



James, E. Pendleton: Files, 1981-1982

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Presidential Personnel, Office of: Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Born in 1929, E. Pendleton James grew up in rural Illinois. After two years in the Army, he moved to California in 1952. He earned a B.A. degree from the University of the Pacific in 1954, and did graduate work in industrial relations at UC Berkeley and the University of Santa Clara. From 1970 to 1973 James worked in the Nixon White House, as Special Deputy Assistant to the President for Executive Recruiting. He then returned to California and became President of Western Operations for a worldwide executive search firm, Russell Reynolds Association. In 1976, he founded his own search firm, Pen James Associates Inc.

In November 1979, Ronald Reagan publicly announced his candidacy for President in 1980. That same month James met with Edwin Meese III, a longtime friend and a senior Reagan advisor, about the staffing of a future Reagan Administration. During the 1980 campaign, James worked for the Reagan campaign organization as head of the Reagan-Bush Planning Task Force. The Task Force decided which appointed positions should be filled first if Reagan became President, drafted lists of candidates, and made initial contact with the candidates, all while avoiding media attention. After Reagan won the election, James continued working for him, as Director of Presidential Personnel in the Office of the President-Elect.

When Reagan assumed the Presidency in January 1981, James became head of the Office of Presidential Personnel. James continued to oversee the recruiting of people with proven commitment to Reagan's ideas and high competency, as he had during the campaign and transition periods. He deflected criticism from those who thought he was wrongly downplaying longtime loyalty to Reagan, including past work on Reagan political campaigns, as a factor in filling positions.

After James left the Reagan White House in August 1982, he moved to New York City and founded an executive search firm called Pendleton James and Associates. He also served as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, and the Board of Directors of the Communications Satellite Corporation. James' search firm was later folded into the London-based firm currently known as Whitehead Mann Pendleton James.

Scope and Content Note

The material currently in the Pendleton James collection consists largely of folders pertaining to his speaking engagements with outside organizations. These folders include travel and conference schedules, invitations, talking points, and routine travel documents. In addition, there are some folders of articles and speech texts. While the material does not directly document James' work as head of the Office of Presidential Personnel, it does contain descriptions of his White House role. There are no files from James' work in the 1980 Reagan campaign or 1980-81 transition.

The Library has not surveyed the entire Presidential Personnel material to determine if there will be additional material for the Pendleton James collection. We may add more material at a later date.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	EPJ/Article for <i>Business Week</i> , "Ethics in Government Act"
OPEN	EPJ/Speaking Engagements Regrets
OPEN	Center for Study of the Presidency Washington, DC, 02/20/1981
OPEN	Business Council, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, 05/07/1981-05/09/1981
OPEN	Business-Government Relations Council, The White House - 450 EOB, 05/11/1981
OPEN	Chairman and CEO Business Group, Purchase, NY, (Dudley Mecum/Richard Rosenthal), 05/14/1981
OPEN	Young President's Organization, New York City (Joe Wright), 05/19/1981
OPEN	Edison Electric Institute Breakfast, Washington, DC, 06/25/1981
OPEN	Junior Statesmen Foundation, EOB, 07/14/1981
OPEN	Aspen Institute, Aspen, CO, 07/18/1981-07/26/1981
OPEN	Business Roundtable, Roosevelt Room, 08/27/1981

Status	Title
OPEN	American Political Science Association, New York City, 09/03/1981 (1)-(3)
OPEN	International Oil Industry TBA Group Convention, San Francisco/Los Angeles, 10/01/1981-10/05/1981
OPEN	[Management Resources and Organization Committee of the National Foreign Trade Council, Arlington VA, 10/07/1981]
OPEN	The Business Council, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, 10/08/1981-10/10/1981
OPEN	Employment Management Association, Dallas, TX, 10/15/1981
OPEN	Young President's Organization/Annual Southern Conference, Las Vegas, NV, 10/16/1981
OPEN	NASPAA (National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration), Lexington, KY, 10/20/1981
OPEN	Inter-Agency Seminar Group, Washington, DC, 12/02/1981
OPEN	Tuesday Group, Los Angeles, California (Dick Ferry), 12/14/1981
OPEN	Sub-Cabinet Seminar in Professional Public Management, 01/15/1982-01/16/1982
OPEN	Human Resources Conference, New York City, 01/21/1982
OPEN	Soap and Detergent Association, Boca Raton, FL, 01/29/1982
OPEN	Washington, IL Chamber of Commerce, 02/22/1982
OPEN	Yale Political Union, Indian Treaty Room (474 EOB), 03/09/1982
OPEN	Harvard Business School Club, Hotel Washington, Washington, DC, 03/16/1982
OPEN	Electronic Industries Association - Human Resources Council, Washington, DC, 03/30/1982
OPEN	University of the Pacific - Stockton, CA - Commencement / Convention, 05/21/1982
OPEN	Ethics in Government - Third Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 06/08/1982

OA 10693

Status

Title

CLOSED

Speech File (1)-(6)