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--Congressess.
Nature conservation.
Nuclear warfare.
Ornithology.
Population--Congressess.
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
Conservationists.
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>
<thead>
<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 as chairman he worked to advance the national environmental policy of the Gerald R. Ford administration, and the U. S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-10</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1973-1999</strong></td>
<td>Letters sent and letters received with attachments.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged by year and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent.</td>
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<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.</td>
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<td>Arranged alphabetically by topic, organization, name of person, or type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
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<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.</td>
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<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.</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1974-circa 1990</strong></td>
<td>Maps and posters.</td>
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<td><strong>Classified, 1974</strong></td>
<td>Government security classified telegram.</td>
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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)  
1986-1987  
(6 folders)  
1988  
A-N  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 8     | P-Z |
General Correspondence, 1973-1999

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<td>A-C</td>
<td>(3 folders)</td>
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<td>D-Z</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>1993-1996 (9 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>1997-1999 (5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 10-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject File, 1934-2003</td>
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<td>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, press clippings, photographs, transcripts, and printed matter.</td>
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<td>Arranged alphabetically by topic, organization, name of person, or type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
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BOX 10 |
| Advisory boards, 1983-1992 |
| Alliance to Save Energy, 1977-1993 |
| American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1976-1988 |
| American Committee for International Conservation, 1979-1987, undated |
| Antarctica Project, 1985-1986 |
| Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies |
| 1972-1976 |
| (2 folders) |

BOX 11 |
| 1977-1980, undated |
| (2 folders) |
| Better World Society |
| 1984-1988 |
| (8 folders) |

BOX 12 |
| 1989-1991, undated |
| (3 folders) |
| (4 folders) |
| Biographical material |
| Others, 1984-1990 |

BOX 13 |
<p>| Peterson, Russell W. |
| Career |
| (3 folders) |
| 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) |</p>
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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            | 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    | Council on Environmental Quality  
            | Administrative matters, 1971-1976  
            | Appointment  
            | Congratulatory messages, 1973-1974  
            | (8 folders)  
            | Miscellany, 1973  
            | Chronological file  
            | 1973  
            | (5 folders)  
            | 1974  
            | Jan.-Oct.  
            | (17 folders)  
            | BOX 16    | BOX 17    |
| BOX 16    | 1975  
            | Jan.-Sept.  
            | (12 folders)  
            | BOX 17    | NOV.-DEC.  
            | (3 folders)  
            | 1976  
            | Jan-Aug.  
            | (12 folders)  
            | BOX 18    | Sept.  
            | (2 folders)  
            | Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, 1970-1976  
            | (3 folders)  
            | Miscellaneous issues  
            | 1974-1976  
            | (5 folders)  
            | BOX 19    | 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
Proposed reorganization of development assistance, 1975
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
1970-1973
(9 folders)

BOX 25
1974-1999, undated
(3 folders)
Miscellany, 1973-2001, undated
(2 folders)
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
(4 folders)
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
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)
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)
Subject File, 1934-2003

Contents

League of Conservation Voters, 1994-2002
(4 folders)
Miscellany
1963-1988
(2 folders)
BOX 41
Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, 1987-1996
(2 folders)
National Audubon Society
Annual reports, 1979-2001
(2 folders)
Board of directors
Miscellany, 1979-2000
(3 folders)
BOX 42
Peterkin, Dewitt (1913-1997), 1979-1984
(2 folders)
President's reports, 1979-1985
(2 folders)
Chronological file
1981
July-Nov.
(11 folders)
BOX 43
Dec.
(2 folders)
1982
Jan.-June
(15 folders)
BOX 44
July-Dec.
(12 folders)
1983
Jan.-Mar.
(6 folders)
BOX 45
Apr.-Nov.
(18 folders)
BOX 46
Dec.
1984
Jan.-Oct.
(14 folders)
BOX 47
Nov.-Dec.
(4 folders)
1985
(8 folders)
Fund-raising, 1979-1988, undated
(2 folders)
Global environmental issues, reports on activities, 1984-1988
BOX 48
Media
Editorials
Audubon, 1980-1985
Miscellaneous, 1979-1984
Letters to editors, 1979-1985
Miscellany, 1979-1985
Press clippings, 1975-1993
(8 folders)
Television programs, 1984-1993

BOX 49
Miscellany, 1979-2003, undated
(7 folders)
Politics
Elections
1980
(2 folders)
BOX 50
1981-1982
(2 folders)
Ruckelshaus, William Doyle, 1979-1985
Retirement, 1984-1985
(2 folders)
National Institute of Former Governors, 1991-1993
National Municipal League, 1974-1979
Natural Resources Council of America, 1996-1997
New Directions
Appointments, 1977

BOX 51
Chronological file
1976
(5 folders)
1977
Jan.-May
(10 folders)
BOX 52
June-Dec.
(9 folders)
Fund-raising
Mailings, 1977-1978
Miscellany, 1976-1977, undated

BOX 53
Reports, 1976-1977
(5 folders)
Governing board, 1976-1977, undated
Miscellany, 1976-1981, undated
(3 folders)
Printed matter
Miscellaneous, 1975-1978
Press clippings, 1976-1978, undated

BOX 54
(2 folders)
Nuclear weapons production, nuclear waste, 1987-1992 See also Oversize
Oral history
Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
Miscellany, 1982-1985, undated
Transcript
Annotated version, 1982-1985
(9 folders)
BOX 55
Final version, 1982-1985
(9 folders)
Perry, Christopher L., 1998-1999
Pace University School of Law, Center for Environmental Legal Studies, White Plains, N.Y.,
1988-1996
(2 folders)
Politics
Change of party affiliation, 1996
Delaware *See Containers 22-25, same heading*
Elections
1984 campaigns, 1983-1984, undated
BOX 56
(6 folders)
1992, Bill Clinton and Albert Gore (1948- ) presidential and vice-presidential campaign,
1992-1993
(4 folders)
1996 campaigns
Environmental issues
1994-1995
(2 folders)
BOX 57
1996-2000, undated
Polls, 1991-2002
(2 folders)
Population, 1973-2002, undated *See also Oversize*
(4 folders)
BOX 58
(10 folders)
BOX 59
President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island
Correspondence, 1979-1988
Minutes, 1979
Miscellany, 1972-1980
(2 folders)
Notes and drafts, 1979
Press clippings, 1978-1989, undated
(2 folders)
Reaganism, 1981-1989, undated
(2 folders)
Save Our Seas, 1972-1974, undated
BOX 60
Science and public policy, 1979-2001, undated
Society for International Development
General, 1978-1979
North-South Roundtable, 1977-1982
Sol Feinstone Environmental Awards, 1975-1985
(2 folders)
Solar Energy Research Institute, Golden, Colo., 1980-1982
Television Trust for the Environment, 1984-1990
Tri-County Conservancy of the Brandywine, 1975-1976
Tyler Prize
  General, 1983-1986
  Nomination, 1983, 1997
  (3 folders)
U. S. Association for the Club of Rome
  1975
BOX 61
  1976-1985, 1995
  (4 folders)
  (2 folders)
  (2 folders)
BOX 62
United Nations Environment Programme
  Nongovernmental organizations, 1981-1985, 1992
  (2 folders)
Sasakawa Environment Prize Selection Committee
  1983-1997
  (5 folders)
BOX 63
  1998-2003
  (3 folders)
United States Committee, 1987-1994
United States Congress, Office of Technology Assessment
  Appointment
    Congratulatory messages, 1977-1978
    (3 folders)
    Miscellany, 1977
    Press clippings, 1977-1978
    Swearing-in ceremony, 1978
BOX 64
General
  1972-1979
  (11 folders)
BOX 65
  1980-1995, undated
  (2 folders)
  “One-Pager” fact sheets, 1978-1979, undated
  Oversight hearings, 1972-1978
  (3 folders)
  Technology Assessment Advisory Council, 1977-1981, undated
  (2 folders)
  Technology Assessment Board, 1978-1979
Subject File, 1934-2003

<table>
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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. <em>See also Classified</em> (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Sept. (8 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 73</td>
<td>Oct. <em>See also Oversize</em> (1 folder) (5 folders) Nov. (2 folders)</td>
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Russell W. Peterson Papers  18
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<td>BOX 77</td>
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<td>BOX 78</td>
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<td>BOX 79</td>
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<td>BOX 83</td>
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<td>BOX 85</td>
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<td>BOX 87</td>
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<td>Mar.-May (7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 88</td>
<td>June-Oct. (7 folders)</td>
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## Trips and Events, 1973-1999

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<td>BOX 90</td>
<td>1979 Jan.-Mar. (7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 91</td>
<td>Apr.-Sept. (7 folders) Oct. (1 folder)</td>
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<td>BOX 92</td>
<td>Nov.-Dec. (3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 93</td>
<td>Mar.-June (6 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 94</td>
<td>July-Dec. (8 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 95</td>
<td>1981 Jan.-Apr. See also Oversize (7 folders)</td>
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<td>1984 Jan.-Apr. (5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 102</td>
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<td>Aug.-Dec. (9 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 104</td>
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Russell W. Peterson Papers
**Trips and Events, 1973-1999**

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| BOX 104   | Jan.-Sept. (8 folders)  
|          | Oct. (2 folders)  
|          | 1986 (6 folders)  
| BOX 105   | 1987 Jan.-Sept. (8 folders)  
|          | Oct.-Dec. (3 folders)  
| BOX 106   | 1988 Jan. (3 folders)  
|          | Feb. (1 folder)  
| BOX 107   | Mar.-Sept. (5 folders)  
| BOX 108   | Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)  
|          | 1989 Jan.-July (7 folders)  
| BOX 109   | Oct.-Dec. (5 folders)  
|          | 1990 Jan.-Feb. (3 folders)  
| BOX 110   | Apr.-Dec. (5 folders)  
|          | 1991 (3 folders)  
| BOX 111   | 1992 (5 folders)  
|          | 1993 Jan.-Mar. (2 folders)  
|          | Apr.-Oct. (2 folders)  
| BOX 112   | 1994-1999 (3 folders)  

**BOX 112-140**  
**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.
## Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004

### Container | Contents
--- | ---
BOX 112 | Speeches
- Vol. 1, 1973 (4 folders)
- Vol. 2, 1974 (3 folders)

BOX 113 | Vol. 3, 1974 (3 folders)
- Vol. 4, 1974 (2 folders)

BOX 114 | Vol. 5, 1975 (4 folders)
- Vol. 6, 1975-1976 (3 folders)

BOX 115 | Vol. 7, 1976-1977 (3 folders)
- Vol. 8, 1978 (2 folders)

BOX 116 | Vol. 9, 1978-1980 (3 folders)
- Vol. 10, 1980 (2 folders)

BOX 117 | Vol. 11, 1981-1982 (4 folders)
- X. Vol. 12, 1982-1983 (3 folders)

BOX 118 | Vol. 13, 1984-1985 (3 folders)
- Vol. 14, 1985-1987 (3 folders)

BOX 119 | Vol. 15, 1988-1989 (3 folders)
- Vol. 16, 1990-1992 (2 folders)

BOX 120 | Vol. 17, 1993-1996 (2 folders)
- Vol. 18, 1997-1998 (2 folders)
- Vol. 19, 1999-2000 (2 folders)

BOX 121 | Miscellaneous, 1953-1973 (2 folders)

### Writings
Articles
- 1943, 1967-1981 (3 folders)

BOX 122 | 1982-2003 (6 folders)
- Book, *Rebel with a Conscience*
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
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
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| BOX 128   | Miscellaneous topics, 1971-1996, undated  
(1 folder)  
(8 folders)  
Politics and the environment, 1996-1997 |
(5 folders)  
Protecting the ozone layer, 1975-1995, undated |
| BOX 130   | Slowing growth in consumption, 1992-1996, undated  
Turning people on, 1991, undated  
| BOX 131   | Index, 1985-1988  
(2 folders)  
Arms, 1961-1994, undated  
(2 folders)  
Audubon Society, 1980-1990, undated  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 132   | Bucking the system, 1984-1985, undated  
(2 folders)  
(5 folders)  
Delaware, 1972-1996, undated  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 133   | Ecology/environment/natural resources, 1962-1994, undated  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 134   | Economics, 1961-1993, undated  
(3 folders)  
(5 folders)  
(2 folders)  
(3 folders)  
Ethics, 1975-1992, undated  
(1 folder)  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 135   | Futures, 1973-1990, undated  
Getting ahead, 1977-1992, undated  
(2 folders) |
(2 folders)  
History, 1974-1991, undated  
(3 folders) |
Speeches and Writings, 1917-2004

Container | Contents
--- | ---
BOX 137 | Human behavior, 1975-1987, undated
 | 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](#))
## Oversize, 1974-circa 1990

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<td><strong>Trips and events, 1974, Aug. (Container 70)</strong></td>
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