



Bonitati, Robert: Files, 1981-1983

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of Public Liaison

Specialization Heading

Special Assistant to the President for Labor

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

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.

Scope and Content Note

Content Note

Robert Bonitati was the principal public liaison staff member for labor relations and the Reagan Administration. 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.

The Robert Bonitati collection consists of three series; SERIES I: Subject Files, SERIES II: Correspondence and Memoranda, and SERIES III: Phone Logs.

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA

SERIES III: PHONE LOGS

Last Modified Date

2025-05-09

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE

OA 6841

Status	Title
CLOSED	Advisors for Elizabeth H. Dole
OPEN	Air Traffic Employees [Federation of]
CLOSED	Airlie House – Labor / Management Symposium 06/09/1982-06/11/1982
CLOSED	Airline Employee Protection
CLOSED	Airline Employees Association
OPEN	Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) 1981 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Airline Pilots Association 1982
CLOSED	Alaskan Oil Exports
OPEN	Allegheny – Mohawk Airline Merger Provisions (1)(2)
OPEN	AFL-CIO (February 1981-June 1981) (1)-(6)
OPEN	AFL-CIO July 1981-January 1983 (1)-(5)
OPEN	AFL-CIO Centennial Convention (1)(2)
OPEN	AFL-CIO Executive Council 12/02/1981 with the President (1)-(6)
OPEN	AFL-CIO Executive Council, Bal Harbor, February 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	AFSCME [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Antenucci, Alfred [Assassination Attempt on President Reagan]
CLOSED	Anti-Administration Releases
CLOSED	Apprenticeship and Training
CLOSED	Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries
OPEN	Auto Industry (1)-(3)
OPEN	Auto Workers (United) 1981 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Auto Workers (United) 1982
CLOSED	Balanced Budget
CLOSED	Baltic Shipping Company
CLOSED	Beach Blanket Babylon

Status	Title
OPEN	Black Lung (1)(2)
OPEN	Black Lung 12/05/1981
OPEN	Black Lung / Bill Signing Ceremony
CLOSED	Boards and Commissions
CLOSED	Boilermakers
CLOSED	Bricklayers
CLOSED	BRAC [Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees]
CLOSED	Budget Appeals
CLOSED	Budget Coalition
CLOSED	Building and Construction Trades
CLOSED	Building and Construction Trades / Washington, D.C. Conference, 04/05/1982-04/07/1982
CLOSED	Building and Construction Trades Convention / Washington, DC, 03/30/1981
CLOSED	Building and Construction Trades Convention / Atlanta City, 10/21/1981
CLOSED	Cargo Preference
CLOSED	Carpenters (United Brotherhood)
CLOSED	Carpenters Convention 09/03/1981 Chicago, IL

OA 6842

Status	Title
OPEN	Chamber of Commerce [of the United States]
CLOSED	Child Labor Laws
OPEN	China / USA Exchange
CLOSED	Christmas Cards 1981
OPEN	Clean Air Act (1)-(3)
OPEN	Clean Air Act / Environmental Protection Agency / 08/20/1981
OPEN	Clements, Governor
OPEN	Clothing and Textile Workers (1)(2)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Coal Gasification
CLOSED	Coal Negotiations
CLOSED	Coal Slurry
CLOSED	Combined Federal Campaign
OPEN	COPE [Committee on Political Education]
CLOSED	Communication Workers of America
CLOSED	Commuter Services / Presidential Emergency Board: New York, New Jersey
OPEN	CETA [Comprehensive Employment and Training Act]
CLOSED	Conference Board
CLOSED	CONRAIL
CLOSED	Continuing Education (National Advisory)
CLOSED	Contract Expirations
OPEN	Crusade for Freedom
CLOSED	Davis-Bacon Act
CLOSED	Davis-Bacon Campaign – July 1981
CLOSED	Death Benefits
CLOSED	Deconcini, Susan
OPEN	Democratic National Committee - Coalition with AFL-CIO
CLOSED	Detroit Trip (Elizabeth H. Dole)
CLOSED	Detroit Trip (Elizabeth H. Dole): Trade Adjustment Assistance, etc.
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Dialogue with Labor
OPEN	Donovan, Raymond J. (1)(2)
CLOSED	Driver of the Year
CLOSED	Driver's Log Forms
CLOSED	Drunken Driving (Presidential Commission On)
CLOSED	Dubinsky, David
CLOSED	Earnings
OPEN	[Economic Recovery Program Mailings to Unions - 1981] (1)-(3)

Status	Title
CLOSED	Economic Renewal Briefing 03/26/1981
CLOSED	Economic Renewal Briefing 04/02/1981 (Legislative Aides)
CLOSED	Economic Renewal Program
OPEN	El Salvador
CLOSED	Electrical Workers (International Brotherhood)
OPEN	Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)
OPEN	Employment Policy
OPEN	Employment Relations Report 1981 (1)(2)
OPEN	Employment Relations Report 1982 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Employment Training System
CLOSED	Endorsements
CLOSED	Endorsers Meeting 02/10/1981
CLOSED	Endorsers Meeting 07/11/1981
CLOSED	Energy
CLOSED	Energy Independence (Americans for)
CLOSED	Engineering Association (American)
CLOSED	Engineers and Scientists Organizations

OA 6843

Status	Title
OPEN	Enterprise Zones
OPEN	Enterprise Zones 1981-1982 (Bonitati) (1)-(9)
OPEN	Enterprise Zone Meeting 05/17/1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Enterprise Zone Meeting 05/27/1982 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Environmental Balance (National Council For)
CLOSED	Environmental Education
CLOSED	(EDB) Ethelyne Dibromide
CLOSED	Export Trade Bill
CLOSED	Farrell, Janice
OPEN	FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]
CLOSED	Federal Election Commission (FEC)
CLOSED	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Status	Title
OPEN	Federal Employees (1)-(4)
OPEN	Federal Labor/Management Relations Program
OPEN	Federal Labor Relations Authority (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Federal Managers Association
CLOSED	Federal Meditation/Conciliation Service
CLOSED	Federal Services Impasses Panel
CLOSED	Firefighters (International Association) 1982
CLOSED	Flexitime
CLOSED	Flight Attendants
CLOSED	Flight Attendants: Campaign for Air Passenger Safety – Congressional Responses
CLOSED	Flight Attendants: Campaign for Air Passenger Safety – Newsclips
CLOSED	Food and Commercial Workers (United)
CLOSED	Food Banks
CLOSED	Football League Players (National)
CLOSED	Foreign Policy Briefing 10/12/1982 with the Vice President
CLOSED	Fraternal Order of Police
CLOSED	Fringe Benefits
CLOSED	Garment Workers (United)
OPEN	Government Employees (American Federation of) (1)-(4)
OPEN	Government Employees (Assembly of) (1)-(3)
OPEN	Government Employees (General)
OPEN	Government Employees (National Association of)
CLOSED	Grain Millers (American Federation of)
CLOSED	Hobbs Act
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Hotel and Restaurant Employees
OPEN	HUD (Housing and Urban Development)
CLOSED	Housing (President’s Commission)
CLOSED	Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) & Theatrical Unions

Status	Title
CLOSED	Immigration Task Force Guest Workers and Braceros
OA 6844	

Status	Title
CLOSED	Inaugural Address
CLOSED	Independent Truckers Association (ITA)
OPEN	Independent Unions (Congress of)
OPEN	Independent Unions (National Federation)
OPEN	Independent Unions with the President
CLOSED	Industrial Homework
CLOSED	Industrial Union Department
CLOSED	Intelligence Briefing 10/15/1982 Director Bill Casey/Heymann
CLOSED	[Intelligence:] AHV Briefing on Intelligence Issues
CLOSED	Interior [Department of]
OPEN	International Association of Firefighters, 1981 (1)-(5)
CLOSED	International Brotherhood of Police Organizations
OPEN	International Labor Movement (1)-(3)
OPEN	ILO [International Labor Organization]
CLOSED	ILA (International Longshoremen's Association)
OPEN	International Trade Union Movement
CLOSED	Interstate Commerce Commission
CLOSED	Ironworkers
CLOSED	Issues Forecast
CLOSED	Job Training Act 1982
OPEN	Kamber, Victor
CLOSED	Kigin, Joe
CLOSED	Labor - Accomplishments - 1982 (Major)
CLOSED	Labor Advisory Committee
CLOSED	Labor Day
CLOSED	Labor Department Briefings 04/27/1981 and 04/28/1981
CLOSED	Labor, Department of

Status	Title
CLOSED	Labor Department Statistics
CLOSED	Labor Directive - Memo to Heads of Dept/Agencies - RR
CLOSED	Labor and 1982 Elections
CLOSED	Labor - 1982 Elections
CLOSED	Labor Industry Coalition for International Trade
CLOSED	[Labor:] Inter-Departmental Labor Communications Group
CLOSED	Labor Issues Working Group
CLOSED	Labor-Management Committee
CLOSED	Labor-Management Cooperation
CLOSED	Labor Meetings
CLOSED	Labor Policy Association
CLOSED	Bonitati - Labor (Press Clippings) - General (1981)
CLOSED	Bonitati - Labor (Press Clippings) - General 1982

OA 6845

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy - 1982</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy (1)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy (2)</u>
OPEN	<u>Labor Strategy (3)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy (4)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy (5)</u>
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<u>Labor Strategy (6)</u>
CLOSED	[Labor Strategy]
CLOSED	[Labor Strategy:] Portfolio Analysis - RFB
CLOSED	Labor Women
CLOSED	Laborers' International Union
CLOSED	Ladies Garment Workers' Union
CLOSED	Law Enforcement
CLOSED	Law of the Sea Treaty
CLOSED	Legislative / IGA
CLOSED	Licensed Practical Nurses

Status	Title
CLOSED	Life International
CLOSED	Local Union Contracts
CLOSED	Locigno, Paul
CLOSED	Locomotive Engineers (Brotherhood of)
OPEN	Machinists (International Association of)
OPEN	Mailing to Affiliate Unions
OPEN	Marcos, President (Philippines)
CLOSED	Marine Engineers Beneficial (MEBA)
CLOSED	Maritime Committee - AFL-CIO
CLOSED	Maritime Leaders Meeting 04/15/1981
CLOSED	Maritime Policy - General - 1981, 1980 & Undated Material
CLOSED	Maritime Policy - General 1982
CLOSED	Maritime Trades Department - AFL-CIO
CLOSED	Masters, Mates and Pilots
CLOSED	Medicare Funds / Union Organizing
CLOSED	Merchant Marine Trophy
CLOSED	Middle East Briefing 10/07/1982 R. 450 Business / Labor
CLOSED	Middle East Speech
CLOSED	Mine Safety and Health Administration
CLOSED	Mine Workers (United)
OPEN	Minimum Wage
CLOSED	Minority Construction Roundtable
CLOSED	Murphy, Betty S.
CLOSED	MX
CLOSED	National Association of Manufacturers
CLOSED	NAPO (National Association of Police Organizations)
OPEN	National Education Association
CLOSED	National Environmental Development Association / Clean Air Act Project
OPEN	NLRA [National Labor Relations Act]
OPEN	National Labor Relations Board, 1981 (1)-(4)

Status	Title
OPEN	National Labor Relations Board 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	National Maritime Union, 1981 (1)-(7)
CLOSED	National Maritime Union 1982
CLOSED	National Mediation Board
CLOSED	National Security 05/15/1981
CLOSED	National Transportation Safety Board
CLOSED	Natural Gas
OPEN	Negotiations (1)-(7)
CLOSED	Negro Women (National Council of)
OPEN	New Direction

OA 6846

Status	Title
CLOSED	New Melones Dam - California
CLOSED	New York Port Authority
CLOSED	Newspaper Guild
CLOSED	Nurses Association (American)
CLOSED	O'Donnell, Peter
CLOSED	Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs
OPEN	OPM [Office of Personnel Management]
CLOSED	Operating Engineers
CLOSED	OPL General
OPEN	OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] (1)(2)
CLOSED	Outer Continental Shelf
CLOSED	Overseas Private Investment
CLOSED	Panama Canal
CLOSED	Paperworkers
CLOSED	Pension Guaranty Corp
CLOSED	Photographs
CLOSED	Plant Guard Workers
CLOSED	Plasterers and Cement Masons

Status	Title
OPEN	Plumbers (United Association)
CLOSED	Police Benevolent Association (New York City)
CLOSED	Police, International Association of Chiefs of
CLOSED	Police (Union of International Association)
CLOSED	Police Week
OPEN	Polish Union/Solidarity (1)(2)
OPEN	Political Profiles, Inc.
CLOSED	Politics, People and Issues Report
OPEN	Polling Data (1)-(8)
OPEN	Postal Workers (1)-(6)
CLOSED	Presidential Box
CLOSED	Presidential Classroom
CLOSED	Press List
CLOSED	Press Releases (OPL)
CLOSED	Private / Public Partnerships
CLOSED	Private Sector Initiatives
CLOSED	Productivity
OPEN	PATCO - Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Public Employee Retirement Income Security Act
OPEN	Public Employees Department AFL-CIO (1)(2)
CLOSED	PSOB (Public Safety Officers Benefit)
CLOSED	Public Service Research Council
CLOSED	Quality of Life
CLOSED	Railway Emergency Board
CLOSED	Railroad (Long Island Railroad Company)
CLOSED	Railroad Retirement
CLOSED	Reagan-Bush Committee Statements
CLOSED	Recreation Coalition (American)
CLOSED	Referrals / General Response
CLOSED	Regulatory Task Force

Status	Title
CLOSED	Republican Governors
CLOSED	Republican Labor Advisory Council (Republican National Committee)
CLOSED	Republican National Committee

OA 6847

Status	Title
CLOSED	Republican National Committee / Labor Meeting / 03/22/1982
CLOSED	Republican Platform Text
CLOSED	Restive Labor Community
CLOSED	Resumes 1981/1982
CLOSED	Retirement
OPEN	Right to Work Committee
CLOSED	Royal Hawaiian Cruise
CLOSED	Rubber Workers
CLOSED	Sample Letters
CLOSED	Screen Actors Guild
CLOSED	S 577 (Screen Actors Guild)
OPEN	Seafarers International Union, 1981 (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Seafarers International Union 1982
CLOSED	Secretaries Week (National)
CLOSED	Sella, Benjamin
CLOSED	Service Contract Act
OPEN	Service Employees International Union
CLOSED	Shale
CLOSED	Sheet Metal Workers of America
CLOSED	Shipping Act of 1981
OPEN	Shultz, George (Secretary of State)
CLOSED	SBA (Small Business Administration)
CLOSED	Social Security
OPEN	Solar

Status	Title
OPEN	Solar Energy Industries Association
OPEN	Solidarity Day (1)-(3)
CLOSED	Speech Material
OPEN	Standby Petroleum Allocation S.1503
CLOSED	State Department – Labor Union List
CLOSED	State Dinners
OPEN	State of the Union Speech
CLOSED	Steel – Weirton
CLOSED	Steering Committee
CLOSED	Steering Subcommittee – Trade
CLOSED	Steubenville Steel
OPEN	Support/Blue Collar Correspondence
OPEN	Tax Briefing / 07/27/1981 / Burgess
OPEN	Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (1)(2)
CLOSED	Tax Initiatives
OPEN	Tax Package / 07/15/1981 / Lyn Nofziger’s Staff
OPEN	Tax Package / Supporters Reception
OPEN	Tax Policy (1)(2)
OPEN	Tax Reduction / Treasury 07/23/1981
CLOSED	Tayloe House
CLOSED	Tayloe House Reception 07/15/1981
OPEN	Teachers (American Federation of)
CLOSED	Teamsters – 1981

OA 6848

Status	Title
CLOSED	Teamsters – 1982
CLOSED	Teamsters Convention, 06/01/1981
CLOSED	Teamsters Local 237 Conference
CLOSED	Teamsters Meeting With the President – 12/01/1981
CLOSED	Teamsters - Ohio Conference
CLOSED	Teamsters: Roy Williams with the President 02/11/1982

Status	Title
CLOSED	Tecumseh United Products Workers
CLOSED	Tennessee Valley Authority
CLOSED	Tile and Marble Union
CLOSED	Tool Craftsmen
CLOSED	Tool Die and Mold Makers
CLOSED	Trade Advisory Committee
CLOSED	Trades Issues (General)
CLOSED	Training and Development (American Society of)
CLOSED	Transport Workers
CLOSED	Travel Vouchers
CLOSED	Trucking Negotiations
CLOSED	Tuition Tax Credits
OPEN	Unemployment October 1982
CLOSED	Unemployment Benefits
CLOSED	Unemployment Compensation
CLOSED	Unemployment – Defense Spending
OPEN	Unemployment – Structural
CLOSED	Uniformed Forces
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Union Busters [and Union Attitudes]
OPEN	Unions not Affiliated with the AFL-CIO
CLOSED	[Union Publications, Requests for]
OPEN	United States Information Agency
CLOSED	United Steelworkers
CLOSED	United Transportation Union (UTU)
CLOSED	Urban Land Institute
CLOSED	Urban Mass Transportation Association
OPEN	User Fees
CLOSED	Utility Workers Union
OPEN	Vice Presidential Meetings
CLOSED	Vice President’s Reception

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Vice President's "Regular" Meetings with Labor Leaders
CLOSED	Victims of Crime
CLOSED	Violent Crime
CLOSED	Violent Crime 11/03/1981
CLOSED	Voluntarism
CLOSED	Voting Rights Act
CLOSED	Walsh Healey Act
OPEN	Weekly Summary/Forecast
OPEN	Weekly Summary - James Baker
CLOSED	Welcoming Ceremonies
CLOSED	Year-End Reports - 1981
CLOSED	Year-End Reports - 1982

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA

OA 6849

Status	Title
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [A-B]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [C-E]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [F-G]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [H-J]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [K-M]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [Mc-Q]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [R-S]
OPEN	Bonitati Correspondence March 1981-October 1982 [T-Z]
CLOSED	Bonitati Chron 10/28/1982-December 1982 (Binder)
CLOSED	Bonitati Chron January 1983 (Binder)
CLOSED	Bonitati Chron February 1983 (Binder)
CLOSED	Bonitati Chron March 1983 (Binder)
CLOSED	White House Memoranda - General
CLOSED	Bonitati [OPL Meeting Reports, September 1981-September 1982] (Binder)

SERIES III: PHONE LOGS

OA 6849, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	Phone Log March 1981-December 1981 (1)-(9)
CLOSED	Bonitati Phone Log 01/01/1982-10/03/1982 (Binder)