Collection Summary
Title: House Democratic Caucus Records
Inclusive Dates: 1913-1999
Bulk Dates: 1969-1994
ID No.: MSS18242
Creator: House Democratic Caucus (U.S.)
Extent: 20,000 items
Extent: 78 containers
Extent: 31.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79018242
Summary: Organization of Democratic members of the United States House of Representatives; established in 1796. The records include minutes of meetings, transcripts of meetings and hearings, office files, correspondence, legislation, caucus and House rules, reports, handbooks, printed matter, and other records documenting the proceedings of the caucus and its efforts to shape national public policy.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Fazio, Victor H. (Victor Herbert), 1942- --Correspondence.
Gephardt, Richard A. (Richard Andrew), 1941- --Correspondence.
Hoyer, Steny H. (Steny Hamilton), 1939- --Correspondence.
Long, Gillis William, 1923-1985--Correspondence.

Organizations
Democratic Party (U.S.)
House Democratic Caucus (U.S.)
House Democratic Caucus (U.S.). Committee on Organization, Study, and Review.
House Democratic Caucus (U.S.). Committee on Party Effectiveness.

Places
United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Acquisition Information
The records of the House Democratic Caucus were given to the Library of Congress by the caucus in 1964 and 2001.

Processing History
Records of the House Democratic Caucus were first arranged circa 1964. Additional records were received in 2001, and both accessions were combined and processed in 2002 by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Marjorie L. Torney.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of the House Democratic Caucus in these records and in other collections of records in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.
Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Records of the House Democratic Caucus, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the House Democratic Caucus span the years 1913-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1969 to 1994. The caucus, which first met in 1796, is an arm of the Democratic party comprising party members serving as elected or appointed members of the United States House of Representatives. It promulgates House and caucus rules, determines members' committee assignments, and serves as the means by which the party organizes the House and selects the speaker and committee chairmen when the Democrats are in the majority. The records are organized in a Congresses series and a Miscellany series.

The Congresses series documents the 64th through 106th Congresses, spanning the period 1913-1999, though there are gaps and fewer records at the beginning and end of the span. The meetings of the earlier caucuses through the 92d Congress are typically represented by only a journal, a short outline of the proceedings that reported speeches and debates with little detail. Caucus meetings of the 93d through 102d Congresses are usually documented with full transcripts as well as with journals. Correspondents in the Congresses series include caucus chairmen Victor H. Fazio, Richard A. Gephardt, Steny H. Hoyer, and Gillis William Long.

The Miscellany series mainly documents the work of two committees of the caucus, the Committee on Organization, Study, and Review and the Committee on Party Effectiveness. The Committee on Organization, Study and Review promulgates and amends caucus rules and the procedural rules of the House of Representatives when the Democrats are in the majority. The caucus formulates broad party policy on a number of public issues, such as health care reform and the Strategic Defense Initiative, through task forces of the Committee on Party Effectiveness. Included in the history file of the Miscellany series are chronologies and agendas of caucus meetings from the 1960s through the 1990s and brief histories of the caucus and the Committee on Organization, Study and Review and Committee on Party Effectiveness.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- Congresses, 1913-1999
- Miscellany, 1981-1996
Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-54</td>
<td><strong>Congresses, 1913-1999</strong></td>
<td>Minutes and transcripts of meetings, correspondence, office files, subject files, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by Congress and therein alphabetically by type of material or topical groupings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-54  | **Congresses, 1913-1999**  
Minutes and transcripts of meetings, correspondence, office files, subject files, and miscellaneous material.  
Arranged by Congress and therein alphabetically by type of material or topical groupings. |
| BOX 1     | 64th-84th, 1913-1956  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 2     | 85th-90th, 1957-1967, undated  
(4 folders)  
91st Meetings  
1969, Jan. 2-1970, July 15  
(22 folders) |
| BOX 3     | 1970, Aug. 5- Dec. 16  
(5 folders)  
Miscellany, 1968-1970  
92nd, 1971, Jan. 19- 1972, Aug. 7  
(27 folders)  
93rd Meetings  
1973, Jan. 2 |
| BOX 4     | 1973, Jan. 22-1974, Dec. 3  
(31 folders)  
Miscellany, 1973-1974  
(2 folders)  
94th  
1974, Dec. 2 |
| BOX 5     | 1974, Dec. 4-1975, Feb. 19  
(22 folders) |
| BOX 6     | 1975, Feb. 25-Sept. 30  
(31 folders) |
| BOX 7     | 1975, Oct. 22-1976, June 16  
(34 folders)  
1976, June 23  
(1 folder)  
(2 folders)  
95th  
1976, Dec. 3-8  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 8     | 1976, July 21- Sept. 15  
(18 folders) |
| BOX 9     | 1976, Dec. 9-1978, Mar. 15  
(16 folders) |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>1978, Apr. 5-Aug. 16 (6 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>1978, Sept. 20 -1979, Jan. 23 (9 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 12</td>
<td>1979, Jan. 24 -1980, Jan. 24 (15 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>1980, Feb. 5-Nov. 19 (15 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>1980, Dec. 8-10 (3 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16</td>
<td>1981, Mar. 25 - Dec. 15 (15 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 17</td>
<td>1982, 3 Feb.-Oct. 1 (12 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1983-1984 (3 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19</td>
<td>Meetings 1982, Dec. 6-8 (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21</td>
<td>1983, June 7- Nov.18 (13 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 22</td>
<td>1984, Jan. 25- June 27 (8 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 23</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1984, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1984-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>Meetings 1984, Sept. 6- Dec. 3 (6 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 26</td>
<td>1984, Dec. 4 (4 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 27</td>
<td>1984, Dec. 5-1985, Jan. 29 (9 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 28</td>
<td>1985, Feb. 6 - July 17 (12 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 29</td>
<td>1985, July 23- Nov. 1 (10 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 30</td>
<td>1985, Nov. 20 -1986, June 22 (15 folders)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 25    | 1986, June 25- Aug. 15  
(5 folders)  
Miscellany, 1985, undated  
100th  
1986, Sept. 17- Oct. 10  
(3 folders)  
1986, Dec. 8-10  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 26    | 1987, Jan. 6- June 17  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 27    | 1987, June 25- 1988, Apr. 20  
(15 folders) |
| BOX 28    | 1988, May 4- Oct. 6  
(7 folders)  
101st  
Chronological file  
1989, Feb. 6- Oct. 31  
(5 folders) |
(6 folders) |
| BOX 30    | 1990, June 6 - Nov. 13, undated  
(5 folders)  
Meetings  
1988, Oct. 6-20  
(2 folders)  
1988, Dec. 5  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 31    | 1988, Dec. 6- 1989, Feb. 22  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 32    | 1989, Mar. 1 - July 19  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 33    | 1989, Aug. 2 -1990, June 14  
(15 folders) |
| BOX 34    | 1990, June 27- Dec. 4  
(9 folders)  
Subject file  
Calendars and schedules, 1990, undated  
Caucus members and staff, 1990, undated  
Citizens for a Sound Economy, 1988-1989 |
| BOX 35    | Congressional electoral campaigns, 1990, undated  
Congressional franking privilege, 1989-1990  
Congressional term limitations  
Chronological file, 1990  
(2 folders)  
Clippings, undated  
Notes, undated |
Democratic Message Board, 1990, undated
  (2 folders)
Environmental issues, 1990, undated
Fiscal Planning Services, analysis of 1991 federal budget, 1990
Health care reform, 1990-1991, undated
  (2 folders)
BOX 36
  Legislation, 1990, undated
  Media markets, undated
  National Endowment for the Arts, 1990
  Party Lines, 1990
  Polls, 1989-1990, undated
  Presidential veto power, 1984-1990, undated
  Republicans, 1990
  Savings and loan scandal, 1988-1990, undated
    (2 folders)
  Speeches, statements, and interviews, 1991, undated
  Tax fairness and budgetary issues
    1990
BOX 37
    (2 folders)
102nd
  Chronological file
    1990, Feb. 5-Nov. 9
      (5 folders)
BOX 38
  1990, Nov. 13 - 1991 May 31
      (8 folders)
BOX 39
  1991, June 5-1992, July 27
      (12 folders)
BOX 40
  1992, Aug. 6-Oct. 28
      (2 folders)
Meetings
  1990, Sept. 19-Oct. 23
      (11 folders)
BOX 41
      (8 folders)
BOX 42
  1991, Feb. 6 - July 31
      (13 folders)
BOX 43
      (10 folders)
BOX 44
  1992, Feb. 20-June 4
      (11 folder)
BOX 45
  1992, June 17- Aug.11
      (5 folders)
Subject file
  Cavazos, Agapito, 1992
  Democratic response to state of the union address, 1992
Health care reform

- Health Care Cost Containment and Reform Act, 1992
- “Health Care Reform in America: Where the Public Stands,” Miscellany, 1992
  Report, 1992
  (1 folder)

**BOX 46**
- (2 folders)
- Summary, 1992

Meetings

- Town hall meetings on health care, 1992, Jan.14
- Chronological file
  (3 folders)
- Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, information packet

**BOX 47**
- Local and state governments, outreach initiatives, 1990-1991, undated

103rd

Chronological file

  (9 folders)

**BOX 48**
- 1993, Nov. 4-1994, Apr. 14
  1994
  May 5-19

**BOX 49**
- May 26
  1994, June 3- Dec.16
  (10 folders)

**BOX 50**
- Undated

Subject file

- Budget bills, 1993, undated
- Campaign finance reform, 1993, undated
- Child welfare issues, 1992-1993, undated
- Congressional reorganization and accountability legislation
  Bills, 1994, undated
  (4 folders)

**BOX 51**
- Briefing books, 1994
  Chronological file, 1992-1994, undated (4 files)
  *Democratic Manual of Legislative Procedure*, circa 1993

Election results map, 1994

Fazio, Vic, and the Third Congressional District of California, 1993, undated

Health care reform

- Bills, 1993-1994, undated
  (2 folders)
  Chronological file
  1992

**BOX 52**
- 1993-1994, undated
  (3 folders)
- Meetings, 1993-1994
  Hedrick, Kenneth M., and Ryan C. Johnson, 1992
  Homosexuals in the United States military, undated
Human Radiation Interagency Working Group, 1994
Hyde Amendment, 1993
Issue briefs, undated
Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, final report, 1993
Joint Economic Committee, 1993

BOX 53
Lists, 1994
Lobbying reform bills, 1993, undated
New members, 1993, undated
(2 folders)
Renewing Congress Project, 1994
Résumés and biographical sketches, 1993-1994, undated

104th
Caucus meetings survey, 1995
Miscellany, 1994-1996, undated
(2 folders)

BOX 54
Organizational meeting, 1995
106th, 1999, undated
(6 folders)
Miscellany, undated

BOX 55-78
Miscellany, 1981-1996
Office files, legislation, caucus rules, handbooks, topical files, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.
Arranged by organization or topic.

BOX 55
Committee on Organization, Study, and Review
Caucus and House of Representatives rules
1981-1990
(9 folders)

BOX 56
1991
1992
Chronological file
(5 folders)
Rules and reorganization proposals
1993
Jan. 5- Dec.1, undated
(3 folders)

BOX 57
1994
Chronological file
3 Feb.-30 Dec.
(9 folders)

BOX 58
Undated
Hoyer, Steny H., congressional reform packet
1995
1996
(4 folders)
Undated
Caucus rules
(1 folder)

BOX 59
(2 folders)
House rules
Miscellany
Chronological file
1980, Feb. 6-1985, Nov. 19
(6 folders)

BOX 60
1985, Dec. 18-1988, Apr. 14
(14 folders)

BOX 61
1988, Apr. 15-1990, Oct. 23
(12 folders)

BOX 62
Undated
(4 folders)
Meetings, 1988, Mar. 25-Dec. 7
(13 folders)

BOX 63
Committee on Party Effectiveness
1982
Miscellany
Rebuilding the Road to Opportunity: A Democratic Direction for the 1980s
1983
(2 folders)
1984
Chronological file
Conferences
Baltimore, Md.
Washington, D.C.
(2 folders)

BOX 64
Renewing America's Promises: A Democratic Blueprint for Our Nations Future
Correspondence, 1983-1984
Debates
Drafts, 1984
Mailing lists
Miscellany
Northeastern region
Western region
Miscellany, 1984, undated
1985
Chronological file
(2 folders)

BOX 65
Agendas and fact sheets
Attendees and sponsors
Correspondence
Greenbrier Hotel
Speakers
Task Force on Agricultural Policy
Task Force on Arms Control
Task Force on Central America
Task Force on Crime
Task Force on Defense
Task Force on Job Training
Task Force on Long Term Economic Policy
Task Force on Pension Security
Task Force on South Africa
Task Force on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in the Defense Department

1986

*Choices for Change: Democrats Look to America's Future*

Mailing lists
Miscellany

Agendas and correspondence
Miscellany
Speakers
Alphabetical file
(2 folders)
Miscellany
Sponsors
Travel and site arrangements

1987

Miscellany
Packets
(2 folders)

1988

Notes
Notices
Apr.- May
(2 folders)

June

Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Development
Task Force on Drugs
Task Force on Economy
Task Force on Education
Task Force on Energy and Infrastructure
Task Force on the Environment
Task Force on the Family
Task Force on Foreign Relations
Task Force on Health
Task Force on Justice
**Task Force on the National Platform**
(2 folders)

**Task Force on National Security**

**Task Force on Retirement Security**

**Task Force on Science and Technology**

**Task Force on the Strategic Defense Initiative**

Chronological file, 1987-1988, undated
(5 folders)

**BOX 70**

Reports
(2 folders)

Task Force on Trade

1989

Chronological file
(2 folders)


Miscellany

Packets
(2 folders)

**BOX 71**

Focus groups and polling

Reports

Task Force on the Budget Process
(2 folders)

Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform

Task Force on Crime and Drugs
(2 folders)

Task Force on Defense

Task Force on the Economy

**BOX 72**

Task Force on Education and Employment

Task Force on the Environment and Energy

Task Force on Ethics

Task Force on the Family

Task Force on Foreign Relations

Task Force on the FSX Fighter

Task Force on Health

Task Force on Housing

Task Force on Infrastructure

Task Force on Trade and Competitiveness

1990

Conference, Columbia, Md.

Attendee surveys

Chronological file
1989, Sept. 11 - Nov. 29
(2 folders)

**BOX 73**

1989, Dec. 6 - 1990, Feb. 28, undated
(2 folders)

Letters of thanks

Packets
Miscellany, 1981-1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 74    | Site arrangements  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Speakers  
           | Alphabetical file  
           | (2 folders) |
| BOX 74    | Miscellany  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Summary reports  
           | Contact lists |
| BOX 74    | *Investing in America's Future: A Democratic Issues Handbook*  
           | Drafts  
           | (5 folders) |
| BOX 75    | Letters of thanks  
           | Miscellany  
           | Summaries of previous handbooks  
           | Task Force on AIDS  
           | Task Force on El Salvador  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Task Force on Foreign Relations |
| BOX 75    | 1991  
           | Chronological file  
           | Conferences  
           | Leesburg, Va.; Williamsburg, Va.  
           | Piney Point, Md. |
| BOX 75    | 1992  
           | Task Force on Caucus Issues  
           | Task Force on Defense and Foreign Policy  
           | Task Force on Government Waste |
| BOX 76    | *Democratic Caucus Chronicles*, 1989-1991, undated  
           | Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, strategy workshop, 1990  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Democratic Leadership Council, 1994  
           | Democratic National Committee, 1989-1990  
           | Democratic national conventions  
           | 1984, San Francisco, Calif.  
           | Correspondence  
           | 1983, Jan. 10-1984, Jan. 23 |
| BOX 77    | 1984, Jan. 24 -July 6 , undated  
           | Delegate certification forms  
           | Lists, 1983-1984, undated  
           | (2 folders)  
           | Miscellany, 1983-1984, undated  
           | Printed matter, 1984 |
| BOX 78    | 1988  
           | 1992  
           | Delegate certification forms, 1992  
           | (2 folders) |
Miscellany, 1981-1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellany, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Platform hearings, 1992</td>
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<tr>
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