



Duberstein, Kenneth M.: Files, 1987-1989

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of the Chief of Staff, 1987-1989

Disclaimer

This collection is available in whole for research use. Some folders may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequently withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc.

Copyright

Documents in this collection were prepared by federal employees and appointees of the United States government as part of their official duties. This material is in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult United States copyright laws (Title 17, USC) governing reproductions of copyrighted material.

Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Kenneth M. Duberstein (1944-2022) was a government official, lobbyist and political consultant.

Duberstein was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 21, 1944. He graduated from Poly Prep Day School and received his B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania. A Franklin and Marshall professor helped Duberstein become a Washington intern for Senator Jacob Javits (R-New York), and during this internship, Duberstein earned a Master's degree in American Political Dynamics from American University. He attended New York Law School for a year, then returned to Franklin and Marshall as an administrative assistant to its president.

Duberstein was hired by the General Services Administration (GSA) in 1970, and became Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs for this federal agency in 1972. He left GSA in August 1976 and joined the Department of Labor as a Deputy Under Secretary. After President Ford left office in 1977, Duberstein became a director for the Committee for Economic Development, a Washington public policy organization.

When President Reagan took office in January 1981, Duberstein joined the new administration in the Office of Legislative Affairs. He was the liaison with the House of Representatives. Duberstein became head of Legislative Affairs in December of that year.

In December 1983, Duberstein left the White House and took a position with Timmons & Company Inc., the lobbying and public relations firm headed by former Reagan campaign and transition director William Timmons. Duberstein returned to work for the Committee for Economic Development as Vice-President and Director of Business-Government relations. Duberstein also headed the Congressional Liaison Team for the 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign organization.

In 1987 Duberstein returned to the White House as the deputy to the new Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, with responsibility for most of the White House's day-to-day operations. When Baker announced his resignation in June 1988, he recommended that Duberstein succeed him as Chief of Staff, and this recommendation was followed. Duberstein, who had a reputation as an efficient manager, saw to the smooth operation of the White House during the last six months of the Reagan Presidency. In addition, he acted as a chief policy adviser to the President, and helped develop and deliver White House support for George Bush's 1988

Presidential campaign. After Election Day, President Reagan appointed Duberstein the chief Administration coordinator for the transition to the incoming Bush Administration.

In January 1989, Duberstein was awarded the President's Citizen's Medal by President Reagan.

Upon leaving the White House, Duberstein founded The Duberstein Group, a Washington, DC planning and consulting firm. He served as Chairman and CEO. In addition, Duberstein maintained an active service life. He was the chairman of the Ethics Committee for the U.S. Olympic Committee and served as vice chairman of the independent Special Bid Oversight Reform Commission for the U.S. Olympics Committee. He also appeared on Bloomberg alongside John Podesta.

Duberstein served on multiple corporate boards included Boeing, ConocoPhillips and the Fleming Companies. He was also on the Board of Governors for the American Stock Exchange and NASD, and served on the Board of Directors of Fannie Mae. He served on the advisory board for Washington, DC based non-profit America Abroad Media.

Duberstein was also a technical consultant for the television series *The West Wing*.

Duberstein suffered from chronic kidney disease and eventually received a kidney transplant from his son in 2014. Duberstein passed away on March 2, 2022 from a long illness. He is survived by his current wife, Jacqueline Fain and four children from his previous two marriages.

Scope and Content Note

Scope & Content

Kenneth Duberstein worked in the Office of the Chief of Staff from March 1987 until President Reagan left office in January 1989. Earlier in the Administration (1981-1983), he had served in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. Please see the separate finding aid for Duberstein's Legislative Affairs files. Also, please see the John C. Tuck collection within the Office of the Chief of Staff for further Chief of Staff

work-related product for Kenneth Duberstein.

Duberstein's files from his time in the Office of the Chief of Staff are arranged into four series: SERIES I: Subject File; SERIES II: Transition File; SERIES III: Public Opinion Polls, and SERIES IV: Unacknowledged Mail File

Series List

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE, 1987-1989

This series consists of alphabetically arranged files pertaining to issues and topics from the last two years of the Reagan Administration, including: the filling of Supreme Court vacancies; US-USSR relations; the Washington and Moscow Summits and the INF Treaty; the Iran-Contra affair; the 1988 State of the Union Address; long-range policy planning; the federal budget; AIDS, health care, drug abuse, welfare, housing, and other domestic issues; the 1988 Republican convention and Presidential campaign; and the transition to the George Bush administration. There is still closed national security classified material within this series.

SERIES II: TRANSITION FILE, 1988-1989

This series includes material, administrative in nature, pertaining to the transition from the Reagan Administration to the George H. W. Bush Administration. Most material pertains specifically to the President-Elect's transition team, including: copies of public disclosure statements; lists and form letters documenting transition team requests for basic information on federal agencies; and material pertaining to the listing and verifying of transition people. Also present are: memos authorizing certain Bush transition personnel to communicate with Reagan Administration staff people in specific agencies; lists and other documents pertaining to general conduct guidelines for both Reagan and Bush transition personnel; and guidance for Reagan Administration staff on employment status during and after the transition. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

SERIES III: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, October 1988-November 1988

This series consists of polls compiled for the White House by The Wirthlin Group, the polling organization headed by Richard Wirthlin. Wirthlin first conducted polls for Ronald Reagan during the 1980 campaign. After Reagan became President, Wirthlin directed many public opinion surveys for the White House, and regularly briefed the President and Cabinet officers on his findings. The polls are arranged chronologically and are bound in books.

SERIES IV: UNACKNOWLEDGED MAIL FILE, August 1988-September 1988

This series consists of unanswered miscellaneous mail to the White House. It includes letters from the general public, magazines and newsletters, US Government publications, unsolicited resumes, polling information, and crank mail. Topics include the 1988 elections, economics, US-USSR relations, US-Mexico relations, and national defense. Most of the mail was addressed to Duberstein, Howard Baker, or President Reagan. It is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

SERIES I: SUBJECT FILE, 1987-1989

This series consists of alphabetically arranged files pertaining to issues and topics from the last two years of the Reagan Administration, including: the filling of Supreme Court vacancies; US-USSR relations; the Washington and Moscow Summits and the INF Treaty; the Iran-Contra affair; the 1988 State of the Union Address; long-range policy planning; the federal budget; AIDS, health care, drug abuse, welfare, housing, and other domestic issues; the 1988 Republican convention and Presidential campaign; and the transition to the George Bush administration. There is still closed national security classified material within this series.

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Aid to the "Contras"
OPEN	AIDS Commission
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Briefing Material - Fall 1987 Issues (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Briefing Material - Fall 1987 Issues (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Briefing Material - "The President's Strategic Plan"
OPEN	Canada Free Trade Agreement

Status	Title
OPEN	Candidates for Supreme Court [Notebook One] (1)(2)
OPEN	Candidates for Supreme Court [Notebook Two] (1)(2)
OPEN	Candidates for Supreme Court [Notebook Three] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Candidates for Supreme Court [Notebook Four] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Drug Issues
OPEN	Duberstein [Chronology of Activities: 11/03/1988 Nancy Risque Memo]
OPEN	[Early Warning Report to Chief of Staff for 01/19/1989]
OPEN	[Fetal Experimentation (Armstrong, William L.)]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Gorbachev Meetings (1)

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Gorbachev Meetings (2)
OPEN	Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Debt Limit
OPEN	Health Care Issues
OPEN	Housing Issues
OPEN	INF Ratification
OPEN	Iran Contra Issues #1 of 2 (1)(2)
OPEN	Iran Contra Issues #2 of 2 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Japan Whaling Association]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Japanese Internment
OPEN	Labor Issues
OPEN	Ferdinand Marcos
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Moscow Summit:] Background Book for the Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Moscow, 05/29/1988-06/02/1988 (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Moscow Summit:] Background Book for the Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Moscow, 05/29/1988-06/02/1988 (2)

Box 3

Status	Title
---------------	--------------

OPEN / DIGITIZED [\[Moscow Summit:\] Background Book for the Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Moscow, 05/29/1988-06/02/1988 \(3\)](#)

OPEN [National Public Service Awards 1989]

OPEN [NATO Summit Background Book:] The President's Trip to the NATO Summit, Brussels, Belgium, 03/02/1988-03/03/1988] (1)-(4)

OPEN 1988 Political Campaign (1)(2)

OPEN 1988 Republican National Convention

OPEN 1988 State of the Union

OPEN / DIGITIZED [Nomination of Judge Robert Bork](#)

OPEN Nomination of Douglas Ginsburg

OPEN Nomination of Judge Anthony Kennedy (1)(2)

OPEN [Pardon Proposal: Hammer, Armand]

OPEN [Pardon Proposal: Hearst, Patty]

OPEN Quadrennial Pay Commission

Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	"Spinoff Project:" Douglas Morrow Project on NASA
OPEN	Stock Market Issues/National Economic Commission
OPEN	Trade Issues (1)(2)
OPEN	Transition Issues (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Transition: Miscellaneous Correspondence 01/18/1989]
OPEN	[US Information Agency: Conference on Chemical Weapons]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit:] Background Book for Meeting Between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit:] Background Book for Meeting Between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit:] Background Book for Meeting Between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (3)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit:] Background Book for Meeting Between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987 (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit Briefing Book: The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987] (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit Briefing Book: The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987] (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit Briefing Book: The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987] (3)

Box 5

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Washington Summit Briefing Book: The Meetings of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, Washington, DC, 12/08/1987-12/10/1987] (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Welfare Reform Issues
OPEN	[White House Personnel Requests]
OPEN	Williamsburg Charter
OPEN	[World's Fair 1992 (Wick, Charles Z.)]

SERIES II: TRANSITION FILE, 1988-1989

This series includes material, administrative in nature, pertaining to the transition from the Reagan Administration to the George H. W. Bush Administration. Most material pertains specifically to the President-Elect's transition team, including: copies of public disclosure statements; lists and form letters documenting transition team requests for basic information on federal agencies; and material pertaining to the listing and verifying of transition people. Also present are: memos authorizing certain Bush transition personnel to communicate with Reagan Administration staff people in specific agencies; lists and other documents pertaining to general conduct guidelines for both Reagan and Bush transition personnel; and guidance for Reagan Administration staff on employment status during and after the transition. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Box 5, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	Duberstein - Transition (1)-(8)
OPEN	Duberstein - Transition [Cabinet] (1)(2)
OPEN	Duberstein - Transition [Executive Office of the President Agencies] (1)(2)
OPEN	Duberstein - Transition [Sub-Cabinet Agencies] (1)(2)

Box 6

Status	Title
OPEN	Duberstein - Transition [Sub-Cabinet Agencies] (3)-(8)
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (A)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (B)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (C)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (D)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (E-F)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (G)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (H-J)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (K-L)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (M)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Transition Team Disclosure Statements (N-Q)]

Box 7

Status	Title
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (R)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (S)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (T-V)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (W)]
OPEN	[Transition Teams Disclosure Statements (X-Z)]

SERIES III: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, October 1988-November 1988

This series consists of polls compiled for the White House by The Wirthlin Group, the polling organization headed by Richard Wirthlin. Wirthlin first conducted polls for Ronald Reagan during the 1980 campaign. After Reagan became President, Wirthlin directed many public opinion surveys for the White House, and regularly briefed the

President and Cabinet officers on his findings. The polls are arranged chronologically and are bound in books.

Box 7, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	WH National Monitor October 1988 Volume 1 of 3

Box 8

Status	Title
OPEN	WH National Monitor October 1988 Volume 2 of 3
OPEN	WH National Monitor October 1988 Volume 3 of 3

Box 9

Status	Title
OPEN	[Note re WH National Monitor October 1988-November 1988]
OPEN	WH National Monitor October 1988-November 1988 Volume 1 of 2
OPEN	WH National Monitor October 1988-November 1988 Volume 2 of 2

SERIES IV: UNACKNOWLEDGED MAIL FILE, August 1988-September 1988

This series consists of unanswered miscellaneous mail to the White House. It includes letters from the general public, magazines and newsletters, US Government publications, unsolicited resumes, polling information, and crank mail. Topics include the 1988 elections, economics, US-USSR relations, US-Mexico relations, and national defense. Most of the mail was addressed to Duberstein, Howard Baker, or President Reagan. It is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Box 10

Status	Title
OPEN	[Note re Mail to File]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (A-B)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (C-H)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (I)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (J)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (K)] (1)-(3)

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (L-M)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (N-ND)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (NE-R)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (S-SO)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (SP-Z)]
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (Anonymous)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (A-BN)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (BO-COK)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (COL)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (COM-CR)]

Box 11

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (CS-DN)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (DO-DZ)] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (E-G)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (H-J)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (K-LE)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (LF-MARJ)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (Market Opinion Research)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (MARL-MZ)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (N-National B)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (National C-National Z)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (NATJ-PAH)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (PAI-PZ)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (Q-R)]

Box 12

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (S-SC)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (SD-SEM)] (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (SEN-SH)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (SI-SL)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (SM-STAT)]

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (State Department Watch)] (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (STAU-SZ)]

Box 13

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (T-United States M)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (United States N-WASG)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (Washington-WE)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (WF-Williams G)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (Williams H-WZ)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (X-Z)]
OPEN	[Mail to Duberstein and Others (Anonymous)] (1)(2)

Box 13 (Oversize)

Status	Title
OPEN	[Mail to Howard Baker (Oversize)]