

Ronald Harmon Brown Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2006085311>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012197>

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Jeffery Bryson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2014 October

Collection Summary

Title: Ronald Harmon Brown Papers

Span Dates: 1992-1996

ID No.: MSS85311

Creator: Brown, Ronald Harmon, 1941-1996

Extent: 4,000 items

Extent: 29 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 11.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2006085311>

Summary: 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

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. Department 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.

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. 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.

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

Date	Event
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.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Aerospace Industries Association, secretarial meeting with executives, 1993
BOX 1	Automotive industry and the Advanced Technology Program, 1995
BOX 1	Certifications
BOX 1	Chicago Manufacturing Center, Chicago, Ill., 1994
BOX 1	Chronological office file, 1994-1996 (26 folders)
BOX 1	<i>Commerce People</i> , newsletter, 1994
BOX 1	<i>Commerce Works!</i> , 1995
BOX 2	Congressional hearings
BOX 2	Briefing books, 1995 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Chronological file
BOX 2	1993
BOX 2	Feb.-Mar. (4 folders)
BOX 3	Mar.-June (4 folders)
BOX 3	1994 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1995
BOX 3	Jan.
BOX 4	Mar.-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 5	1996
BOX 5	Death of Brown, 1996 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Department of Commerce, budget and finance (1 folder)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
BOX 6	Reinvention
BOX 6	Approach to reinventing government
BOX 6	Reinvention activities
BOX 6	Reinvention laboratories
BOX 6	Reinventing permission slips
BOX 6	Export growth
BOX 6	Aerospace Industries Association board of governor's meeting, 1963
BOX 6	Aerospace trade mission directories, 1993-1996
BOX 6	Africa trade policy
BOX 6	Africa trip, 1995
BOX 6	African-American Institute, 1995
BOX 6	Akayev, Askar, president of the Kyrgyz Republic
BOX 7	American Business Centers

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Americas Business Forum
BOX 7	Cartagena, Columbia, 1996 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Denver, Colo., 1995
BOX 7	Baltimore, Md., Enhanced National Export Assistance Center Network, 1994
BOX 7	Big emerging markets, 1996
BOX 7	Brazil, memorandum of understanding
BOX 7	Brazil Roundtable, 1994
BOX 7	Brazil-United States Business Development Council
BOX 7	Business America, 1996
BOX 7	CABNIS Award
BOX 7	Caribbean Business Development Council
BOX 7	Central Asia Business Development Conference, 1994
BOX 7	Commercial Development Mission to Sub-Saharan Africa, 1996 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	Congressional letters, 1994
BOX 8	Cooperation agreement between the United States and Chile, 1995
BOX 8	Correspondence, 1994-1996
BOX 8	Cote D' Ivoire
BOX 8	Council on Foreign Relations, 1996
BOX 8	Dakar, Senegal, conference, 1995
BOX 8	Denver, Colo. summit, Western Hemisphere Trade and Commerce Forum, 1995
BOX 8	Environmental technologies
BOX 8	Export finance programs
BOX 8	Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission
BOX 8	Indian-American newspapers, 1996
BOX 8	Indian trade mission, 1995
BOX 8	Indonesia-Malaysia trade mission
BOX 9	Middle East ambassador's tour, 1995
BOX 9	Minority business matchmaker delegation, Mexico (2 folders)
BOX 9	Minority trade missions
BOX 9	Canada
BOX 9	Caribbean
BOX 9	Mexico
BOX 9	South America
BOX 9	Mission to Columbia, Panama, and Nicaragua
BOX 9	Mission to Bosnia and Croatia
BOX 9	Mission to Brazil, Argentina, and Chile
BOX 9	Mission to Third African American Summit, Germany
BOX 9	Muenster conference, 1996
BOX 9	Multilateral Development Bank office, 1994
BOX 9	National travel and tourism strategy, 1995
BOX 9	Northern Ireland AMBIT program
BOX 10	Paris Air Show, Paris, France, 1993 (2 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Presidential trade and investment mission to South Africa, 1993
BOX 10	Presidential trade mission to Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, 1994
BOX 10	Press releases, 1994-1995
BOX 10	<i>SABIT Exchange</i> , 1994
BOX 10	San Antonio, Tex., Border Conference, 1993
BOX 10	Speeches, 1995
BOX 10	St. Louis, Mo., outreach event, 1995
BOX 10	State trade directors
BOX 10	Textile and Apparel Roundtable
BOX 10	Tourism Policy Council Meeting, 1993
BOX 10	Tourism Policy Council, strategy, 1995
BOX 11	Trip to California, 1995
BOX 11	United States Commercial Centers
BOX 11	United States Export Assistance Center, New York, N.Y., 1995
BOX 11	United States-Argentina Business Development Council
BOX 11	United State-China, "Framework Agreement"
BOX 11	United States-Kazakistan Business Development Committee, 1995
BOX 11	United States-Panama Business Council, 1996
BOX 11	United States-Russia
BOX 11	Joint commercial tax dialog, 1996
BOX 11	Joint statement regarding medical industries
BOX 11	Miscellany
BOX 11	Partnership for Economic Progress
BOX 11	Spring business development mission, notebook (2 folders)
BOX 12	United States-South Africa Binational Commission, 1996
BOX 12	United States-South Africa Business Development Committee, 1994
BOX 12	United States-South Africa Business Development Council, 1995
BOX 12	United States-South Africa Conference on Democracy and Economic Development
BOX 12	Uruguay Round
BOX 12	Opportunities for U. S. Industries (2 folders)
BOX 12	State opportunities reports
BOX 12	State reports
BOX 12	Alabama-Montana
BOX 13	Nebraska-Wyoming
BOX 13	West-East Conferences of Ministers of Economy, Industry, and Trade, second, third, and fourth conference (3 folders)
BOX 13	<i>Foreign Direct Investments in the United States</i> , 1993-1994
BOX 13	G-7 Ministerial Conference on Information Society, 1995
BOX 13	<i>Global Information Infrastructure: Agenda for Cooperation</i> , 1995
BOX 14	Information Infrastructure Task Force, 1993-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 14	Japan (3 folders)
BOX 14	Leadership, Department of Commerce

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 14	Chronology of Clinton administration's leadership in South Africa under Brown, 1994
BOX 14	Congressional letters, Export Assistance Center openings, 1995
BOX 14	Ann Arbor, Mich.
BOX 14	Atlanta, Ga.
BOX 14	Austin, Tex.
BOX 14	Boston, Mass.
BOX 14	Charleston, W.Va.
BOX 14	Columbia, S.C.
BOX 14	Columbus, Ohio
BOX 15	Dallas, Tex.
BOX 15	Denver, Colo.
BOX 15	Greenville, S.C.
BOX 15	New Orleans, La.
BOX 15	Pontiac, Mich.
BOX 15	Portland, Maine
BOX 15	Harlem, N.Y.
BOX 15	Long Island, N.Y.
BOX 15	New York, N.Y.
BOX 15	Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 15	Richmond, Va.
BOX 15	Sioux Falls, S.Dak.
BOX 15	St. Louis, Mo.
BOX 15	Toledo, Ohio
BOX 15	Westchester County, N.Y.
BOX 15	Congressional outreach
BOX 15	Congressional testimony, 1995
BOX 15	Dismantling legislation, 1995
BOX 16	Economic accomplishment report, draft, 1994
BOX 16	Foreign-Trade Zones Board, 1993
BOX 16	Message to staff regarding dismantling
BOX 16	Minority business development mission to Ecuador and Chile, 1996
BOX 16	Newspaper articles regarding Brown
BOX 16	Press releases regarding dismantling
BOX 16	Press release regarding minister counselor posted to South Africa
BOX 16	Salute to American fashion designers cohosted by Secretary and Mrs. Brown
BOX 16	Softwood lumber, United States-Canadian agreement
BOX 16	Staffing changes, memorandum, 1996
BOX 16	Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, 1996
BOX 16	Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, 1994
BOX 16	Award criteria, 1994-1996 (3 folders)
BOX 16	Baldrige Award ceremonies, photographs and press releases, 1994-1996
BOX 16	Education pilot criteria, 1995
BOX 16	Health care pilot criteria, 1995
BOX 17	"The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and ISO 9000 Registration," article, 1993
BOX 17	"The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Concept: Could It Help Stimulate or Accelerate Health Care Quality Improvement?," article, 1994

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 17	Profiles of winners, 1995
BOX 17	“Study finds ‘quality stocks’ yield big payoff,” newspaper clipping
BOX 17	“Succeeding with Baldrige Award,” leaflet, 1996
BOX 17	Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 1995-1996
BOX 17	Miscellany, 1994-1996
BOX 17	National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council
BOX 17	<i>Kickstart Initiative: Connecting America’s Communities to the Information Superhighway</i>
BOX 17	Meetings
BOX 17	1994
BOX 17	Feb.
	(2 folders)
BOX 18	Mar.-Sept.
	(6 folders)
BOX 19	Oct.-Dec.
	(2 folders)
BOX 19	1995
BOX 19	Jan.-Apr.
	(4 folders)
BOX 20	June-Aug.
	(5 folders)
BOX 20	Reports, 1995-1996
	(2 folders)
BOX 20	<i>National Information Infrastructure, Progress Report, 1993-1994</i>
BOX 21	National Information Infrastructure, universal access
BOX 21	National Institute of Standards and Technology Programs
BOX 21	Advanced Technology Program, 1994-1996
	(3 folders)
BOX 21	Assessment panel reports, 1993-1995
	(3 folders)
BOX 21	Building and Fire Research Laboratory, 1995-1996
BOX 21	<i>Delivering Results: A Progress Report, 1995</i>
BOX 21	<i>Guide to NIST</i>
BOX 21	<i>Information Infrastructure: Reaching Society’s Goals, 1994</i>
BOX 22	<i>Innovation in the Japanese Construction Industry, a 1995 Appraisal</i>
BOX 22	<i>Network Brokers Handbook, 1995</i>
BOX 22	<i>NIST Industrial Impacts, A Sampling of Successful Partnerships, 1995</i>
BOX 22	Publications and studies produced by others for NIST
BOX 22	Putting the Information Infrastructure to Work, 1994
BOX 22	<i>Rates of Return from Investments in Technology Infrastructure, 1996</i>
BOX 22	<i>Rationale and Preliminary Plan for Construction and Building, 1994</i>
BOX 23	<i>Technology and Economic Growth: Implications for Federal Policy, 1995</i>
BOX 23	Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology
BOX 23	<i>The Advanced Technology Program, 1993</i>
BOX 23	Annual reports, 1992-1996
	(4 folders)
BOX 23	Congressional testimony by chair, 1994
BOX 23	<i>International Standards Issues, 1993</i>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 23	Meeting of chair with Brown, 1994
BOX 23	<i>White Papers Prepared for the White House—Construction Industry Workshop on National Construction Goals</i> , 1994
BOX 23	<i>Working Conference on Global Growth of Technology: Is America Prepared?</i> , 1995
BOX 23	National Medal of Technology ceremony, photographs See also Oversize
BOX 23	National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1995
BOX 23	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
BOX 23	Marine Sanctuary, magazine 1995
BOX 23	Miscellany
BOX 24	National Weather Service
BOX 24	Elrod, Jack, <i>Mark Trail</i> cartoon panels about NOAA weather radio, undated See Oversize
BOX 24	Nexrad radar system, 1995 (3 folders)
BOX 25	(1 folder)
BOX 25	NOAA press releases, 1993-1996
BOX 25	<i>NOAA Report</i> , 1993-1995
BOX 25	Photographs of Brown at NOAA functions, 1993-1994 (2 folders)
BOX 25	Space Systems/Loral, Brown visit, 1993
BOX 25	National Technical Information Service
BOX 25	Newspaper clippings (1 folder)
BOX 26	(1 folder)
BOX 26	North American Free Trade Agreement, 1993
BOX 26	<i>Pace Setter</i> , newsletter, 1995
BOX 26	Patent and Trademark Office, 1995-1996
BOX 26	Photographs
BOX 26	Combined Federal Campaign, 1996
BOX 26	Miscellaneous
BOX 26	Race for the Cure
BOX 27	Positive news stories about Department of Commerce
BOX 27	Printed matter
BOX 27	Speeches and statements, 1993-1996 (3 folders)
BOX 28	Sustainable development, expanding exports of U. S. environmental technologies (4 folders)
BOX 28	Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, 1993
BOX 28	<i>The “Tech Team”</i>
BOX 28	Trips and missions
BOX 28	1993 (2 folders)
BOX 29	1994
BOX 29	May (2 folders)
BOX 29	June-Dec. (3 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 29	1995 (2 folders)
BOX 29	United States-Israel Science and Technology Commission, 1993-1994
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	National Medal of Technology, photograph (Container 23)
BOX OV 1	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, <i>Mark Trail</i> cartoon panels by Jack Elrod (Container 24)