

BRADLEY, MELVIN L.: Files 1981-1983 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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BRADLEY, MELVIN L.: Files 1981-1983

Policy Development, Office of, 1981-1983
Public Liaison, Office of, 1983-1989 - [See Separate Inventory](#)

Special Assistant to the President

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 was primarily done to assure Bradley was not covered by the Hatch Act and could participate actively in the 182 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

Our initial survey of the Bradley collection shows a much larger emphasis on public liaison work regarding minority and urban issues. In addition, Mr. Bradley was heavily involved with recruitment, assignment, and vetting of minority candidates for appointments within the Reagan administration. These functions began in his earliest days at the White House and continued until he left. Given this evidence, we have placed the majority of material within the Office of Public Liaison collection for Mr. Bradley, although a good deal of material predates 1983.

We have retained a small amount of correspondence and chronological files clearly marked as pre-1983 for this Office of Policy Development Bradley collection. This material also includes records from the Office of the President-Elect which Bradley carried with him to the White House and used in his time there.

OA 9004

[General Correspondence] October 1980
[General Correspondence] November 1980
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OA 9005

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OA 9006

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OA 09687

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OA 09688

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[General Correspondence] 09/02/1982-12/30/1982
8a Correspondence 1982