

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

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 Mediation/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 (1981)
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]

[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 – 1981, 1980 & Undated Material

Maritime Policy – General 1982

Maritime Trades Department – AFL-CIO

Masters, Mates and Pilots

Medicare Funds / Union Organizing

Merchant Marine Trophy

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

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

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)