

**Records of the Committee Ways and Means
RG.233.95.WM
95th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Ways and Means
Date	1977-1978
Extent	85.2 Cubic feet (circa 213 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest committee of the United States Congress, and is the chief tax-writing committee in the House of Representatives. The Committee derives a large share of its jurisdiction from Article I, Section VII of the U.S. Constitution which declares, "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

First established as a select committee on July 24, 1789, it was discharged less than two months later. The committee was reappointed from the first session of the Fourth Congress in 1795, and was formally listed as a standing committee in the House Rules on January 7, 1802.

Until 1865, the jurisdiction of the committee (referred to as the Committee of Ways and Means before 1880) included the critically important areas of revenue, appropriations, and banking. Since 1865, the committee has continued to exercise jurisdiction over revenue and related issues such as tariffs, reciprocal trade agreements, and the bonded debt of the United States. Revenue-related aspects of the Social Security system, Medicare, and social services programs have come within Ways and Means' purview in the 20th century.

Scope and Contents note

The records document the work of the Ways and Means committee during the 95th Congress and are primarily the published work product of the committee.

Arrangement note

The records are arranged into bills and resolutions, "green" notebooks, legislative files, minutes, official communications, and subcommittee files. Any discernible series arrangement is noted within each series.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Bills and resolutions (29 bound volumes in 19 archival boxes)

"Green" notebooks (28 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically by year and month, and alphabetically therein.

Legislative files (101 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Bill files for full committee and Subcommittee on Trade.

Minutes (20 bound volumes)

Arrangement note

Arranged by session and chronologically therein.

Official communications (18 archival box)

Scope and Contents note

Subcommittee on Public Assistance and Unemployment Compensation

Petitions and memorials, required reports, and executive communications. Executive communications and some required reports are in bound volumes.

Subcommittee on Public Assistance and Unemployment Compensation (4 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Welfare reform markup, budget markup, other markup, and logs of legislative action.

Subcommittee on Trade (3 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Legislative files, subcommittee minutes.