

PETER H. SORUM PAPERS, 1973-77

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

5.7 linear feet (ca. 10,800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open. 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).

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Processed by

Joanna Axelrod, August 2004; revised by J.P. Schmidt, June 2012

Biography

Peter H. Sorum

November 30, 1946 Born in Winona, Minnesota

1968 B.A., Michigan State University (Degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management)

1969-1971 Graduate courses in Educational Administration, Michigan State University

1968 Assistant Manager, Old Orchard Inn, Cedar, Michigan

1968-1972 Assistant to the Registrar, Michigan State University

1972 Director, Youth Activities, Michigan Committee for the Re-Election of the President

1973 Instructor and Operations Coordinator, Regional Instructional Materials Center for Handicapped Children and Youth at Michigan State University

1973-1974 Assistant Director, Instructional Materials Center/Regional Media Centers Network Office, The Council for Exceptional Children

1973 Member, Vice Presidential Reception Committee

1974 Volunteer Advanceman for Vice President and President, White House

1975-1977 Staff Assistant, White House Advance Office

Scope and Content Note

The Peter H. Sorum Papers consist of materials relating to the work done by Sorum and other members of the White House Advance Office (part of the Scheduling and Advance Office) in preparation for out-of-town trips taken or events attended by members of the First Family. The collection focuses primarily on events attended by

Mrs. Ford and the Ford children but there are materials relating to President Ford's trips as well. The collection also contains materials related to a "homestate reception" at the Capital Hill Club for Vice President Ford following his swearing-in on December 6, 1973. The reception was given by the Michigan Congressional Delegation in conjunction with the University of Michigan Club and the Michigan State Society.

The Advance Office was responsible for the organization and implementation of the President and First Lady's visits outside of the White House complex. Members of this office designed and structured activities at each location the First Family visited. In most cases, they served as the primary contact and coordinator between the White House Military Office, the United States Secret Service, and the local communities to be visited. They were also in charge of conducting follow-up activities.

This file documents over 200 trips taken and events attended by members of the First Family. The events include the Republican National Convention, fundraising dinners and luncheons, awards ceremonies, funerals, festivals, conferences, concerts and artistic performances, art exhibits, and receptions for visiting dignitaries to name just a few. Documentation on an overseas trip to Germany, Poland, Finland, Romania, and Yugoslavia (which also includes information on Japan, Mexico, and Martinique) (Boxes 5 and 6), a trip to Alaska, China, Indonesia, Philippines, and Hawaii (Box 13), and a domestic trip to Vail, Colorado for Christmas (Box 14), are particularly complete since official briefing books are available for those trips. These briefing books have been maintained in the original order in which they were received. There are a number of routine action memoranda and event schedules in addition to the more interesting event programs.

Also included in this collection are handwritten notes by Mr. Sorum regarding event preparations, numerous letters and memoranda commending Mr. Sorum on the exemplary job he did.

Related Materials (August 2004)

Related materials may be found in the files of the First Lady's Staff particularly those of Susan Porter, Mrs. Ford's Appointments Secretary, and Sheila Weidenfeld, Press Secretary to the First Lady. The Porter files include materials relating to the

scheduling of activities and domestic trips for Mrs. Ford and the Ford children. The Weidenfeld files contain materials concerning daily events, trips, plans for head of state visits, Mrs. Ford's campaign involvement and activities and background on the Ford children.

The Betty Ford Papers, White House Central Files Subject File category for the First Family (PP 5) for Mrs. Ford and the Ford children (PP 5), and the White House Social Office Central File category for the First Lady-Personal (FL) include material relating to their participation in events outside of Washington, D.C.

Material related to travel by the First Family can be found in numerous collections throughout the Ford Library. A reconstruction of the President's daily activities can be found in the President's Daily Diary.

Last Modified Date

2024-04-30

Trip File, 1974-1977, 1974-77.

(Boxes 1-4, 5.4 linear feet)

Materials relating to advance work for members of the First Family including briefing books, correspondence, memoranda, schedules, secret service deployment diagrams, fact sheets, airport and venue schema, seating arrangements, event brochures and tourist information, newspaper clippings, thank you notes, press releases, handwritten notes from Mr. Sorum and his staff members, and State Department telegrams. White House photographs of Ford Family members at various events and official portraits were transferred to the Ford Library's Audiovisual Department.

Arranged chronologically by date of the event, with miscellaneous material at then end of the series.

Box 1 - Trip File

| Status | Title |
|---------------|---|
| OPEN | 1974 - 1976 First Family Events |
| OPEN | 07/19/1974 Vice President Ford - Visit to Roanoke, VA |

| Status | Title |
|--------|--|
| OPEN | 08/06/1974 Vice President Ford - National Conference of State Committeemen and State Executive Directors |
| OPEN | 09/06/1974 President Ford - Visit to Philadelphia, PA (1)-(2) |
| OPEN | 09/14/1974 Mrs. Ford - National Council of Negro Women Luncheon, Washington, D.C. |
| OPEN | 09/18/1974 Mrs. Ford - Tea Honoring Mrs. Aiken - Capital Hill, Washington, D.C. |
| OPEN | 09/20/1974 Mrs. Ford - Greek Church Festival - Washington, D.C. |
| OPEN | 09/23-24/1974 Mrs. Ford - Visit to Chicago, IL (1)-(2) |
| OPEN | 10/15-16/1974 President Ford - Visit to Kansas City, MO (1)-(2) |
| OPEN | 10/17-18/1974 Jack Ford - Visit to Kansas City, MO |
| OPEN | 10/31-11/02/1974 President Ford - Visit to Iowa, California, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas |
| OPEN | 12/04/1974 Mrs. Ford - Children's Christmas Party |
| OPEN | 12/10/1974 President Ford - National Football Foundation Awards Dinner |
| OPEN | 12/10/1974 Mrs. Ford - People's Republic of China Exhibition, National Art Gallery |
| OPEN | 12/15/1974 Jack Ford - National Rodeo Finals - Oklahoma City, OK |
| OPEN | 01/07/1975 President Ford - Acceptance of Theodore Roosevelt Award from National Collegiate Athletic Association |