

President, Office of the: The President's Daily Diary, 1981-1989

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

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Record Type

Textual

Scope and Content Note

This collections consists of two series: SERIES I: The President's Daily Diary and SERIES II: The President's Block Schedules.

Series List

SERIES I: The President's Daily Diary

The President's Daily Diary is a day-by-day record of Ronald Reagan's eight years as President. It chronicles such activities as meetings, briefings, press conferences, telephone calls, photo sessions, meals, travel, and recreation. Presidential Diarist Ellen Jones (McCathran), a National Archives employee detailed to the White House, had chief responsibility for creating the Diary, based on documents provided by various White House units.

The primary Diary document for most days is a log, entered on a standard form. The logs list starting and ending times for activities, brief descriptions for activities which require explanation, and information on persons or groups involved. Some log entries refer to appendices which provide full participant lists, and other additional information, for certain meetings, air travel, and social affairs.

The Daily Diary originally contained several gaps, up to three weeks in length, which usually corresponded to President Reagan's trips outside the Washington, DC area. The Diary also stopped completely in October 1988, apparently because the Diarist fell behind in compiling it. In order to fill the gaps, the Reagan Library has transferred to the Daily Diary selected documents from other collections within the Office of the Presidential Diary. The transferred materials consist of draft versions of logs and appendices, plus other documents containing the types of information generally found in the Daily Diary. With the additional materials, there are only a few days which are totally missing from the Daily Diary. However, documentation for many days, especially those which President Reagan spent at Camp David or Rancho del Cielo (his California ranch), remains sketchy. Furthermore, the Diary does not provide a complete list of participants for every event, and sometimes refers the reader to appendices which were never created.

For days without either final or draft logs, the primary Diary document is often a copy of the President's advance schedule that has handwritten notes, usually from Presidential aide Jim Kuhn, on events and event times as they actually occurred. Where the amount of handwriting has made such a schedule difficult to read, the Reagan Library has inserted a typed chronological chart based on the schedule and its notes.

SERIES II: The President's Block Schedules

This series consists of: copies of President Reagan's final monthly "block schedules" through December 1988; various marked and unmarked draft block schedules through January 1989; and overhead transparency copies for final block schedules through August 1983. The final block schedules, listing each day's planned activities in a monthly calendar format, were created after the corresponding months ended. Presidential Diarist Ellen McCathran supplied various information, such as actual event start times, for the final block schedules.

The block schedules carefully document President Reagan's scheduled activities in and around the White House. They provide little information on President Reagan's activities on overseas trips, at Camp David, or at Rancho del Cielo (his California ranch).

Last Modified Date

2025-01-02

SERIES I: The President's Daily Diary

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Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/20/1981-01/26/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/27/1981-02/05/1981]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [02/06/1981-02/16/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/17/1981-02/26/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/27/1981-03/05/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/06/1981-03/11/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/12/1981-03/17/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/18/1981-03/24/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/25/1981-04/10/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/11/1981-04/30/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/01/1981-05/15/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/16/1981-05/25/1981]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/26/1981-05/31/1981]
Box 2	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/01/1981-06/07/1981]

	Status	Title
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/08/1981-06/12/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/13/1981-06/18/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/19/1981-06/24/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/25/1981-07/02/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/03/1981-07/08/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/09/1981-07/14/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/15/1981-07/22/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/23/1981-07/29/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/30/1981-08/05/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [08/06/1981-08/31/1981]
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Box 3		
	Status	Title
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/15/1981-09/18/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/19/1981-09/24/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/25/1981-09/30/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [10/01/1981-10/07/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [10/08/1981-10/14/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [10/15/1981-10/19/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [10/20/1981-10/31/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [11/01/1981-11/06/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [11/07/1981-11/13/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [11/14/1981-11/18/1981]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [12/06/1981-12/09/1981]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [12/10/1981-12/15/1981]
Box 4		
	Status	Title
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	Status	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/01/1982-01/10/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/11/1982-01/17/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/05/1982-02/10/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/19/1982-02/24/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/25/1982-03/09/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [03/10/1982-03/18/1982]
Box 5		
	Status	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [03/26/1982-04/04/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/04/1982-05/09/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/10/1982-05/17/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/18/1982-05/24/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/03/1982-06/17/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/18/1982-06/23/1982]
Box 6		
	Status	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/01/1982-07/13/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/14/1982-07/19/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/24/1982-07/31/1982]

	Status	Title
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [08/01/1982-08/04/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [08/05/1982-08/11/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [08/12/1982-08/18/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [08/19/1982-09/07/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/08/1982-09/13/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/14/1982-09/16/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/17/1982-09/22/1982]
Box 7		
	Status	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [09/29/1982-10/05/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [10/06/1982-10/12/1982]
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [112/01/1982-12/06/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [12/07/1982-12/09/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [12/10/1982-12/14/1982]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary 12/15/1982-12/20/1982]
Box 8		
	Status	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/03/1983-01/07/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/08/1983-01/16/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/17/1983-01/23/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/24/1983-01/27/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [01/28/1983-02/02/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/03/1983-02/08/1983]

St	tatus	Title
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/09/1983-02/17/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/18/1983-02/24/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [02/25/1983-03/08/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [03/09/1983-03/14/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [03/15/1983-03/21/1983]
Box 9		
St	tatus	Title
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/06/1983-04/10/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/11/893-04/13/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/14/1983-04/18/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/19/1983-04/22/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/23/1983-04/28/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [04/29/1983-05/04/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/05/1983-05/11/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/12/1983-05/16/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/17/1983-05/22/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [05/23/1983-05/31/1983]
Box 10		
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OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/08/1983-06/13/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/14/1983-06/17/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/18/1983-06/23/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [06/24/1983-06/30/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/01/1983-07/12/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/13/1983-07/18/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/19/1983-07/22/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/23/1983-07/28/1983]
OPEN		The President's Daily Diary [07/29/1983-08/04/1983]

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/05/1983-08/12/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/13/1983-09/02/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/03/1983-09/12/1983]
Box 11	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/19/1983-09/22/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/23/1983-09/27/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/28/1983-10/02/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/03/1983-10/06/1983]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/29/1983-11/03/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/04/1983-11/14/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/15/1983-11/22/1983]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/03/1983-12/09/1983]
Box 12	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/15/1983-12/22/1983]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/23/1983-01/03/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/04/1984-01/09/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/10/1984-01/16/1984]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/11/1984-02/17/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/18/1984-02/27/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/28/1984-03/04/1984]

Status	Title
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Box 13	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/16/1984-05/02/1984]
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Status	Title
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OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [09/29/1984-10/09/1984]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [10/10/1984-10/22/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/23/1984-11/02/1984]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/05/1984-12/13/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/14/1984-12/27/1984]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/28/1984-01/13/1985]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/21/1985-01/25/1985]
Box 16	
Status	Title
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Box 17	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/18/1985-04/22/1985]
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Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/29/1985-05/13/1985]
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Box 18	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/23/1985-06/27/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/28/1985-07/04/1985]
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Box 19	
Status	Title
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/17/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/18/1985-10/25/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/26/1985-10/31/1985]
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OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/08/1985-11/14/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/15/1985-11/27/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/28/1985-12/05/1985]

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/06/1985-12/11/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/12/1985-12/17/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/18/1985-12/31/1985]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/01/1986-01/11/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/12/1986-01/17/1986]
Box 20	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/18/1986-01/23/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/24/1986-02/02/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/03/1986-02/09/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/10/1986-02/18/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/19/1986-02/26/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/27/1986-03/04/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/05/1986-03/10/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/11/1986-03/16/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/17/1986-03/24/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/25/1986-04/06/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/07/1986-04/13/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/14/1986-04/17/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/18/1986-04/25/1986]
Box 21	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/26/1986-05/15/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/16/1986-05/28/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/29/1986-06/04/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/05/1986-06/10/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/11/1986-06/17/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/18/1986-06/25/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/26/1986-07/06/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/07/1986-07/14/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/15/1986-07/21/1986]

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/22/1986-07/29/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/30/1986-08/06/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/07/1986-08/13/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/14/1986-08/31/1986]
Box 22	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/01/1986-09/12/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/13/1986-09/18/1986]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [09/19/1986-09/24/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/25/1986-09/30/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/01/1986-10/06/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/07/1986-10/15/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/16/1986-10/26/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/27/1986-10/31/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/01/1986-11/12/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/13/1986-11/18/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/19/1986-11/24/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/25/1986-12/02/1986]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/03/1986-12/09/1986]
Box 23	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/10/1986-12/15/1986] The President's Daily Diary [12/16/1986-12/21/1986]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [12/22/1986-01/08/1987]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [01/09/1987-01/26/1987]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [01/27/1987-02/06/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/07/1987-02/17/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/18/1987-02/22/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [02/23/1987-03/02/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/03/1987-03/09/1987]

The President's Daily Diary [03/10/1987-03/15/1987]

OPEN

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/16/1987-03/23/1987]
OPEN	The President' Daily Diary [03/24/1987-03/31/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/01/1987-04/07/1987]
Box 24	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/08/1987-04/22/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/23/1987-04/30/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/01/1987-05/07/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/08/1987-05/13/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/14/1987-05/20/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/21/1987-05/28/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/29/1987-06/07/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/08/1987-06/16/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/17/1987-06/22/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/23/1987-06/30/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/10/1987-07/20/1987]
Box 25	
Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [07/21/1987-07/24/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/25/1987-07/31/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/01/1987-08/09/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/10/1987-09/02/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/03/1987-09/14/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/15/1987-09/20/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/21/1987-09/28/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/29/1987-10/06/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/07/1987-10/14/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/15/1987-10/19/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/20/1987-10/25/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/26/1987-10/31/1987]
Box 26	

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/01/1987-11/06/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/07/1987-11/16/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/17/1987-11/23/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/24/1987-12/04/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/05/198712/13/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/14/1987-12/20/1987]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/21/1987-01/05/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/06/1988-01/13/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/14/1988-01/21/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/22/1988-01/28/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [01/29/1988-02/05/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [02/06/1988-02/11/1988]
Box 27	
Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [02/12/1988-02/23/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [02/24/1988-02/29/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/01/1988-03/11/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/12/1988-03/20/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/21/1988-03/25/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [03/26/1988-04/10/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/11/1988-04/17/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/18/1988-04/25/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [04/26/1988-04/30/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/01/1988-05/08/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/09/1988-05/15/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/16/1988-05/22/1988]
Box 28	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/23/1988-05/30/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [05/31/1988-06/07/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/08/1988-06/14/1988]

Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/15/1988-06/20/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [06/21/1988-06/27/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [06/28/1988-07/04/1988]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	The President's Daily Diary [07/05/1988-07/13/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/14/1988-07/26/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [07/27/1988-08/04/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/05/1988-08/13/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [08/14/1988-09/08/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/09/1988-09/15/1988]
Box 29	
Status	Title
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/16/1988-09/23/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [09/24/1988-09/30/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/01/1988-10/05/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/06/1988-10/13/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/14/1988-10/25/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [10/26/1988-11/08/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/09/1988-11/17/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [11/18/1988-11/30/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/01/1988-12/11/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/12/1988-12/18/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/19/1988-12/22/1988]
OPEN	The President's Daily Diary [12/23/1988-01/12/1989]
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SERIES II: The President's Block Schedules

OPEN

This series consists of: copies of President Reagan's final monthly "block schedules" through December 1988; various marked and unmarked draft block schedules through January 1989; and overhead transparency copies for final block schedules through August 1983. The final block schedules, listing each day's planned activities in a monthly calendar format, were created after the corresponding

The President's Daily Diary [01/13/1989-01/20/1989]

months ended. Presidential Diarist Ellen McCathran supplied various information, such as actual event start times, for the final block schedules.

The block schedules carefully document President Reagan's scheduled activities in and around the White House. They provide little information on President Reagan's activities on overseas trips, at Camp David, or at Rancho del Cielo (his California ranch).

Box 30

9	Status	Title
OPEN		[The President's Schedule - January 1981-December 1982]
OPEN		[The President's Schedule - January 1983-December 1985]
OPEN		[The President's Schedule - January 1986-July 1987]
OPEN		[The President's Schedule - August 1987-December 1988]
OPEN		[Transparencies of] The President's Schedule-1981
OPEN		[Transparencies of] The President's Schedule-1982
OPEN		[Transparencies of] The President's Schedule-[January-August] 1983