BONITATI, ROBERT: Files, 1981-1983 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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BONITATI, ROBERT: Files, 1981-1983

Office of Public Liaison: Special Assistant to the President for Labor

**Biography**

Robert Bonitati was a longtime government affairs specialist and Republican activist. He served in the first Reagan Administration as the Special Assistant to President Reagan for labor relations within the Office of Public Liaison.

Bonitati was born on September 19, 1938 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in political science. Following his graduation he was the Assistant Dean of Men at Arizona State University, 1962-1964 and Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Tennessee, 1964-1966.

While at Tennessee, Bonitati met Tennessee Senator Howard Baker (Republican) and worked on Baker’s reelection committee. In 1967, he joined Senator Baker’s staff as his Senate Chief of Staff.

After leaving Senator Baker’s staff, Bonitati worked in the Nixon Administration as the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 1973-1974 and then as Associate Director of the Cost of Living Council, 1974. Leaving the White House, Bonitati became the Public Affairs Director and lobbyist for the Airline Pilot’s Association for six years.

Soon after joining the Reagan Administration as public liaison to organized labor, Bonitati was one of the small group of White House staff accompanying the President to the Washington Hilton for his speech to the Building Trades Union on March 30, 1981. Bonitati was reportedly walking out with the President from the speech when he was stopped by a friend precisely when the President exited and was shot by John Hinckley.

Bonitati stayed active in Republican politics and government affairs after leaving the White House. He first worked for public relations and government affairs firm, the Kamber Group, and later he joined The Hawthorne Group, another public affairs firm. Bonitati was also part-owner of a local Washington, D.C. flower shop.
During the 1990s, Richard Tafel, who served as president of the national gay group, Log Cabin Republicans, states that Bonitati was a “key advisor for Log Cabin in the 1990s. He gave me great advice, great strategy.”

After retirement, Bonitati split his time between Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and Fort Lauderdale, Florida Bonitati died in Tampa, Florida undergoing cancer treatment on November 15, 2017.

In addition to his role as labor liaison, Bonitati was also assigned responsibilities for liaison to public service groups and natural resource issues and groups. His collection contains a small amount of work product on these additional responsibilities.

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE
OA 6841
Advisors for Elizabeth H. Dole
Air Traffic Employees [Federation of]
Airlie House – Labor / Management Symposium 06/09/1982-06/11/1982
Airline Employee Protection
Airline Employees Association
Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) 1981 (1)(2)
Airline Pilots Association 1982
Alaskan Oil Exports
Allegheny – Mohawk Airline Merger Provisions (1)(2)
AFL-CIO (February 1981-June 1981) (1)-(6)
AFL-CIO July 1981-January 1983 (1)-(5)
AFL-CIO Centennial Convention (1)(2)
AFL-CIO Executive Council 12/02/1981 with the President (1)-(6)
AFL-CIO Executive Council, Bal Harbor, February 1982 (1)(2)
AFSCME [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees]
Antenucci, Alfred [Assassination Attempt on President Reagan]
Anti-Administration Releases
Apprenticeship and Training
Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries
Auto Industry (1)-(3)
Auto Workers (United) 1981 (1)-(5)
Auto Workers (United) 1982
Balanced Budget
Baltic Shipping Company
Beach Blanket Babylon
Black Lung
Black Lung 12/05/1981
Black Lung / Bill Signing Ceremony
Boards and Commissions
Boilermakers
Bricklayers
BRAC [Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees]
Budget Appeals  
Budget Coalition  
Building and Construction Trades  
Building and Construction Trades / Washington, D.C. Conference / 04/05/1982-04/07/1982  
Building and Construction Trades Convention / Washington, DC / 03/30/1981  
Building and Construction Trades Convention / Atlanta City / 10/21/1981  
Cargo Preference  
Carpenters (United Brotherhood)  
Carpenters Convention 09/03/1981 Chicago, IL  

OA 6842  
**Chamber of Commerce [of the United States]**  
Child Labor Laws  
China / USA Exchange  
Christmas Cards 1981  
Clean Air Act  
Clean Air Act / Environmental Protection Agency / 08/20/1981  
**Clements, Governor**  
**Clothing and Textile Workers (1)(2)**  
Coal Gasification  
Coal Negotiations  
Coal Slurry  
Combined Federal Campaign  
**COPE [Committee on Political Education]**  
Communication Workers of America  
Commuter Services / Presidential Emergency Board: New York, New Jersey,  
**CETA [Comprehensive Employment and Training Act]**  
Conference Board  
CONRAIL  
Continuing Education (National Advisory)  
Contract Expirations  
**Crusade for Freedom**  
Davis-Bacon Act  
Davis-Bacon Campaign – July 1981  
Death Benefits  
Deconcini, Susan  
**Democratic National Committee - Coalition with AFL-CIO**  
Detroit Trip (Elizabeth H. Dole)  
Detroit Trip (Elizabeth H. Dole): Trade Adjustment Assistance, etc.  
**Dialogue with Labor**  
**Donovan, Raymond J. (1)(2)**  
Driver of the Year  
Driver’s Log Forms  
Drunken Driving (Presidential Commission On)  
Dubinsky, David  

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Earnings

[Economic Recovery Program Mailings to Unions - 1981] (1)-(3)
Economic Renewal Briefing 03/26/1981
Economic Renewal Briefing 04/02/1981 (Legislative Aides)
Economic Renewal Program

El Salvador

Electrical Workers (International Brotherhood)

Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)

Employment Policy

Employment Relations Report 1981 (1)(2)
Employment Relations Report 1982 (1)(2)

Employment Training System
Endorsements
Endorsers Meeting 02/10/1981
Endorsers Meeting 07/11/1981

Energy

Energy Independence (Americans for)
Engineering Association (American)
Engineers and Scientists Organizations

OA 6843

Enterprise Zones

Enterprise Zones 1981-1982 (Bonitati) (1)-(9)
Enterprise Zone Meeting 05/17/1982 (1)(2)
Enterprise Zone Meeting 05/27/1982 (1)-(3)

Environmental Balance (National Council For)
Environmental Education
(EDB) Ethylene Dibromide
Export Trade Bill

Farrell, Janice

FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]

Federal Election Commission (FEC)
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Federal Employees (1)-(4)

Federal Labor/Management Relations Program

Federal Labor Relations Authority (1)-(3)

Federal Managers Association
Federal Meditation/Conciliation Service
Federal Services Impasses Panel
Firefighters (International Association) 1982

Flexitime
Flight Attendants
Flight Attendants: Campaign for Air Passenger Safety – Congressional Responses
Flight Attendants: Campaign for Air Passenger Safety – Newsclips

Food and Commercial Workers (United)
Food Banks
Football League Players (National)
Foreign Policy Briefing 10/12/1982 with the Vice President
Fraternal Order of Police
Fringe Benefits
Garment Workers (United)
**Government Employees (American Federation of)** (1)-(4)
**Government Employees (Assembly of)** (1)-(3)
**Government Employees (General)**
**Government Employees (National Association of)**
Grain Millers (American Federation of)
Hobbs Act
**Hotel and Restaurant Employees**
**HUD (Housing and Urban Development)**
Housing (President’s Commission)
Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) & Theatrical Unions
Immigration Task Force Guest Workers and Braceros

OA 6844
Inaugural Address
Independent Truckers Association (ITA)
**Independent Unions (Congress of)**
**Independent Unions (National Federation)**
**Independent Unions with the President**
Industrial Homework
Industrial Union Department
Intelligence Briefing 10/15/1982 Director Bill Casey/Heymann
[Intelligence:] AHV Briefing on Intelligence Issues
Interior [Department of]
**International Association of Firefighters, 1981** (1)-(5)
International Brotherhood of Police Organizations
**International Labor Movement** (1)-(3)
**ILO [International Labor Organization]**
ILA (International Longshoremen’s Association)
**International Trade Union Movement**
Interstate Commerce Commission
Ironworkers
Issues Forecast
Job Training Act 1982
**Kamber, Victor**
Kigin, Joe
Labor – Accomplishments – 1982 (Major)
Labor Advisory Committee
Labor Day
Labor Department Briefings 04/27/1981 and 04/28/1981
Labor, Department of
Labor Department Statistics
Labor Directive – Memo to Heads of Dept/Agencies – RR
Labor and 1982 Elections
Labor – 1982 Elections
Labor Industry Coalition for International Trade
[Labor:] Inter-Departmental Labor Communications Group
Labor Issues Working Group
Labor-Management Committee
Labor-Management Cooperation
Labor Meetings
Labor Policy Association
Bonitati – Labor (Press Clippings) – General 1982

OA 6845
Labor Strategy – 1982
Labor Strategy (1)
Labor Strategy (2)
Labor Strategy (3)
Labor Strategy (4)
Labor Strategy (5)
Labor Strategy (6)
[Labor Strategy] Portfolio Analysis – RFB
Labor Women
Laborers’ International Union
Ladies Garment Workers’ Union
Law Enforcement
Law of the Sea Treaty
Legislative / IGA
Licensed Practical Nurses
Life International
Local Union Contracts
Locigno, Paul
Locomotive Engineers (Brotherhood of)
Machinists (International Association of)
Mailing to Affiliate Unions
Marcos, President (Philippines)
Marine Engineers Beneficial (MEBA)
Maritime Committee – AFL-CIO
Maritime Leaders Meeting 04/15/1981
Maritime Policy – General 1982
Maritime Trades Department – AFL-CIO
Masters, Mates and Pilots
Medicare Funds / Union Organizing
Merchant Marine Trophy

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Middle East Briefing 10/07/1982 R. 450 Business / Labor
Middle East Speech
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Mine Workers (United)
**Minimum Wage**
Minority Construction Roundtable
Murphy, Betty S.
MX
National Association of Manufacturers
NAPO (National Association of Police Organizations)
**National Education Association**
National Environmental Development Association / Clean Air Act Project
**NLRA [National Labor Relations Act]**
National Labor Relations Board, 1981 (1)-(4)
National Labor Relations Board 1982 (1)(2)
National Maritime Union, 1981 (1)-(7)
National Maritime Union 1982
National Mediation Board
National Security 05/15/1981
National Transportation Safety Board
Natural Gas
**Negotiations (1)-(7)**
Negro Women (National Council of)
**New Direction**

OA 6846
New Melones Dam – California
New York Port Authority
Newspaper Guild
Nurses Association (American)
O’Donnell, Peter
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs
**OPM [Office of Personnel Management]**
Operating Engineers
OPL General
**OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] (1)(2)**
Outer Continental Shelf
Overseas Private Investment
Panama Canal
Paperworkers
Pension Guaranty Corp
Photographs
Plant Guard Workers
Plasterers and Cement Masons
**Plumbers (United Association)**
Police Benevolent Association (New York City)
Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police (Union of International Association)
Police Week
**Polish Union/Solidarity (1)(2)**
Political Profiles, Inc.
Politics, People and Issues Report
**Polling Data (1)-(8)**
Postal Workers (1)-(6)
Presidential Box
Presidential Classroom
Press List
Press Releases (OPL)
Private / Public Partnerships
Private Sector Initiatives
Productivity
**PATCO – Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (1)-(4)**
Public Employee Retirement Income Security Act
**Public Employees Department AFL-CIO (1)(2)**
PSOB (Public Safety Officers Benefit)
Public Service Research Council
Quality of Life
Railway Emergency Board
Railroad (Long Island Railroad Company)
Railroad Retirement
Reagan-Bush Committee Statements
Recreation Coalition (American)
Referrals / General Response
Regulatory Task Force
Republican Governors
Republican Labor Advisory Council (Republican National Committee)
Republican National Committee

OA 6847
Republican National Committee / Labor Meeting / 03/22/1982
Republican Platform Text
Restive Labor Community
Resumes 1981/1982
Retirement
**Right to Work Committee**
Royal Hawaiian Cruise
Rubber Workers
Sample Letters
Screen Actors Guild
S 577 (Screen Actors Guild)
**Seafarers International Union, 1981 (1)-(3)**
Seafarers International Union 1982

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Secretaries Week (National)
Sella, Benjamin
Service Contract Act
**Service Employees International Union**
Shale
Sheet Metal Workers of America
Shipping Act of 1981
**Shultz, George (Secretary of State)**
SBA (Small Business Administration)
Social Security
Solar
Solar Energy Industries Association
**Solidarity Day (1)-(3)**
Speech Material
**Standby Petroleum Allocation S.1503**
State Department – Labor Union List
State Dinners
**State of the Union Speech**
Steel – Weirton
Steering Committee
Steering Subcommittee – Trade
Steubenville Steel
**Support/Blue Collar Correspondence**
Tax Briefing / 07/27/1981 / Burgess
**Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (1)(2)**
Tax Initiatives
**Tax Package / 07/15/1981 / Lyn Nofziger’s Staff**
**Tax Package / Supporters Reception**
**Tax Policy (1)(2)**
**Tax Reduction / Treasury 07/23/1981**
Tayloe House
Tayloe House Reception 07/15/1981
**Teachers (American Federation of)**
Teamsters – 1981

OA 6848
Teamsters – 1982
Teamsters Convention, 06/01/1981
Teamsters Local 237 Conference
Teamsters Meeting With the President – 12/01/1981
Teamsters - Ohio Conference
Teamsters: Roy Williams with the President 02/11/1982
Tecumseh United Products Workers
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tile and Marble Union
Tool Craftsmen

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Tool Die and Mold Makers
Trade Advisory Committee
Trades Issues (General)
Training and Development (American Society of)
Transport Workers
Travel Vouchers
Trucking Negotiations
Tuition Tax Credits
**Unemployment October 1982**
Unemployment Benefits
Unemployment Compensation
Unemployment – Defense Spending
**Unemployment – Structural**
Uniformed Forces
**Union Busters [and Union Attitudes]**
Unions not Affiliated with the AFL-CIO
[Union Publications, Requests for]
United States Information Agency
United Steelworkers
United Transportation Union (UTU)
Urban Land Institute
Urban Mass Transportation Association
**User Fees**
Utility Workers Union
**Vice Presidential Meetings**
Vice President’s Reception
**Vice President’s "Regular" Meetings with Labor Leaders**
Victims of Crime
Violent Crime
Violent Crime 11/03/1981
Voluntarism
Voting Rights Act
Walsh Healey Act
**Weekly Summary/Forecast**
**Weekly Summary – James Baker**
Welcoming Ceremonies
Year-End Reports – 1981
Year-End Reports – 1982

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA
OA 6849
**Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [A-B]**
**Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [C-E]**
**Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [F-G]**
**Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [H-J]**
**Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [K-M]**
Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [Mc-Q]
Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [R-S]
Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [T-Z]
Bonitati Chron 10/28/1982-December 1982 (Binder)
Bonitati Chron January 1983 (Binder)
Bonitati Chron February 1983 (Binder)
Bonitati Chron March 1983 (Binder)
White House Memoranda – General
Bonitati [OPL Meeting Reports, September 1981-September 1982] (Binder)

SERIES III: PHONE LOGS
OA 6849 (Continued)
Phone Log March 1981-December 1981 (1)-(9)
Bonitati Phone Log 01/01/1982-10/03/1982 (Binder)