

YANEK MIECZKOWSKI RESEARCH INTERVIEWS, 1994-2007

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

5 linear inches (ca. 800 pages) and 47 audiocassettes

Record Type

Textual

Access

Transcripts are open. Audio recordings with the titles struck through are closed pending review. Some items may be temporarily restricted under terms of the donor's deed of gift, a copy of which is available on request, or under National Archives and Records Administration general restrictions (36 CFR 1256).

Copyright

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Processed by

J.P. Schmidt, June 2012. Updated Sept 2019 by Jeff Senger.

Biography

Yanek Mieczkowski

Dr. Mieczkowski is (as of June 2012) Associate Professor of History at Dowling College in Oakdale, NY. He received his undergraduate degree from Ithaca College, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University. His publications include: *Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s*, 2005; *The Routledge Historical Atlas of Presidential Elections*, 2001; and *Instructor's Manual for America in Modern Times*, by Alan Brinkley & Ellen Fitzpatrick, 1997.

Scope and Content Note

The audiocassettes and transcripts included in this collection result from interviews by Yanek Mieczkowski with 39 government officials, including congressmen, Ford White House staff, agency officials, and four interviews with former President Ford. Dr. Mieczkowski used the interviews as sources of information for his dissertation, book (*Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s*), and an article on the 1976 Presidential campaign. The article appeared in the February 2008 issue of *American History*, a copy of which is included in this collection. All transcripts were prepared by Dr. Mieczkowski unless otherwise noted.

For many of the interviews, the major area of discussion is the Ford administration's response to inflation. Inflation was a grave problem that faced Gerald Ford as he entered the White House in 1974. To find ways to combat inflation, the White House held a conference on this subject in September 1974. The conference brought together leading economic thinkers. One of the means by which the Ford administration sought to reduce inflation, although it was not a product of the conference, was by appealing to the American public through the WIN (Whip Inflation Now) program. WIN encouraged the public to spend less and use less energy. The interviewees provide insight into the role and effectiveness of the conference and the WIN program.

Other economic topics of discussion include President Ford's October 1975, dollar-for-dollar tax and spending cuts proposal (included in a distorted form in the Revenue Adjustment Act), and his request for a tax cut that became included in the Tax Reduction Act of 1975.

On energy matters, Dr. Mieczkowski inquires about Ford's energy policies, and contrasts it with Nixon's policies. The discussion centers around Ford's plan for the reduction of oil imports, increased import fees and taxes (with revenues being returned to tax payers through tax cuts), phased decontrol of oil prices, and the elimination of the two-tiered price control system. Although Ford initially implemented import fees, his plan made no headway in Congress. In December 1975, Ford signed compromise legislation, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which allowed for a limited phased decontrol of oil prices. The interviews depict the struggle over whether to veto this bill.

One of the ideas proposed by the Ford administration, and championed by Vice President Rockefeller, was to create an Energy Independence Authority in order to spur the development of new sources of energy. Although Rockefeller campaigned strongly, the White House staff and Congress were not supportive of the proposal, as the interviews indicate.

The interviews also focus heavily on Gerald Ford's relations with Congress, 1975 State of the Union Address, and the 1976 Presidential campaign, especially as they relate to economic and energy issues. Other areas of discussion include: Ford's public image, the speechwriting process, accessibility to Ford by White House staff and Members of Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the President's veto record. A number of individuals feature prominently in the dialogues, including: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Richard Nixon, Bob Dole, Nelson Rockefeller, Donald Rumsfeld, Alan Greenspan, Arthur Burns, William Simon, Frank Zarb, and Robert Hartmann.

Related Materials (June 2012)

Additional interviews of President Ford and his associates are included in several collections, including: James M. Cannon: Research interviews and notes for Time and Chance, 1989-94; Composite Oral History Accessions, 1978-present; Gerald R. Ford Library Oral History Projects: Transcripts and audiotapes, 1996-present; James F.C. Hyde, Jr., and Stephen Wayne: Research interviews, 1975-77; A. James Reichley: Research interviews, (1967) 1977-81; and Mark J. Rozell: Research interviews, 1989-90.

There are numerous Ford Library collections related to the economy and energy. Please refer to the core collection guides for "Economic Policy" and "Energy Policy"

for more information.

Last Modified Date

2024-04-09

Research Interview Transcripts, 1994-2007.

(Box 1, 5 linear inches)

Arranged alphabetically by name of interviewee, thereunder chronologically.

Box 1 - Research Interview

Status	Title
OPEN	Anderson, John B. - Interview, 5/5/1994
OPEN	Ash, Roy - Interview - Interview, 8/21/2001
CLOSED	Belmon, Henry - Interview, undated [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Bennett, Douglas - Interview, 10/19/1994
OPEN	Buchen, Philip - Interview, 2/25/1994
CLOSED	Bumpers, Dale - Interview, 6/17/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Cannon, James - Interview, 10/19/1994
CLOSED	Cavanaugh, James - Interview, 4/17/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Cheney, Dick - Interview, 2/28/2007
CLOSED	Coleman, William - Interview, 9/16/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Conable, Barber - Interview, 2/9/1994
CLOSED	Curtis, Charles - Interview, 1/22/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
CLOSED	DiBona, Charles - Interview, 1/23/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
CLOSED	Dingell, John - Interview, 2/14/1994 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Duval, Michael - Interview, 3/8/1994

Status	Title
OPEN	Eberle, Bill - Interview, 3/29/2002
OPEN	Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 3/30/1994
OPEN	Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 10/25/1994
OPEN	Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 1/24/2002
CLOSED	Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 8/21/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Freeburg, Russell - Interview, 8/31/2001
OPEN	Friedersdorf, Max - Interview, 8/14/2001
OPEN	Goldwin, Robert - Interview, 3/31/1994
CLOSED	Green, William J. - Interview, 2/28/1994 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Hanley, James - Interview, 6/14/1994
OPEN	Hartmann, Robert - Interview, 10/17/1994
CLOSED	Hill, John R. - Interview, 9/19/2002 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Lynn, James T. - Interview, 10/27/1994
CLOSED	Lynn, James T. - Interview, 2/2/1995 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	MacAvoy, Paul - Interview, 5/2/2002
OPEN	McCracken, Paul - Interview, 2/8/1994
OPEN	Malkiel, Burton - Interview, 1/23/2002
OPEN	Nessen, Ron - Interview, 1/29/2002
OPEN	O'Neill, Paul - Interview, 8/17/1994
CLOSED	Orben, Robert - Interview, 10/7/2005 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Pasternack, Bruce - Interview, 3/21/1994
CLOSED	Percy, Charles - Interview, 2/28/1994 [transcription not yet completed]
CLOSED	Porter, Roger - Interview, 5/1/1995 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	Schleede, Glenn - Interview, 10/20/1994

Status	Title
OPEN	Seidman, L. William - Interview, 10/18/1994
OPEN	Spencer, Stuart - Interview, 4/3/2007
OPEN	Theis, Paul - Interview, 10/20/1994
OPEN	Zarb, Frank - Interview, 9/26/1994
CLOSED	Zarb, Frank - Interview, 2/6/2003 [transcription not yet completed]
OPEN	American History - February 2008

Research Interview Audiocassettes, 1994-2007.

(Box AV1-3, 47 audiocassettes)

Arranged alphabetically by name of interviewee, thereunder chronologically. Cassettes containing recordings with more than one interviewee are filed under the name that comes first alphabetically.

Box AV1 - Research Interview Audiocassettes

Status	Title
OPEN	0391-001-s1: Anderson, John B. - Interview, 5/5/1994
CLOSED	0391-001-s2: Porter, Roger - Interview, 5/1/1995
OPEN	0391-002: Ash, Roy - Interview - Interview, 8/21/2001
CLOSED	0391-003: Belmon, Henry - Interview, undated
OPEN	0391-004: Bennett, Douglas - Interview, 10/19/1994 (1 of 2)
OPEN	0391-005: Bennett, Douglas - Interview, 10/19/1994 (2 of 2)
OPEN	0391-006: Buchen, Philip - Interview, 2/25/1994
CLOSED	0391-007: Bumpers, Dale - Interview, 6/17/2003
OPEN	0391-008: Cannon, James - Interview, 10/19/1994
CLOSED	0391-009: Cavanaugh, James - Interview, 4/17/2003
OPEN	0391-010: Cheney, Dick - Interview, 2/28/2007
CLOSED	0391-011: Coleman, William - Interview, 9/16/2003
OPEN	0391-012: Conable, Barber - Interview, 2/9/1994 (1 of 2)
OPEN	0391-013: Conable, Barber - Interview, 2/9/1994 (2 of 2)

Status	Title
CLOSED	0391-014: Curtis, Charles - Interview, 1/22/2003
CLOSED	0391-015: DiBona, Charles - Interview, 1/23/2003
CLOSED	0391-016-s1: Dingell, John - Interview, 2/14/1994
OPEN	0391-016-s2: Hanley, James - Interview, 6/14/1994
OPEN	0391-017: Duval, Michael - Interview, 3/8/1994

Box AV2 - Research Interview Audiocassettes

Status	Title
OPEN	0391-018: Eberle, Bill - Interview, 3/29/2002
OPEN	0391-019: Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 3/30/1994
OPEN	0391-020: Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 10/25/1994
OPEN	0391-021-s1: Malkiel, Burton - Interview, 1/23/2002
OPEN	0391-021-s2: Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 1/24/2002
CLOSED	0391-022: Ford, Gerald R. - Interview, 8/21/2003
OPEN	0391-023: Freeburg, Russell - Interview, 8/31/2001
OPEN	0391-024: Friedersdorf, Max - Interview, 8/14/2001
OPEN	0391-025: Goldwin, Robert - Interview, 3/31/1994 (1 of 2)
OPEN	0391-026: Goldwin, Robert - Interview, 3/31/1994 (2 of 2)
CLOSED	0391-027-s1: Green, William J. - Interview, 2/28/1994
CLOSED	0391-027-s2: Porter, Roger - Interview, 5/1/1995
OPEN	0391-028: Hartmann, Robert - Interview, 10/17/1994 (1 of 2)
OPEN	0391-029: Hartmann, Robert - Interview, 10/17/1994 (2 of 2)
CLOSED	0391-030: Hill, John R. - Interview, 9/19/2002
OPEN	0391-031: Lynn, James T. - Interview, 10/27/1994 (1 of 2)
OPEN	0391-032-s1: Lynn, James T. - Interview, 10/27/1994 (2 of 2)
CLOSED	0391-032-s2: Lynn, James T. - Interview, 2/2/1995
OPEN	0391-033: MacAvoy, Paul - Interview, 5/2/2002
OPEN	0391-034: McCracken, Paul - Interview, 2/8/1994

Box AV2 - Research Interview Audiocassettes

Status	Title
OPEN	0391-035: Nessen, Ron - Interview, 1/29/2002
OPEN	0391-036: O'Neill, Paul - Interview, 8/17/1994
CLOSED	0391-037: Orben, Robert - Interview, 10/7/2005
OPEN	0391-038: Pasternack, Bruce - Interview, 3/21/1994
CLOSED	0391-039: Percy, Charles - Interview, 2/28/1994
OPEN	0391-040: Schleede, Glenn - Interview, 10/20/1994 (1 of 3)
OPEN	0391-041: Schleede, Glenn - Interview, 10/20/1994 (2 of 3)
OPEN	0391-042: Schleede, Glenn - Interview, 10/20/1994 (3 of 3)
OPEN	0391-043: Seidman, L. William - Interview, 10/18/1994
OPEN	0391-044: Spencer, Stuart - Interview, 4/3/2007
OPEN	0391-045: Theis, Paul - Interview, 10/20/1994
OPEN	0391-046: Zarb, Frank - Interview, 9/26/1994
CLOSED	0391-047: Zarb, Frank - Interview, 2/6/2003