

MARVIN KOSTERS FILES, 1974-75

Collection Type

White House Office Files

Extent

2.0 linear feet (ca. 4,000 pages)

Record Type

Textual

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Processed by

Prepared June 1982

Biography

Marvin H. Kusters

1933 - Born, Corsica, South Dakota

1960 - Received B.S. degree, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

1965 - Received PhD, University of Chicago

1965-69 - Economist, The RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA

1969-71 - Senior Staff Economist, Council of Economic Advisers

July-Aug. 1971 - Associate Manpower Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Manpower Administration

Aug.-Nov. 1971 - Director of Planning and Analysis, Cost of Living Council

Nov. 1971-Jan. 1973 - Assistant Director for Planning and Analysis, Cost of Living Council

Jan.-Oct. 1973 - Associate Director for Economic Policy, Cost of Living Council

Oct. 1973-Mar. 1974 - Counselor to the Chairman, Cost of Living Council

March-December 1974 - Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Dec. 1974-May 1975 - Consultant to L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs

May 1975-? Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

1975-77 - Consultant, U.S. Department of the Treasury

1994-2000 - Adjunct Professor, Virginia Tech University

Scope and Content Note

Dr. Marvin H. Kusters, an economist who had been involved in the planning and analysis of wage and price controls with the Cost of Living Council during the Nixon administration, joined the Ford administration as consultant to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy in December 1974. He remained with the administration until May 1975 when he returned to a position as resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Kusters had taken a leave of absence from the American Enterprise Institute in order to accept a position in the administration and become "a participant-observer in national economic policy machinery." Kusters was responsible for economic policy analysis and advice for the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, L. William Seidman. His duties included the coordination of domestic economic policy issues to be addressed by the Economic Policy Board and liaison with executive departments and agencies in developing policy issues and implementing policy decisions. Dr. Kusters was also responsible for responding to letters from economists and the general public concerning administration policies.

Kusters' role as observer is illustrated in several memoranda he prepared for Seidman concerning the purpose, structure and organization of the Economic Policy Board. The Board was established in October 1974 by Executive Order 11808, which outlined the EPB's responsibilities and its relationship with departments and agencies in only the most general terms. Kusters was responsible for further defining the Board's purpose, proposing what kinds of matters should be brought up for consideration by the executive committee, and streamlining the EPB staff organization.

Kusters also participated directly in the activities of the EPB and was responsible for organizing the quarterly economic review held in March 1975. The EPB executive committee met daily to discuss a variety of topics related to the domestic economy. The executive committee also organized two types of meetings to supplement the daily morning sessions -- quarterly economic policy reviews and executive committee special sessions. The review planned by Kusters followed the

usual format -- an assessment of the overall economic outlook, review of the general direction of either domestic or international policy, and an examination of specific problem areas.

Kosters began planning for this March quarterly review in January 1975 by informally canvassing departments and agencies for possible agenda topics. He then prepared a review outline under Seidman's supervision and circulated it to executive committee members for comments and suggestions. The executive committee then approved a revised agenda, established task forces, made assignments, and set deadlines for papers. Kosters monitored departments and agencies to make sure that deadlines were being met and made arrangements for the three-day review. He also prepared an extensive follow-up paper.

Dr. Kosters also acted as liaison with the Office of Special Representative for Trade Negotiations during the time between the resignation of one Special Trade Representative and the appointment of a successor. He met regularly with staff members in the Office of the Special Trade Representative, reviewed testimony to be given by members of the Office, received copies of their substantive correspondence with House and Senate members, offered his views on how specific trade matters should be handled, and briefed Seidman concerning these matters.

Dr. Kosters' files contain materials distributed by the Council of Economic Advisers concerning economic data and indicators; information on several issues considered by the Economic Policy Board; and papers and publications submitted to him by various agencies, departments, economists, and private financial firms.

Related Materials (June 1982)

Related material may be found in the L. William Seidman papers and files, various White House Central Files subject categories, and the papers of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Last Modified Date

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General Subject File, 1974-75.

(Boxes 1-5, 2.0 linear feet)

Correspondence, memoranda, press releases, reports on economic data and

indicators, and various drafts of the March 1975 economic policy review. They concern Kusters' activities as consultant to L. William Seidman, involvement with the Economic Policy Board, and as liaison with the Office of the Special Trade Representative for Trade Negotiations. Major topics include: planning and follow-up for the Economic Policy Board quarterly review in March 1975; the World Trade Negotiations in Geneva in February 1975; financing of electric utilities; and the Office of Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Ad Hoc Committee for an Effective Tax Credit
OPEN	Agriculture, Department of
OPEN	Assistant Secretaries Economic Information Meeting
OPEN	Bradley, Woods and Co. Incorporated
OPEN	Commerce, Department of
OPEN	Congressional Program of Economic Recovery and Energy Sufficiency
OPEN	Correspondence - Form Responses
OPEN	Correspondence - House and Senate
OPEN	Correspondence - General (1)-(3)
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Consumer Price Index
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Employment Figures
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Farm Prices
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Fertilizer and Natural Gas
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Gross National Product
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Housing Starts
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Industrial Production
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - International Monetary Products
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Monetary and Financial Conditions
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Personal Income

Status	Title
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Retail Sales
OPEN	Council of Economic Advisers - Wholesale Price Index
OPEN	Council on International Economic Policy
OPEN	Council on International Economic Policy - Publications

Box 2 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Council on Wage and Price Stability
OPEN	Domestic Council
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Kosters Memoranda on Role and Operation
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Miscellaneous Agenda and Minutes
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Program Planning and Development
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Quarterly Economic Policy Review
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Agenda Planning
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Briefing Book - Final Draft (1)-(3)
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Briefing Book - Working Papers (1)

Box 3 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Quarterly Economic Policy Review
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Briefing Book - Working Papers (2)
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Follow-up
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Seidman/Kosters Memoranda
OPEN	Economic Policy Board - Suggested Agenda Topics
OPEN	Electric Utilities (1)-(3)
OPEN	Family Budget Figures
OPEN	Federal Energy Administration

Box 4 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade - Geneva

Status	Title
OPEN	General Revenue Sharing
OPEN	Goldes, Mark - The General Ownership Corporation (1)-(2)
OPEN	Interior, Department of the
OPEN	Internal Memoranda
OPEN	Legg Mason Washington Service
OPEN	Miscellaneous Speeches
OPEN	National Commission on Productivity
OPEN	Notes on the Economic Outlook
OPEN	Office of Management and Budget
OPEN	Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations - Annual Reports
OPEN	Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations - Correspondence (1)-(4)
OPEN	Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations - Miscellaneous

Box 5 - General Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations - State Department Cables
OPEN	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEN	President's Economic Program
OPEN	President's Economic Program - Questions and Answers
OPEN	President's Economic Program - State of the Union Message 1975
OPEN	Press Releases
OPEN	Recycling Industry
OPEN	"The Review of Economics and Statistics"
OPEN	Small Business Policy
OPEN	Task Group on Antitrust Immunities
OPEN	Transportation, Department of
OPEN	Treasury, Department of

Status**Title**

OPEN

U.S. Steel

OPEN

Weekly Indicators of Economic Activity