Appendix: Sources for Presidential Proposals

Documented here are the sources used in preparing the list of 184 presidential proposals presented and weighted in Table 2.1. Any reader wishing to see the exact basis for these inclusions and weightings may go back to the sources using this information.

For each presidential term, the sources are listed alphabetically by author. For each source, the proposals that ended up being included in Table 2.1, if they received any relevant discussion at all in a particular source, are listed under the source in this appendix in the order of their appearance in Table 2.1. The page numbers at which such discussion occurred are provided. This page documentation might seem to invite page counts as an indicator of White House interest or emphasis regarding the various proposals, yet any such use of the page data would be unwise. Relevant discussions on the pages range from elaborate to scanty, and page counts cannot reach the content of the discussions. Leaving aside certain trivial or cursory mentions in the texts (scattered references to the Clinton budget, for example, in the coverage of 1993-94), the page information here is intended to be a complete canvass. Absent mistakes of omission (no doubt there are some), it is a guide to all the relevant discussions, in all the sources, of the proposals listed in Table 2.1.

How about also-rans? That is, presidential proposals that received some discussion in the sources but did not make the cut for Table 2.1? Those that received discussion in at least two sources are listed here in a different way, for each presidential term, at the bottom of all the rest of each term’s information. They are listed alphabetically by proposal, rather than by source, in each case documenting the sources in which relevant discussion took place along with page numbers. Why didn’t these proposals make the cut? There were a number of reasons. Too few of the term’s sources took an interest, or the discussions were cursory, or the president was reported to be not really very interested, or the White House was taking defensive action somehow on a proposal that originated on Capitol Hill, or an announced White House aim never did emanate in a concrete proposal. Also-rans that came especially close to the cut included child care under Bush in 1989-90, and
anti-Communist loyalty legislation under Eisenhower in 1953-54. I had trouble sorting Nixon’s energy proposals in 1973-74 into yeses and no.

Through 2002, all except two of the proposals included in Table 2.1 are discussed in at least two sources. Those two, both items from 1985-86, are a balanced-budget amendment and an agriculture plan discussed only by Reagan himself in his memoirs. Congressional Quarterly Weekly enters the picture for 2005-06.

Truman – 1949-50


omnibus housing 166, 172, minimum wage 166, 175, social security 166, 175, CVA 175, rent control 166, 172, executive reorganization 167, trade 166.


Not included:
--anti-inflation controls: Gosnell 439, Neustadt 19
--basing point: Gosnell 445, D.B. Truman 27-28
--Clayton Act: Ferrell 288, McCoy 181-82, Neustadt 29, D.B. Truman 40
Eisenhower – 1953-54


Not included:

--18-year-old vote: Ambrose 158, Eisenhower 295, 303
--Communism/disloyalty: Ambrose 157, Eisenhower 287, 303
--Hells Canyon: Pach & Richardson 57, Pusey 220, Reichard 176-77
--highways: Ambrose 159, Eisenhower 303
--unemployment insurance: Eisenhower 303, Pusey 228, Zornow 46

Eisenhower – 1957-58


Not included: no entries

Kennedy – 1961-62


Not included:
--college aid: Dallek 379, Irish 42, 43, O’Brien 565
--juvenile delinquency: Giglio 107, 119, Matusow 107, 110
--tax reform: Dallek 379, Giglio 122, Irish 43, O’Brien 580-81
--water pollution: Dallek 379, Giglio 107, Parmet 97

Johnson – 1965-66


493, agriculture 493, HUD 493, rent supplements 500, 559, 561, immigration 492-93, DOT 559, model cities 559, open housing 559, DC home rule 500, 559, 561.


Alfred Steinberg, Sam Johnson’s Boy: A Close-up of the President from Texas (New York: Macmillan, 1968), chs. 70, 71: ESEA, 698, 705, 716, Medicare 698, 705, 708-10, 716, VRA 705, 706-08, 716-17, antipoverty 698, higher education 717, highway beautification 706, 711-14, arts & humanities 698, Appalachia 705, Taft-Hartley 719, omnibus housing 710-11, agriculture 710, HUD 698, 706, immigration 698, 706, 717, model cities 722.


Not included:

--4-year House terms: Dallek 300, Evans & Novak 557-58, 572, Woods 686
--clean air 1965: Bornet 141, Dallek 65, 229-30, Unger 377, Steinberg 698
--clean air 1966: Evans & Novak 559, Woods 663
--excise tax cut: Dallek 194, Steinberg 698, 706
--minimum wage: Unger 401, Woods 687, Steinberg 722
--Teacher Corps $: Evans & Novak 559, Unger 390-91
--truth in packaging: Dallek 300, 316, Unger 391
--water quality 1966: Evans & Novak 559, Woods 663, 686

Nixon 1969-70


Not included:
--voting rights: Ambrose 370, Evans & Novak 129-31, Small 166

Nixon – 1973-74


Alaska pipeline 252, 263, daylight savings 262, 263, natural gas deregulation 252, speed limits 262, 263.


Not included:
--deepwater ports: Ambrose 187, Nixon 984
--environmental standards (relaxation of): Ambrose 221, 266, Matusow 252, 262
--surface mining: Ambrose 187, 221, Nixon 984

Carter – 1977-78


89-90, 92, airline deregulation 73, 93, 113, civil service 73, 92, 113, Dept of Education 73, 80-81.


Not included:
--housing and community development: Bourne 418-19, 420, Dumbrell 99, Haas 73, Kaufman 28, 74
--strip mining: Bourne 418, Carter 92, 112
Reagan – 1981-82


Not included: no entries

Reagan – 1987-88


Pemberton, *Exit with Honor*, ch. 7: TRA 144-46.

Schaller, *Reckoning with Reagan*, ch. 2: TRA 64

Tygiel, *Ronald Reagan*, ch. 10: TRA 172

Not included: no entries

Bush 41 – 1989-90


Not included:
--child care: Barilleaux & Rozell, 24, Mervin 205, Sinclair 160, 169-70, 171

Clinton – 1993-94


Not included:
--abortion: Cohen 201, Sinclair 120
--college loans: Clinton 513, 556, Cohen 201, Sinclair 120
--education 1994: Clinton 623-24, Sinclair 119, 120
--mining law: Foley 32, Walker 328
--safe drinking water: Foley 32, Sinclair 119
--Superfund: Sinclair 119, Walker 328
--telecommunications: Foley 32, Sinclair 119, Walker 328

Clinton – 1997-98

Berman, From the Center to the Edge, ch. 4: balance budget 73, 74-75, 87-88, CHIP 74, teachers 81, 87-88, trade 74, 77-78, 79, social security 80, 87, minimum wage 81, immigrant aid 74-75, child care 79, 81, campaign finance 78.


Klein, The Natural, Prologue, ch. 6: balance budget 158-61, CHIP 159-60, higher education 159, trade 16, social security 7, 18-19, immigrant aid 160.


Not included:
--tobacco regulation: Clinton 820, Harris 311
Bush 43 – 2001-02


stimulus 144, Patriot Act 144, airline security 144, rebuild New York City 144, Homeland department 144, 145, 147.


Not included:
--agriculture: Burke 223, Owen 145
--airline bailout: Draper 127, Owen 144
--Alaska drilling: Burke 176, Owen 141
--campaign finance reform: Burke 223, Fortier & Ornstein 154
--corporate accountability: Burke 223, Owen 143, Sinclair 127
--patients’ bill of rights: Burke 146-47, Fortier & Ornstein 146, 154, Owen 140, 143, Rudalevige 84
--social security reform: Burke 54, 122, 132, Fortier & Ornstein 146
--terrorism insurance: Burke 223, Owen 144

Bush 43 – 2005-06


Geoffrey Hodgson, “President Bush’s Second Term Agenda,” ch. 1 in Morgan and Davies (eds.), Right On?: social security 22-25, 38, extend tax cuts 22.


Rudalevige, “George W. Bush and Congress”: social security 92, 93, class action 92, 93, bankruptcy 93, high schools 92, 93, Patriot Act 93-94.


Not included: no entries from Balz through Rudalevige above