

William Beckham Jr. Papers

1.25 linear feet (1 MB, 1 SB)

1974-2000, bulk 1980-2000

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Katelyn on August 20, 2013.

Accession Number: UP001756

Creator: W. Beckham Jr.

Acquisition: Papers were donated to the Reuther Library in September 2001.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

Notes: Citation style: “William Beckham Jr. Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: New Detroit, Inc. Records

The oversized photograph of William Beckham with Congressmen Hawkins was transferred to the Reuther’s Audio Visual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Abstract

William J. Beckham (1940-2000) was originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. He was educated at the Detroit Institute of Technology (1959-1960), Wayne State University (1960-1962), American University (1962-1964), and the University of Maryland (1965-1966). During these years he took courses in political science. Beckham went on to pursue a career in politics at both the local and national level. In 1964, Beckham worked on Senator Phillip Hart's campaign and then joined his staff from 1965-1973. Later in his career he would serve as Deputy Mayor to Coleman A. Young, Assistant Secretary of Treasury, and then Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation under President Jimmy Carter. In the private sector, Beckham was Vice President of Unisys Corporation, COO of Envirotech Systems Corp., and President of New Detroit (1995-1999). Towards the end of his life, he became heavily involved in Detroit Public School system reform, leaving New Detroit in 1999 to become President of the Skillman Foundation. Beckham died suddenly in 2000 on the way home from a family vacation.

The Beckham Papers include clippings and programs from meetings, conferences, and award ceremonies that span the length of his career, but focus mainly on his time in the U.S. Department of Transportation and his efforts to reform the Detroit Public School system. During his time in the Department of Transportation, Beckham frequently spoke publically and at conferences, and the collection includes some of the speeches and remarks he gave during the year 1980. Also included are photographs from his service at the national and local level.

Important Subjects:

Transportation.
Community development, Urban--Michigan—Detroit.

Important Names:

Beckham, William James, 1940-
Young, Coleman A.
Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
United States. Department of Transportation.
New Detroit, Inc. (Detroit, Mich.)
Detroit Public Schools.
Skillman Foundation.

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Box 1

- 1 Beckham interview and tribute, 11/1999
- 2 U.S. Department of Transportation
- 3 Detroit Public Schools reform
- 4 Programs; conferences, award ceremonies, 1982-1999
- 5 Programs; conferences, award ceremonies, 1993-1998
- 6 Memorial tribute
- 7 Black Business Leadership
- 8 National Government programs and newsletters
- 9 Coleman A. Young; funeral attendance instructions
- 10 Department of Transportation news and programs
- 11 Clippings
- 12 Clippings
- 13 Clippings
- 14 Scrapbook (1 of 2)
- 15 Scrapbook (2 of 2)
- 16 Remarks- Detroit Press Club, 8/29/1980
- 17 Remarks- Michigan Delegation, 6/12/1980
- 18 Invitee List for Luncheon, 6/13/1980
- 19 Luncheon speech, 6/13/1980
- 20 GM Urban Forum; speech, 6/13/1980
- 21 Mass transit
- 22 Highways
- 23 Rail
- 24 Remarks- Businessmen, Mayors, and Selectment, 5/16/1980
- 25 National League of cities; speech, 6/14/1980
- 26 Rehearsal for Satellite telecast, 6/4/1980
- 27 SmithKline Corporation, 10/28/1980
- 28 Remarks- Governor's Conference on Tourism, 10/28/1980
- 29 SmithKline Press Release
- 30 Remarks- Department of Transportation (UMTA), 10/29/1980
- 31 Remarks- Automotive Procurement Conference, 12/4/1980
- 32 University of Michigan, 1/14/1981
- 33 Economic Development Conference; speech, 10/22/1980
- 34 Remarks- Ridesharing Awards, 10/23/1980
- 35 National Ridesharing Conference, 10/23/1980
- 36 Remarks- Presentation of Efficiency Award, 10/23/1980
- 37 Press release and report of National Task Force on Ridesharing
- 38 Highway Safety Symposium; speech, 6/24/1980
- 39 Remarks- City Organizations, 6/30/1980-7/2/1980
- 40 Fulcrum Corporation investment; speech, 7/11/1980
- 41 Federal Economic Assistance conference; speech, 10/11/1980

- 42 Memphis Information
- 43 Coast Guard Officer's Wives Club; speech, 10/14/1980
- 44 Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity, 10/16/1980
- 45 The Milwaukee Sentinel; speech, 4/28/1980
- 46 Remarks- City of Moraine, Ohio, 4/30/1980
- 47 Memo, 4/30/1980
- 48 Statement
- 49 Bob Hall's statement
- 50 Memo to Jack Watson
- 51 Fact sheet
- 52 Remarks- National Advisory Committee, 5/15/1980
- 53 Remarks- USCG Minority Business Enterprise Workshop, 4/10/1980
- 54 Ford dealer leasing and rental convention; speech, 4/16/1980
- 55 Remarks- FAA (Technical Center), 5/29/1980
- 56 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.; speech, 4/26/1980
- 57 Speaking engagements index
- 58 FHWA Office of Civil Rights; speech, 1/22/1980
- 59 FAA Office of Civil Rights; speech, 1/30/1980
- 60 Michigan Department of Transportation; speech, 2/22/1980
- 61 Mid America Council on Economic Development; speech, 2/28/1980
- 62 A Public Affairs Executive Critiques his Job; speech, 1/11/1984
- 63 Remarks- Black Elected Officials of Ohio, 8/9/1980
- 64 National Black Caucus; speech, 7/12/1980
- 65 Remarks- Women's Management Development Program, 7/17/1980
- 66 Automotive News World Congress; speech, 7/29/1980
- 67 Women's Transportation Seminar; speech, 9/25/1980
- 68 Remarks- Department of Transportation, 9/30/1980
- 69 Remarks- Inter-Agency Minority and Female Recruiters Association,
10/2/1980
- 70 Remarks- Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights, 10/22/1980
- 71 Assistant Secretary of the Treasury award, 1978

Box 2

- 1 Photographs; events
- 2 Beckham with Mike Blumenthal
- 3 NATO Summit, Brussels, Belgium, 11/23/1980
- 4 W. Beckham portrait
- 5 Detroit Free Press Photographs
- 6 Mexican border
- 7 U.S. Coast Guard
- 8 Conference images
- 9 U.S. Customs
- 10 Department of Transportation

- 11 City of Detroit
- 12 German American Heritage Foundation International
- 13 Skillman Scholars
- 14 William Beckham portrait

AV Materials

- 1 William Beckham with Congressman Hawkins; oversized signed photograph