA 9686

Status	Title
OPEN	Invitations, 1981-1983 [1983] (1)-(9)
OPEN	Invitations, 1981-1983 [Greeting Cards - Mostly Christmas] (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-38 Martin Luther King (General Reference) (1)-(7)
OPEN	[A-38 Martin Luther King Reference] (1)-(6)
OPEN	[Martin Luther King Holiday: Letters from Brooklyn, NY Schoolchildren, Early 1981] (1)-(48)
OPEN	[A-38 Martin Luther King Reference - King Historical Site, Atlanta] (1)-(5)
OPEN	[Meharry Medical School]

Status	Title
OPEN	A-40 (a) Office of Policy Development (General) (1)-(4)

OA 11744

Status	Title
OPEN	A-43 - Minority Business Development (1)-(10)
OPEN	A-45 - Politics (General) (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-47 - Office of Policy Development November 1982-September 1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	A-48 - Questions / Answers for the President (General) 1981-1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	A-48 - Questions / Answers for the President (General) 1984
OPEN	A-50 - Recommendations / Referrals (General) (1)-(4)
OPEN	A-52 Social Security Issues (1)(2)
OPEN	A-53 Speeches (General) (1)-(9)

OA 11746

Status	Title
OPEN	A-56 - Travel (General) (1)-(6)
OPEN	A-56(a) - Speeches (General) 1980-1981 (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-56(a) - Speeches (General) 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	A-56(a) - Speeches (General) 1983
OPEN	A-59 - Urban Problems, Projects and Proposed Programs (1)-(3)
OPEN	A-60 - Vocational Education (General) (1)-(7)
OPEN	A-63 - Urban Policy (General) (1)-(5)
OPEN	A-63 - Urban Policy - [National Urban Policy Report, 1982] (1)-(6)
OPEN	A-63 - Urban Policy - [Reference, Pre-1981] (1)-(4)
OPEN	A-63 - Urban Policy - [Working Groups] (1)(2)
OPEN	A-64 - Voting Rights, 1981 (1)-(5)

OA 11747

Status	Title
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OPEN	A-64 - Voting Rights, 1981 (6)-(10)
OPEN	A-64 - Voting Rights, 1982 (1)-(5)
OPEN	A-68 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Central Reference) (1)-(14)
OPEN	A-68 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1978-1981 (1)-(12)
OPEN	A-68 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1983-1985 (1)-(12)

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

OA 9004

Status	Title
OPEN	[General Correspondence] September 1980
OPEN	[General Correspondence] October 1980
OPEN	[General Correspondence] November 1980
OPEN	[General Correspondence] December 1980 (1)-(5)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] January 1981 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] February 1981 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] March 1981 (1)-(8)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] April 1981 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] May 1981 (1)-(5)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] June 1981 (1)-(7)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] July 1981 (1)-(5)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] August 1981 (1)-(12)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] September 1981 (1)-(7)

OA 9005

Status	Title
OPEN	[General Correspondence] October 1981 (1)-(7)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] November 1981 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] December 1981 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] January 1982 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] February 1982 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] March 1982 (1)-(7)

Status	Title
OPEN	[General Correspondence] April 1982 (1)-(9)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] May 1982 (1)-(7)
OA 9006	
Status	Title
OPEN	[General Correspondence] June 1982 (1)-(19)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] July 1982 (1)-(5)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] August 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] September 1982 (1)-(7)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] October 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] November 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] December 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Correspondence] March 1981-December 1981 (1)-(6)
OPEN	[Correspondence] January 1982
OPEN	[Correspondence] February 1982
OPEN	[Correspondence] March 1982
OPEN	[Correspondence] April 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Correspondence] May 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Correspondence] June 1982 (1)(2)v

OA 9687

Status	Title
OPEN	[Correspondence] July 1982
OPEN	[Correspondence] August 1982 (1)-(7)
OPEN	[Correspondence] September 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Correspondence] October 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Correspondence] November 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Correspondence] December 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Correspondence] January 1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Correspondence] February 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Correspondence] March 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Correspondence] April 1983 (1)-(9)
OPEN	[Correspondence] May 1983 (1)-(7)

OA 9688

Status	Title
OPEN	[Correspondence] June 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Correspondence] July 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Correspondence] August 1983 (1)-(9)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] 1981-1982: [1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] 1981-1982: [1982] (1)-(8)
OPEN	[General Correspondence 1982] (1)-(3)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] 01/12/1981-11/18/1981 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[General Correspondence] 09/02/1982-12/30/1982 (1)(2)

SERIES III: CHRONOLOGICAL FILE**OA 9688, cont.**

Status	Title
OPEN	[Chrons January 1981-April 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons May 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons June 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons July 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons August 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons September 1981-October 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons November 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons December 1981]
OPEN	[Chrons January 1982-March 1982]
CLOSED	[Chrons April 1982-June 1982]
OPEN	[Chrons July 1982]