Russell W. Peterson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011
Revised 2011 February

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LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm2004085115

Prepared by Laura J. Kells with the assistance of Tammi Taylor
Collection Summary

Title: Russell W. Peterson Papers
Span Dates: 1917-2004
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1973-2002)
ID No.: MSS85115
Creator: Peterson, Russell W. (Russell Wilbur), 1916-2011
Extent: 46,000 items ; 140 containers plus 1 oversize and 1 classified ; 56 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Environmentalist and governor of Delaware. Correspondence, speeches, writings, subject files, trips and events files, and other papers relating primarily to Peterson's work as an environmentalist and his employment as the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, president of New Directions, director of the Office of Technology Assessment of the United States Congress, and president of the National Audubon Society.

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
Clinton, Bill, 1946-
Dukakis, Michael S. (Michael Stanley), 1933-
Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006.
Reagan, Ronald.

Organizations
Better World Society.
Council on Environmental Quality (U.S.)
E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company.
National Audubon Society.
New Directions (Organization)
United Nations.
United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment.

Subjects
Antinuclear movement.
Birds--Conservation.
Coastal zone management--United States.
Crime prevention.
Criminal justice, Administration of.
Energy consumption.
Energy policy.
Environmental law--United States.
Environmental policy--United States.
Environmental protection--International cooperation.
Environmentalism.
Globalization.
Human settlements--Congresses.
Nature conservation.
Nuclear warfare.
Ornithology.
Population--Congresses.
Population.
Poverty.
Presidents--United States--Election--1996.
Prison reformers--United States.
Prisons--United States.
Quality of life.
Science--Social aspects.
Technology--Social aspects.
Technology--United States.

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

Occupations
Environmentalists.
Governors--Delaware.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Russell W. Peterson, environmentalist and governor of Delaware, were given to the Library of Congress by Peterson in 2004.

Transfers
Sound recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Russell W. Peterson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Russell W. Peterson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Security Classified Documents
Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Russell W. Peterson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916, Oct. 3</td>
<td>Born, Portage, Wis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1937 Married Lillian Turner (died 1994)

1938 B.S., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

1942 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

1942-1968 Held positions from research chemist to director of Research and Development Division, Development Department, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.; led research on Dacron polyester fiber and set up first Dacron plant in Kinston, N.C.

1969-1973 Governor of Delaware

1973-1974 Member, Commission on Critical Choices for Americans

1973-1976 Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

1976-1977 President, New Directions

1978-1979 Director, United States Congress Office of Technology Assessment

1979 Member, President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island

1979-1985 President, National Audubon Society

1981-1991 Chairman, Global Tomorrow Coalition


1984-1988 Vice president, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (now IUCN - The World Conservation Union)


1985 Visiting professor, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

1986 Visiting professor, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

1987 Visiting professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

1995 Married June B. Jenkins

1996 Changed party affiliation from Republican to Democrat

1999 Published Rebel with a Conscience. Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press

2003 Published Patriots, Stand Up!: This Land is Our Land, Fight to Take It Back. Wilmington, Del.: Cedar Tree Books

2011, Feb. 21 Died, Centreville, Del.
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Russell Wilbur Peterson (1916-2011) span the years 1917-2004, with the bulk of the material dating from 1973 to 2002. They focus primarily on Peterson's career following his term as governor of Delaware, particularly his leadership in the national and international environmental movement. The collection has been arranged in the following series: General Correspondence, Subject File, Trips and Events, Speeches and Writings, Oversize, and Classified.

The General Correspondence series is comprised of letters sent and received by Peterson from 1973 until 1999. Correspondents include colleagues, friends, and fellow governors from the state of Delaware, government officials, and leaders of local, national, and international environmental organizations.

The Subject File highlights Russell Peterson's professional and organizational affiliations and the issues and topics of concern to him. Most pertain to his post-gubernatorial life. Records and papers from earlier years, particularly those from his term as governor of Delaware, are located at the Historical Society of Delaware in Wilmington. A finding aid of that collection is in the Subject File folder for the Historical Society of Delaware. Files relating to the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. contain employment records from the 1940s and photographs from his research laboratory. A section on Delaware includes items relating to Peterson's volunteer work on behalf of prison reform in that state and some material on his governorship, including campaign literature and documents relating to the establishment of the cabinet form of government. While governor, Peterson worked to pass the Coastal Zone Act, which banned heavy industry along a two-mile stretch of the entire Delaware coastline. Files on this legislation focus on Peterson's efforts to fight challenges and amendments to the law following its passage in 1971. Transcripts of Peterson's oral history conducted in the 1980s provide his account of these events.

Peterson's appointed positions in the federal government are covered in files on the Council on Environmental Quality, where he served as director. Files on the National Audubon Society comprise the largest segment of the Subject File series and chronicle Peterson's leadership of the organization from 1979 to 1985. Other files pertain to organizations that he helped to establish and lead such as New Directions, a lobbying group devoted to global issues, and the Better World Society, an organization devised by Ted Turner to use television to inform people about population stabilization, the prevention of nuclear war, protection of the global environment, and reduction of world poverty. Files under the heading of “politics” detail Peterson's endorsement and campaign activities on behalf of Democratic presidential candidates Michael S. Dukakis in 1988 and Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996. Also under this heading is material on his decision to change his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat in 1996.

The Trips and Events series documents speaking engagements, conferences, board meetings, congressional hearings, fund-raising trips, and other events Peterson attended from 1973 to 1999, including meeting with President Ford as head of the Council on Environmental Quality. Files from September 1974 cover Peterson's attendance at regional conferences on economic inflation as well as a presidential summit on inflation in order to discuss the effect of environmental regulations on the economy. Extensively documented is the United Nations World Conference on Population held in Bucharest, Romania, in August 1974, where Peterson served as vice-chair of the United States delegation. Peterson's growing involvement in global issues during this period is recorded in files from 1976 on a trip to Asia and his participation in the United Nations World Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, British Columbia. Files from his tenure as president of the National Audubon Society treat his participation in regional and national meetings, his testimony at the confirmation hearing of James G. Watt as secretary of the interior, and his participation in birdathon fund-raising events. Files from his work with the Better World Society relate to board meetings in the USSR in 1987 and in Costa Rica in 1988.

The Speeches and Writings series contains texts of speeches and statements delivered by Peterson from 1973 to 2000. Topics include crime prevention, criminal justice standards and goals, the evolution of the environmental movement, quality of life, the impact of science and technology, energy, the environmental record of the Ronald Reagan administration, population and the environment, prospects for the global environment, and Delaware's Coastal Zone Act. A grouping of earlier speeches dates from his time at E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. and also includes campaign speeches, his acceptance speech at the Delaware Republican convention, and his inaugural address as governor of Delaware. A large portion of the writings pertains to Peterson's memoir, Rebel With a Conscience, which includes significant reference files supplementing the research and subject material in other parts of the collection. Other writings include his journal articles and newspaper editorials spanning sixty years.
Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- General Correspondence, 1973-1999
- Subject File, 1934-2003
- Trips and Events, 1973-1999
- Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004
- Oversize, 1974-circa 1990
- Classified, 1974
## Description of Series

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-10</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1973-1999</strong></td>
<td>Letters sent and letters received with attachments. Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10-67</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1934-2003</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, press clippings, photographs, transcripts, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic, organization, name of person, or type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 67-112</td>
<td><strong>Trips and Events, 1973-1999</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, reports, press clippings, itineraries, notes, photographs, printed matter, and other material relating to speaking engagements, board meetings, conferences, congressional hearings, fund-raising trips, and other events. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 112-140</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004</strong></td>
<td>Speeches; articles; book files including drafts, correspondence, reference material, and related matter; and other writings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically. Reference material in the book file is arranged and indexed according to titles supplied by Peterson and his assistant.</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1974-circa 1990</strong></td>
<td>Maps and posters. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX CL 1</td>
<td><strong>Classified, 1974</strong></td>
<td>Government security classified telegram. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.</td>
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## Container List

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| BOX 1-10 | **General Correspondence, 1973-1999**  
Letters sent and letters received with attachments.  
Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent. |
| BOX 1    | 1973-1974 *See also Oversize*  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 2    | 1975  
(7 folders)  
1976  
A-P  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 3    | R-Z  
(3 folders)  
1977  
(8 folders)  
1978  
A-M  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 4    | N-Z  
(2 folders)  
1979  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 5    | 1980-1981  
(10 folders)  
1982  
A-H  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 6    | I-Z  
(3 folders)  
1983-1984  
(7 folders)  
1985  
A-H  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 7    | I-Z  
(5 folders)  
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(6 folders)  
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| BOX 8    | P-Z |
General Correspondence, 1973-1999

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<td>1989-1991</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>A-C (3 folders)</td>
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<td>D-Z (3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>1993-1996 (9 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>1997-1999 (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOX 10-67 Subject File, 1934-2003
Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, press clippings, photographs, transcripts, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by topic, organization, name of person, or type of material and therein chronologically.

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Advisory boards, 1983-1992
Alliance to Save Energy, 1977-1993
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American Committee for International Conservation, 1979-1987, undated
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Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies
1972-1976 (2 folders)

BOX 11
1977-1980, undated (2 folders)
Better World Society
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BOX 12
1989-1991, undated (3 folders)
Biographical material
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BOX 13
Peterson, Russell W.
Career
Press clippings, 1956-2002, undated (3 folders)
Personal
High school, 1934
Californians Against Waste Foundation, 1986-1990, undated
Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., 1983-1990, undated (4 folders)
Center for War/Peace Studies, 1985-1986, 1995-1996
Center on the Consequences of Nuclear War, 1979-1990, undated See also Oversize
(5 folders)
(2 folders)
Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., 1974-1985, undated
Council of Former Governors, 1975-1976

BOX 15
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  Administrative matters, 1971-1976
  Appointment
    Congratulatory messages, 1973-1974
    (8 folders)
  Miscellany, 1973
  Chronological file
    1973
    (5 folders)

BOX 16
1974
  Jan.-Oct.
  (17 folders)

BOX 17
1975
  Nov.-Dec.
  (3 folders)
  Jan.-Sept.
  (12 folders)

BOX 18
1976
  (6 folders)
  Jan-Aug.
  (12 folders)

BOX 19
1976
  Sept.
  (2 folders)
  Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1970-1976
  (3 folders)
  Miscellaneous issues
  1974-1976
  (5 folders)

BOX 20
  (2 folders)
  National Science Foundation RANN (Research Applied to National Needs) symposium speech, 1973-1974
  (4 folders)
  Council on Environmental Quality
  Photographs, 1974-1977, undated
  Press clippings
    (3 folders)
Scrapbook, 1973-1976
(2 folders)

**BOX 21**
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Public hearings on environmental effects and energy conservation aspects of the non-nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration programs, 1975-1976
(2 folders)

Cuomo, Mario Matthew, Governor's Environmental Advisory Board
1985-1989
(4 folders)

**BOX 22**
1990-1994
Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., 1982-1988
(4 folders)

Delaware
Coastal Zone Act
Coastal Zone Regulatory Advisory Committee, 1993-1999, undated
(6 folders)

**BOX 23**
General, 1971-2003, undated
(7 folders)

Governor
1967-1969
(2 folders)

**BOX 24**
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**BOX 25**
1974-1999, undated
(3 folders)

Miscellany, 1973-2001, undated
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Republican Party, 1960-1967, undated
Wilmington riverfront, 1992-2002

**BOX 26**
Delaware Academy of Science, 1975, 1989-1993
Delaware Audubon Society, 1979, 1985-1997
Delaware State College, Dover, Del., 1993-1997
Delmarva Ornithological Society, 1987-1993
*Discover*, 1986-1987
(5 folders)

**BOX 27**
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Earth Island Institute, San Francisco, Calif., 1988-1990
Earth Lobby, 1991-1992
Education Commission of the States, 1974-1976
Endorsements and sponsorships, 1974, 1981-1993
Energy
Delmarva Power and Light Co., 1992-1994
Efficiency/renewable energy
  1979-1991
  (2 folders)
BOX 28
  (3 folders)
  Nuclear, 1975-circa 2002, undated
  (3 folders)
Environment
  1979-1989
BOX 29
  1990-2002, undated
  (3 folders)
  Environmental economics, 1974-1991, 2001
    (2 folders)
    (3 folders)
    (2 folders)
BOX 30
    (3 folders)
  Ethics and environment, religion and conservation, 1976-1995, undated
    (3 folders)
  Finance, 1987-1992, undated
  Forests, 1985-1992
  Friends Society of Brandywine Park, Wilmington, Del., 1994-1995
    (2 folders)
BOX 31
  Gannett Center for Media Studies, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1985-1987
    (2 folders)
  Global Studies Center, Arlington, Va., 1985
  Global Tomorrow Coalition
    1982-1991
    (7 folders)
BOX 32
  1992-1994, undated
  Global 2000 Report to the President, 1980
    (3 folders)
  Great Cypress Swamp (Delaware and Maryland) steering committee, 1993
  Group of Ten environmental leaders
    Agenda for the Future project, 1983-1986
    (2 folders)
BOX 33
  General, 1980-1990
    (4 folders)
  Joint project with chemical company chief executive officers, 1982-1985
    (4 folders)
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| BOX 34    | Handgun Control, Inc., 1979, 1985-1990, undated  
          | Harry S. Truman Awards, 1990-1995, undated  
          | Harvard University, Committee to Visit the John Fitzgerald Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Mass., 1979-1985  
          | (3 folders)  
          | Holism, global, 1975-1986, undated  
          | Honors and awards  
          | 1947, 1962-1971  
          | (5 folders)  |
| BOX 35    | 1972-2003  
          | (6 folders)  
          | Integrated studies  
          | (2 folders)  |
| BOX 36    | 1989-2001, undated  
          | (2 folders)  
          | International contacts, 1974-1985, undated  
          | (2 folders)  
          | International Council for Bird Preservation  
          | Achievement Board, 1985-1991, undated  
          | (2 folders)  
          | Annual reports, 1982-1991  
          | (2 folders)  
          | Executive Committee, 1980-1994  |
| BOX 37    | General, 1979-1996, undated  
          | (4 folders)  
          | Newsletters, 1987-1992  
          | Pan American Section, 1989-1990  
          | International Ornithological Congress, Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology, 1984-1990  
          | (2 folders)  |
| BOX 38    | IUCN - The World Conservation Union  
          | Council, 1981-1990  
          | (2 folders)  
          | Funding, 1982-1984  
          | General, 1981-1994  
          | (6 folders)  |
| BOX 39    | Population, 1983-1990  
          | (6 folders)  
          | Search committee, 1987  
          | United States affiliate, 1985-1989  
          | Jobs, 1972-1993, undated  
          | (2 folders)  |
| BOX 40    | Kalmar-Nyckel Foundation, 1993-2002  
          | Kiwanis Club, Delaware, 1961-1984  
          | (2 folders)  |
League of Conservation Voters, 1994-2002
   (4 folders)
Miscellany
   1963-1988
   (2 folders)
BOX 41
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   (2 folders)
National Audubon Society
Annual reports, 1979-2001
   (2 folders)
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1981
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   (11 folders)
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BOX 51
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(10 folders)
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(9 folders)
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(3 folders)
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(2 folders)
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<td>Final version, 1982-1985  (9 folders)</td>
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<td>Perry, Christopher L., 1998-1999</td>
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<td>Pace University School of Law, Center for Environmental Legal Studies, White Plains, N.Y., 1988-1996  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Politics</td>
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<td>Change of party affiliation, 1996</td>
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<td>BOX 56</td>
<td>Elections</td>
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<td>1984 campaigns, 1983-1984, undated</td>
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<td>1996 campaigns</td>
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<td>Environmental issues</td>
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<td>1994-1995  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Polls, 1991-2002  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Population, 1973-2002, undated  See also Oversize  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 60</td>
<td>President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1979-1988</td>
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<td>Minutes, 1979</td>
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<td>Miscellany, 1972-1980  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Notes and drafts, 1979</td>
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<td>Press clippings, 1978-1989, undated  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Reaganism, 1981-1989, undated  (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Save Our Seas, 1972-1974, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 60</td>
<td>Science and public policy, 1979-2001, undated</td>
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<td>Society for International Development</td>
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</table>
Subject File, 1934-2003

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  (2 folders)
Technology Assessment Board, 1978-1979
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<td>BOX 67</td>
<td>1973 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 68</td>
<td>1974 Feb.-Apr. (6 folders) May (4 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 69</td>
<td>June (3 folders) July (2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 70</td>
<td>Aug. See also Classified (2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 71</td>
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<td>BOX 72</td>
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## Trips and Events, 1973-1999

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### 1978

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Trips and Events, 1973-1999

Russell W. Peterson Papers
### Trips and Events, 1973-1999

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### Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004

Speeches; articles; book files including drafts, correspondence, reference material, and related matter; and other writings.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically. Reference material in the book file is arranged and indexed according to titles supplied by Peterson and his assistant.
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Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004

Container   Contents

Book jacket, 1996-1999, undated
Compact disc-read only memory (CD-ROM), book insert, 1996-1999, undated

BOX 123
Drafts
  Overview, 1993
  Set 1, 1995
    (2 folders)
  Set 2, 1995-1996
    (10 folders)

BOX 124
  (2 folders)
  Set 3, 1995-1997, undated
    (2 folders)
  Foreword, 1998, undated
Marketing and promotion
  Book events, 1999
    (4 folders)
  Cooperative advertising, 1998-1999, undated

BOX 125
Mailings, 1998-1999
  (2 folders)
  Plans and schedules, 1998-1999, undated
Miscellany, 1995-2001, undated
Permissions, 1998, undated
Publishers
    (2 folders)

BOX 126
Miscellaneous, 1995-1998, undated
University of Delaware Press, 1997-1999, undated
University of Wisconsin Press, 1996-1999, undated
Reference files
  Set 1
    Biodiversity/endangered species, 1995-1996
    Citizen activist, 1964-1965
      (2 folders)
    Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992, undated
    Economics of environmentalism, 1974-1997, undated
      (2 folders)

BOX 127
Global warming, 1992-1996, undated
Governor of Delaware
  Getting elected/failing to get re-elected, 1968-1971, 1984-1989, undated
  Looking ahead - the vision thing, 1984-1996, undated
Miscellaneous topics, 1971-1996, undated
  (1 folder)
  (8 folders)
Politics and the environment, 1996-1997

BOX 128
  (5 folders)
Protecting the ozone layer, 1975-1995, undated

BOX 129
Slowing growth in consumption, 1992-1996, undated
Turning people on, 1991, undated
  undated

Set 2
Index, 1985-1988
  (2 folders)
Arms, 1961-1994, undated
  (2 folders)
Audubon Society, 1980-1990, undated
  (2 folders)

BOX 130
Bucking the system, 1984-1985, undated
  (2 folders)
  (5 folders)
Delaware, 1972-1996, undated
  (3 folders)

BOX 131
  (4 folders)

BOX 132
Economics, 1961-1993, undated
  (5 folders)
  (2 folders)
  (3 folders)
Ethics, 1975-1992, undated
  (1 folder)
  (5 folders)

BOX 133
Futures, 1973-1990, undated
Getting ahead, 1977-1992, undated
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BOX 134
  (2 folders)
History, 1974-1991, undated
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Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004

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Human intellect, 1974-1984  
Human rights, 1975-1992, undated  
Media, 1984-1991, undated  
Miscellaneous topics, 1972-1988, undated  
National Audubon Society [See Containers 130-131, Audubon Society]  
(2 folders)  
Philosophy, 1942-1990, undated  
Places, 1917, 1975-1986, undated  
Politics, 1973-1994, undated  
(1 folder) |
| BOX 138   |  
(3 folders)  
(4 folders)  
Poverty, 1973-1993, undated |
(3 folders)  
Science/technology, 1973-1994, undated  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 140   | Third world, 1975-1985  
War/peace, 1981-1993, undated  
Forewords and prefaces, 1978-1988, undated  
Letters to editors, 1960-1964, 1974-2002  
(2 folders)  
Miscellaneous, 1973-2004, undated  
(3 folders) |
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize, 1974-circa 1990  
Maps and posters.  
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
| BOX OV 1  | General correspondence, 1974 [Container 1]  
Subject file  
Center on the Consequences of Nuclear War, 1983 [Container 14]  
Nuclear weapons production, nuclear waste, circa 1990 [Container 54]  
Population, 1988 [Container 57]  
Trips and events  
1974, Oct. [Container 73]  
1976, June [Container 84] |
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