

Ronald Harmon Brown Papers

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Collection Summary

Title: Ronald Harmon Brown Papers

Span Dates: 1992-1996

ID No.: MSS85311

Creator: Brown, Ronald Harmon, 1941-1996

Extent: 4,000 items ; 29 containers plus 1 oversize and electronic files ; 11.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: U. S. secretary of commerce and lawyer. Government documents, briefing books, topical files, newsletters, reports, speeches, photographs, trip itineraries, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Brown's service as a cabinet member during the Bill Clinton administration.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Brown, Ronald Harmon, 1941-1996.

Clinton, Bill, 1946-

Organizations

National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council (U.S.)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (U.S.)

United States. Dept. of Commerce.

United States. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Subjects

Executive departments--United States--Reorganization.

Exports--United States.

Foreign trade promotion--United States.

Information networks--United States.

Science and state--United States.

Technology and state--United States.

Telecommunication--United States.

Places

United States--Commerce.

United States--Commercial policy.

United States--Economic policy--20th century.

United States--Foreign economic relations.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Ronald Harmon Brown, U. S. secretary of commerce, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Alma Arrington Brown, and his children, Michael Brown and Tracey Brown between 2006-2010.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some comic strips have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Audiocassettes and VCR tapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Ronald Harmon Brown Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ronald Harmon Brown in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Electronic Files

Electronic files were received as part of the papers of Ronald Harmon Brown. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ronald Harmon Brown Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1941, Aug. 1	Born, Washington, D. C.
1962	Graduated, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., and married Alma Arrington
1963-1967	Served in U. S. Army
1970	J. D., St. John's University School of Law, New York, N. Y.
1968-1979	Lobbyist and deputy executive director for programs, National Urban League
1979-1980	Deputy campaign manager, Edward Kennedy presidential campaign
1981-1985	Deputy chairman and chief counsel, Democratic National Committee
1988	Campaign manager, Jesse Jackson presidential campaign
1989-1992	Chairman, Democratic National Committee
1993-1996	U. S. secretary of commerce
1996, Apr. 3	Died in airplane crash, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Scope and Content Note

Ronald Harmon Brown (1941-1996) was a lawyer and Democratic Party operative who managed presidential campaigns for Edward Kennedy and Jesse Jackson and served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. These papers relate entirely to Brown's term as United States secretary of commerce during the Clinton administration. The papers span 1992-1996, ending when he died in a plane crash while on a mission to Croatia. They treat Brown's death and legacy as well as his efforts to expand American exports and work with agencies such as the National Information Infrastructure, National Institute of Standards and Technology Programs, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Featured also are congressional relations including legislation to dismantle the Department of Commerce and his trips and missions in the United States and to foreign countries.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material as received.

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