Title: Fowler C. West Papers (#93)

Collection Statement:
Fowler C. West, a Baylor graduate and native of Central Texas, donated 14 large, archival storage boxes of papers in the spring of 1993. These papers document his service as staff director of the House Agriculture Committee (1973-1982) and his tenure as a commissioner with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (1982-1992).

Upon receipt of the papers, a listing of all the contents was made. Next, the papers were divided into six major series and further processed to the item level, retaining the original filing order as much as possible. The final series are:

- **Personal Files** [1 Box, 33 Folders]
- **Agriculture Committee** [Boxes 2-5, 113 Folders]
- **CFTC Correspondence** [Boxes 6-9, 84 Folders]
- **CFTC Committee Meetings** [Boxes 10-14, 95 Folders]
- **CFTC Subject Files** [Boxes 15-36, 511 Folders]
- **Publications** [Boxes 37-50, 146 Files]

Some duplicate items were removed from the collection along with a few papers dealing primarily with Congressmen W. R. Poage. The remaining materials form an excellent historical account of the governmental career of Mr. West, especially with regards to the CFTC. The collection could also be quite useful to researchers interested in commodity markets and their regulation, as well as the workings of the CFTC.

Series Description:


This series consist of papers that deal primarily with West, and includes items relating to Baylor University, biographical information, West’s CFTC appointment, personal letters, invitations, thank you notes, and several photographs.


Though the earliest folder dates from 1971, but none go past 1982 when West was appointed a Commissioner with the CFTC. During this period, 1973-1982, West was staff director of the House Committee on Agriculture. Topics covered include the budget, subsidies, farm problems and farm bills, grain and fuel legislation, rural development, and travel.


Correspondence in this series fall into three divisions. The first section is filed chronologically by month for 1988 and 1989. The finding aid lists alphabetically the correspondents along with the company/organization on the letterhead for the first thirteen folders. These correspondents are representative of those found throughout the files.
The next division has been retained as received. These folders are arranged alphabetically with each file covering the years 1983 to 1992. Contents are mostly blue carbon copies of thank you and congratulatory-type letters.

The third section is also chronological from November 1983 to December 1987. Correspondents are not listed because they are generally the same as those found in the first division.


These papers have been retained in their original order as much as possible. They are filed chronologically and date from 01/26/82 to 11/24/92. The BCPM attempted whenever possible to keep together individual Committee meeting files; however, some were in unfilled stacks and are therefore in the main body of the Committee subject files in the next series.

Generally, these files contain memos concerning business discussed at each commission meeting such as applications for designation as contract market in various option areas. There are also notebooks for each quarter reporting on the staff, programs, statistics and objectives of the CFTC. Memos from the CFTC’s Division of Enforcement, Division of Trading and Markets, and Division of Economic Analysis are represented throughout the meeting files.

A variety of futures markets are represented in the committee files including silver futures, day interest rate futures, medium term vs. treasury note futures, pound sterling options, Japanese, German, and Canadian government bonds, three-month ECU interest rate futures, corn futures, two year US treasury note futures, natural gas futures, health and homeowners insurance futures, Brazilian differential coffee futures, ferrous scrap futures, platinum and palladium futures, and clean air futures.

Documents dealing with the major exchanges and boards of trade are also found in this series. These include the Kansas City Board of Trade, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Board of Trade, the New York Futures Exchange, the Mid-America Commodity Exchange, Woodstock Trading Company, New York Mercantile Exchange, Twin Cities Board of Trade, Commodity Exchange, Inc., and the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange.


This series contains all CFTC files not filed with a particular committee meeting or with the correspondence files and spans the entire period of West’s time with the CFTC, 1982-1992. While forming the major body of the collection, it is also the most informative in terms of West’s work with the CFTC. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject from the CFTC Advisory Committee to articles, speeches, and statements by West himself.

Some of the other topics covered in this section are AMEX and gold bullion contracts; arbitration; audit trail; Chicago Board of Trade options and futures; CFTC Amicus Curiae briefs; CFTC Division of Enforcement fraud cases; CFTC program objectives; CFTC reauthorization bill; CFTC-SEC merger; Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Commodity
Exchange Act; Federal Reserve; Futures Trading Act; fraud; leverage; monographs; National Futures Association; New York Cotton Exchange, Futures Exchange, Mercantile Exchange, and Stock Exchange; options; Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate; Securities Exchange Commission; silver; and stock index futures.

VI: Publications, 14 lin. ft.

These publications date from the period of West’s tenure with the CFTC and deal exclusively with topics related to it. This series was formed primarily from several boxes containing only publications which were separate from the rest of the CFTC files. Publications are filed alphabetically by publisher beginning with the Associations of the Bar of New York to Yale Journal on Regulation.

Other organizations/publishers represented include the Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Columbia Futures Center, the CFTC, the Federal Government, the General Accounting Agency, The International Organization of Securities Commissions, the National Futures Association, the New York Stock Exchange, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.