

**Series 2: U.S.D.A. [United States Department of Agriculture] Series, 1968-1977;
bulk 1973-1977**

18.225 cubic feet consisting of 410 folders.

The U.S.D.A. [United States Department of Agriculture] Series consists of articles, bulletins, clippings, correspondence, daily planners, government documents, memoranda, minutes, newsletters, press releases, plans, publications, reports, speeches, statements, telephone logs, television transcripts, and testimonies.

Materials in this series cover the period 1968-1977, which includes Nancy Harvey Steorts' tenure as the Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs from July 1973 to February 4, 1977. The bulk of the materials dates from 1973 to 1977.

The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title, and chronologically within each folder.

The majority of the correspondence in this series relate to consumers describing their complaints and concerns about products and services or stating their objections to practices such as computer-assisted checkout systems and supermarket re-pricing of products already on their shelves. There is also outgoing correspondence in which Nancy Harvey Steorts and her staff reply to the consumers. Letters from other departments, e.g., the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration, can be found in these files because some of the consumer complaints were not in the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Other correspondence can be found in the "Correspondence," "Day File" and "Reader File" folders. However, it should be noted that some letters from consumers are interspersed in these files. Incoming correspondence includes invitations, cancellations, requests for publications and other information, commendation and thank-you letters. Steorts' outgoing correspondence contains comments on such subjects as the Food-for-Survival Learning Center Proposal, pre-packaged produce, and the duties and functions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Memoranda in those files include those sent to her boss, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz. Topics covered in the memoranda include actions initiated by Steorts that resulted in positive benefits for consumers, the U.S.D.A. briefing on fresh fruits and vegetables grading revision, various press and professional conferences, the Consumer Product Information Center's "Federal Focus on Consumer Education" Panel, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Quality Committee, the Federal Trade Commission's draft of a proposed trade regulation on food advertising, a recommendation of two consumer leaders for the Nutritional Labeling Task Force; a recommendation that the Department of Agriculture initiate a "Consumer Tips" media program; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) passing the responsiveness test in answering the questions of consumers, the U.S.D.A.'s food safety campaigns, the consistently high marks for the way in which the U.S.D.A. handles consumer calls in a survey conducted by newspapers, and the reports on the activities of Steorts' office.

The series contains information regarding the implementation of a consumer representation plan for the United States Department of Agriculture. This includes drafts and the final copy of the consumer representation plan for the U.S. Department of Agriculture; copies of the

representation plans of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Labor, Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and transcripts from meetings held in Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Houston, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. in relation to the White House Conference on the Consumer Representation Plan. There are also transcripts from a meeting at Stanford University and workshops held by the General Services Administration, as well as a report from the White House Office of Public Liaison and expenditures for the White House conference.

Another topic well-documented in the series relates to the shortage of home canning equipment, especially lids. The situation occurred because more people were planting gardens due to rising unemployment and higher food costs. There is correspondence, memoranda, and U.S.D.A. press releases. It contains responses from the State Departments of Agriculture regarding the home canning situation; statements from a March 10, 1975 U.S.D.A. press conference which outlined the home canning equipment supply situation, the botulism poisoning problem, and other canning information; and materials related to a series of nine nationwide U.S.D.A. briefings aimed at eliminating outbreaks of food borne diseases caused by improper home canning. In addition, there are statements and testimonies from Steorts and other individuals in regard to the investigation of the shortage of home canning equipment by the Subcommittee on Commodities and Services of the U.S. House Committee on Small Business, chaired by U.S. Representative Charles J. Carney of Ohio in June 1975 and July 1976.

Materials covering a proposal to revise the U.S. standards for grades of beef are filed in the series. Correspondence includes that supporting or opposing the proposal from organizations such as the American National Cattlemen's Association, the National Livestock Feeders Association, the National Association of Meat Purveyors, the National Consumers League, the National Consumer Congress and National Restaurant Association, as well as letters from consumers. There is a memo and brief summary on regional conferences on beef upgrade change proposals. There is information relating to a September 10, 1974 press conference which includes remarks by Steorts and others, questions and answers, and a U.S.D.A. press release. There are also statements by Steorts and other people before the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, which studied the beef grading issue.

While Steorts was with the U.S.D.A. she initiated a campaign to persuade restaurateurs to give consumers a choice of portion size are filed in the series. A majority of the materials relating to this project is correspondence sent to and from such organizations as Marriott's Camelback Inn, Sir Water Raleigh Inns, Billy Martin's Carriage House, Inc., Weight Watchers International, Inc., Hilton Hotels Corporation, and Canadian Restaurant Association, as well as letters from consumers. Also included are Steorts' remarks about the program that she gave at meetings of various organizations.

Also of particular interest are the files relating to the International Women's Year, 1975. On January 9, 1975 President Gerald R. Ford signed Executive Order No. 11832 which established the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, 1975. Steorts was designated to represent the U.S.D.A. on the Interdepartmental Task Force for International Women's Year. The files contain recommendations for the National Commission for Observance of the International Women's Year memoranda, correspondence, reports, and

newsletters from the U.S. Center for IWY 1975; information bulletins from the Organization of American States; and a summary report of International Women's Year activities in the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Steorts.

This series is indexed under the following terms in the University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Subjects:

Beef industry--Government policy--United States

Butz, Earl L. (Earl Lauer), 1909-

Canning and preserving--Equipment and supplies

Consumer Participation--United States

Consumer protection--United States--Citizen participation

Food portions

Glass container industry--United States

International Women's Year, 1975--United States

United States. Dept. of Agriculture

United States. Dept. of Agriculture. Special Assistant to the Secretary for Consumer Affairs--
Officials and employees

United States. Dept. of Agriculture. Officials and employees--Selection and appointment

Form/genre:

Speeches

Transcripts

MSS 123, NANCY HARVEY STEORTS PAPERS, USDA [UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE] (1968-1977), SERIES 2, CONTAINER LIST

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	7	<i>AG-GOP Alumni News</i> – 1977
	8	Agribusiness Institute – 1973-1974
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6		[Berkeley, California] – 1974-1975
7		[Orlando and Winter Haven, Florida] – 1975
8		Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) – 1973, 1977
9		Agri-Dynamics Executive Workshops – 1971-1974
10		Agway Board of Directors – 1976
3	11	American Council on Consumer Interests – 1974 American Home Economics Association (AHEA)
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	5	American Oil Chemists Society – 1975
	6	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services – 1973-1976 Appointment Book
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9	[Arkansas Public Health Association 26 th Annual Convention] – 1974	
10	Armstrong, Anne. Speech Draft before the Texas Seedsmen – [n.d.]	

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	4	Bloomington, [Indiana] Safety Week Press Coverage – 1974
	5	Board of Directors of the Club Managers Association of America, Roosevelt Room, The White House – 1976
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	7	Briefing for Proposed Uniform Nomenclature for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – 1975
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	10	Campbell Soup Company – 1974-1976
	11	Carter Administration: Consumers – 1976-1977
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	14	[Certificates] – 1975
	15	Chautauqua, Nebraska (Congressman Charles Thone) – 1976
	16	Citizen Participation Manual – [c. 1975] [COCO (Conference of Consumer Organizations) Seminar, Monterey, California]
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	5	Computer Checkout/Universal Product Code – 1974-1975
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16	1	8 th Annual New York Consumer Assembly, New York, New York – 1974
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	8	Farm-Retail Price Spreads for Red Meat (Report of a Special Task Force to Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture) – 1974
	9	Farm Women's Forum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – 1975
	10	Farmer-Consumer Conference, Washington, D.C. – 1976
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17	1	Food and Inflation – 1974-1976
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	4	[Philadelphia, Pennsylvania] – 1975
	5	[Responses from State Departments of Agriculture] – 1975
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	8	Information/Education Task Force (Food Safety and Quality Committee) – 1975

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	5	Information from U.S. Embassy, Mexico City – 1975
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	5	Inventory of the Policy Decisions and Implementing Actions of the Department of Agriculture having a Consumer Impact – 1975
	6	[Kroger Company Meeting (February 27-28, 1975), Cincinnati, Ohio] – 1974-1976
	7	Kroger Food Store – 1974-1976
		Labeling
	8	1974-1976
	9	Colonial Stores’ Meat Identification Labels – 1973-1974
	10	Livestock Marketing Congress, Spokane, Washington – 1973-1974
	11	[Magazine/Journal/Newsletter Articles] – 1973-[c. 1975]
	12	Meat and Poultry – 1976
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	3	Milk – 1973-1976
	4	[Missouri Cattlemen’s Association] – 1974
	5	“More for Your Money” Consumer Seminar – 1976

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	2	National Consumers Congress – 1973-1976
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	5	Nominations and Resumes for National Consumer Advisory Committee (Submitted October 1976) – 1976-1977
	6	Occupational Safety and Hazards Association (OSHA): Cancer Proposal – 1977 Office of Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs
	7	1972-1975
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2		Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) – 1974
3		[Oregon Cattlemen’s Association 61 st Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon] – 1974
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	7	Programs in Nutrition – 1975
	8	Progress Report on Food Ingredient Safety Criteria – 1977 Proposed Interagency Agreements between the Federal Energy Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture –
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	11	["Protein Enrichment for Better Foods" Briefing, Peoria, Illinois] – 1974
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	5	Red Meat Marketing Conference – 1974-1975
	6	[Responsiveness of Federal Agencies to Consumer Complaints] – 1975-1977
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		Steorts' Notes
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	6	June 29, 1976-February 4, 1977, [n.d.]
	7	[Tri-Valley Growers, Inc., San Francisco, California] – 1975
	8	[Tri-Valley Growers, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, San Francisco, California] – 1974-1975
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	3	[Visit to Oregon (October 14-15, 1976)] – 1976
	4	Wanamaker's Program – 1974
	5	Washington Rotary Club, Washington, D.C. – 1976
	6	Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture – 1974
	7	Western Trip with the Secretary – 1973
	8	[“What is a Consumer from the Viewpoint of the U.S.D.A.?”] – 1975
		While You Were Out Forms
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		[White House Conference on Consumer Representation Plans]
38	12	[Atlanta, Georgia (Transcript)] – 1976
	13	[Boston, Massachusetts (Transcript)] – 1976
	14	Briefing Book – 1976
	15	[Denver, Colorado (Transcript)] – 1976
	16	Expenditures – 1976
39	1	General Accounting Office Request of 1976 – 1976
	2	General Services Administration Workshops (Transcripts) – 1976
	3	[Houston, Texas (Transcript)] – 1976
	4	[Kansas City, Missouri (Transcript)] – 1976
	5	Los Angeles, California (Transcript) – 1976
	6	[Official Report of Proceedings, White House Office of Public Liaison] – 1976
	7	Stanford University, California (Transcript) – 1976
	8	Washington, D.C. (Transcript) – 1976
		White House Conference on Education [“Tuesday at the White House”]
	9	June 1974-January 12, 1975
	10	February 24- March 11, 1975
		White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health Recommendations
	11	April-July 1974
40	1	August 1974
	2	June-July 1975
	3	White House Regional Conference on Consumer Representation Plans. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Transcript) – 1976
	4	White House Regional Conferences on Consumer Representation Plans – 1976
	5	[Women’s Forum on National Security, Washington, D.C.] – 1975
	6	Working Conference on Research to Meet U.S. and World Food Needs – 1975
		World Food Conference
	7	1974-1975
	8	1976
41	1	World-Wide Developments in Food Proteins Symposium – 1974-1975 Young Executives Committee
	2	1973-1976
	3	Report on Agriculture – 1976