



## **Dawson, Rhett B.: Files, 1987-1988**

### **Finding Aid Type**

White House Staff and Office File Collections

### **Subtitle/Office**

Assistant to the President for Operations; Co-Chairman of INF Ratification Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG)

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### **Record Type**

Textual

## **Biography**

### **Biography**

Rhett Dawson was born in 1943 in Canton, Illinois. He grew up and went to high school and college in Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 from Illinois Wesleyan University. Following college he attended Washington University, St. Louis where he received a law degree in 1969. He is married to Mimi Weyforth Dawson who also worked in the Reagan administration at the Federal Communications Commission and as Deputy Under Secretary of Transportation.

Dawson had held several adjunct positions in the White House, prior to joining the White House staff. In 1985, he was appointed Director of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management (the Packard Commission), and in November 1986 as chief of staff of the President's Special Review Board (the Tower Board) investigating the Iran-Contra affair. Prior to his White House involvement he had been the Staff Director and Chief Counsel for Senate Armed Services Committee where he worked closely with Chairman, Senator John Tower, and had a long working relationship with Senator Tower.

Recruited by new White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, Dawson joined the White House staff in April 1987. In a revamped White House staff, Dawson took on the titular head of White House Operations post. Over the past 6 years of the administration, the person running White House Operations also carried both titles and functions - director of White House Operations and Director of the Office of Administration. Baker's new staff alignment eliminated this dual functionality, and Dawson did not become the Director of the Office of Administration.

Dawson, while nominally the head of White House Operations, turned over most of the day-to-day running of the various offices affiliated with White House Operations to Claire O'Donnell. In August 1987, she was named Special Assistant to the President for White House Operations (a newly created title to suit her present functions). Dawson acted more in the capacity of an Executive Secretary for the White House, in much the same function that Richard Darman had occupied in the first administration.

Currently, Dawson is the president of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), a trade association comprised of the leading IT companies.

## Scope and Content Note

### Note

Dawson's collection includes some of his work as Director of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management.

Previously Box CFOA 707 was considered a part of the Dawson collection. It is a box of the President's unpublished schedules. These were sent from Dawson to Arthur B. Culvahouse, White House Counsel, probably in regards to the Iran-Contra Legal Task Force investigation at the White House.

This box is now included in the Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr. collection.

### **Last Modified Date**

2024-02-26

### **CFOA 706**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Housing, Treasury & Postal, 11/13/1987 (1)-(5)
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Defense (1)(2)
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: International Affairs
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Privatization (1)(2)
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Natural Resources, Energy & Science (1)-(3)
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Labor, Veterans & Education
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Housing, Treasury & Postal, 12/02/1987
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Transportation, Commerce & Justice

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Health & Human Services

**CFOA 726**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 06/26/1987
CLOSED	Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 10/02/1987
CLOSED	Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 10/09/1987
CLOSED	Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 01/29/1988-10/14/1988

**CFOA 747**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - Department of Agriculture Decisions
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - Department of Justice Decision
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - NASA Appeal Meeting Notes 01/12/1988
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - International Affairs Programs
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - GSA (General Services Administration) (1)-(6)
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - Department of Transportation (1)(2)
OPEN	Budget Review Board FY1989 - Department of Energy Appeal Meeting Notes

**CFOA 784**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] April 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] May 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] June 1987

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] July 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] August 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] September 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] October 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] November 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] December 1987
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] January 1988
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] February 1988
CLOSED	[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] March 1988

**CFOA 837**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Budget Review Board Material FY1990 (1)-(10)

**OA 14162**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	"Interim Report to the President by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, 02/28/1986"
OPEN	Press Conference - Interim Report to the President - 02/28/1986
OPEN	Press Conference on the Packard Commission Final Report
OPEN	[Inspector General Recommendations on Procurement to the Packard Commission - October 1984] (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Option C Draft: Organization and Acquisition
CLOSED	Draft - A Chunk of Option E - 02/03/1986
CLOSED	"Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume I: Papers Prepared for the Acquisition Panel of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, June 1986"
CLOSED	"Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume II: Papers Prepared for the Acquisition Panel of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, June 1986"
CLOSED	"Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume III: Papers Prepared for the Acquisition Panel of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, June 1986"

Status	Title
CLOSED	"Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Appendix to Volume III" (Part 1)
CLOSED	"Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Appendix to Volume III" (Part 2)
CLOSED	Blue Ribbon Defense Panel Report - 1970
CLOSED	Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition Review Committee Volume I Report January 1975
CLOSED	"Report of the Acquisition Cycle Task Force - Defense Science Board 03/15/1987"
CLOSED	Acquisition Advisory Group Report - September 1975
CLOSED	Legislative Recommendations of the Commission on Government Procurement: 5 Years Later - 1978
CLOSED	Defense Resource Management Study Final Report - February 1979
CLOSED	Acquisition Policy Effectiveness: Department of Defense Experience in the 1970's October 1979
CLOSED	"A Uniform Profit Policy for Government Acquisition" (II) - November 1979
CLOSED	"Price Competition in the Department Of Defense" - Logistics Management Institute -September 1982
CLOSED	The Affordable Acquisition Approach Study: Final Briefing - February 1983
CLOSED	Deregulation of Government Management Federal Procurement Interim Report - March 1983
OPEN	Grace Commission Report on the Office of the Secretary of Defense - July 1983
OPEN	Compendium of GAO's Views on the Cost Saving Proposals of the Grace Commission - February 1985
CLOSED	"Toward a More Effective Defense" - CSIS - 1985
CLOSED	"The Legal Structure of Defense Organization," by Moore and Turner - 01/15/1986(Binder)
CLOSED	Recommendations on Procurement to the Packard Commission - October 1985
OPEN	Dwight D. Eisenhower

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	[The Eisenhower Record of Defense Reorganization, 1958 - Selected Documents from 1957-1958 DDE Library] (1)-(7)
OPEN	Goldwater and Nunn
CLOSED	JCS Reorganization

**OA 14827**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	[34/146 File (Legislative Strategy Group)] (1)-(12)

**OA 16106**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty (1)-(8)

**OA 16155 (Contained within OA 18922)**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Notes
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Los Angeles
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Cincinnati
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Jacksonville
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Albuquerque
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - New York
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - National
CLOSED	The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Omaha
CLOSED	Regional Conference Press Clips (Notebook)
CLOSED	National Conference Press Clips (Notebook)

**OA 16713**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	21st Century Foundation (1)-(6)

**OA 16952 (Contained within OA 18922)**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Nuclear Waste Negotiator, February 1988-October 1988

**OA 18921**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
OPEN	[AIDS: Testing]
OPEN	[AIDS Commission: Establishment & Membership] (1)-(9)
OPEN	AIDS Commission: Management (1)-(3)
OPEN	AIDS Staff Director (1)(2)
OPEN	Aircraft Rules/Usage
OPEN	Air Force One
OPEN	Air Force One: Air Force 1 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Alerts
CLOSED	Blue Group
OPEN	Bork Statement
CLOSED	Cabinet Information
CLOSED	Defense Management
CLOSED	Domestic Policy Council Notes
CLOSED	Drugs/Military
CLOSED	Fire Drill
CLOSED	Half-Staffing of Flag
OPEN	[Interagency Low Income Opportunity Advisory Board]
CLOSED	Intermediate Nuclear Force
CLOSED	Intermediate Nuclear Force: Potential Treaty Reservations
CLOSED	Intermediate Nuclear Force: Intermediate Nuclear Force: Conditions
CLOSED	Iran-Contra
OPEN	LSG[Legislative StrategyGroup] -- Budget
OPEN	LSG[Legislative StrategyGroup] --Trade
CLOSED	Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary
CLOSED	Medal of Freedom -1988
CLOSED	National Day of Mourning

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Organization
CLOSED	Personnel
CLOSED	Planning Group Meeting Notes
CLOSED	Prisoner of War Issues
CLOSED	Quad Commission

### **OA 18922**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Reagan Record
CLOSED	Reimbursable Detailees
CLOSED	Rostenkowski
CLOSED	SRING/LRINF Materials
OPEN	State of the Union Message [1988]
CLOSED	Thanksgiving Proclamation
CLOSED	Veto/Signing Statements
CLOSED	Voyager
CLOSED	White House Budget and Personnel Status FY 1987
CLOSED	White House Mess
CLOSED	White House Military Office
CLOSED	34/146 Group Meetings
CLOSED	[Staff Secretary's Office Diskette Printout - Rhett Dawson Memos 04/09/1987-08/12/1987] (Duplicates of Chron Files in CF 0784)

### **RAC Box 1 (with NSC Collections)**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Miscellaneous Points re: INF (November 1984) (1)(2)
CLOSED	Senate and INF Treaty (1)(2)
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting (12/18/1987)
CLOSED	Organizing for INF Ratification
CLOSED	NSDD re: INF Ratification
CLOSED	INF Ratification Strategy and Coordination Group (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (12/30/1987)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	RUMP Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (12/30/1987)
CLOSED	Expanded Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (1)(2)
CLOSED	Briefing with Senator Baker (01/07/1988)
CLOSED	Final Game Plan (01/07/1988)
CLOSED	Meeting Regarding Record (01/11/1988)
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting (01/12/1988)
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (01/12/1988)
CLOSED	INF Briefing Schedule
CLOSED	INF Ratification Plan
CLOSED	Inter-Agency Briefings Re: INF/Schedule
CLOSED	INF Treaty Implementation Request
CLOSED	INF/NATO Strategy
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting (01/18/1988)
CLOSED	Tower/INF
CLOSED	ADP Study Group
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (01/21/1988)
CLOSED	Public Affairs Plan
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) (01/26/1988)
CLOSED	NATO Summit Goals
CLOSED	Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting (02/02/1988)
CLOSED	[Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting] (02/05/1988)
CLOSED	Senate Principles (1)(2)
CLOSED	Meeting with Baker and Powell
CLOSED	[Strategy and Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting] (02/09/1988)
CLOSED	INF-Dawson Notes
CLOSED	Miscellaneous INF (1)-(15)