

Welcome to Civil Discourse. This podcast will use government documents to illuminate the workings of the American Government and offer contexts around the effects of government agencies in your everyday life. Now your hosts, Nia Rodgers, Public Affairs Librarian and Dr. John Aughenbaugh, Political Science Professor.

1
00:00:03.510 --> 00:00:04.380
Nia Rodgers: Good morning y'all.

2
00:00:05.970 --> 00:00:06.629
John Aughenbaugh: morning.

3
00:00:07.140 --> 00:00:07.620
morning.

4
00:00:08.940 --> 00:00:09.690
Nia Rodgers: How are you all today.

5
00:00:11.190 --> 00:00:12.269
John Aughenbaugh: i'm good Thank you.

6
00:00:14.040 --> 00:00:14.580
William Newmann: Very good.

7
00:00:14.969 --> 00:00:24.510
Nia Rodgers: hey okay so listeners once again i'm not speaking to augie clearly alone, since you've heard a second voice that would be bill Newman.

8
00:00:24.810 --> 00:00:37.560
Nia Rodgers: And I also don't use y'all referring to one person because i'm from the South, and I understand what y'all means so which she said bitterly because she watches movies, all the time and points that out, you know that's not singular right.

9
00:00:38.700 --> 00:00:46.140

Nia Rodgers: So anyway we've invited bill Newman back because he's been to all the presidential libraries on the earth and.

10

00:00:47.280 --> 00:00:48.630

Nia Rodgers: More or less give or take.

11

00:00:48.990 --> 00:00:55.410

Nia Rodgers: And, and we have we have questions about going to a presidential library, so thank you so much for coming today bill and answering this.

12

00:00:56.040 --> 00:00:57.210

William Newmann: know, thank you for bringing me in.

13

00:00:57.900 --> 00:01:01.290

John Aughenbaugh: A bill, how many library presidential libraries have you been to.

14

00:01:01.920 --> 00:01:02.400

Okay.

15

00:01:03.720 --> 00:01:05.490

William Newmann: I let me I gotta run through the.

16

00:01:06.570 --> 00:01:08.970

John Aughenbaugh: Oh, you knew this question was coming come on.

17

00:01:09.450 --> 00:01:13.620

William Newmann: yeah I never count so someone tell you this up okay.

18

00:01:13.620 --> 00:01:13.920

either.

19

00:01:15.060 --> 00:01:20.580

William Newmann: Kennedy Johnson Nixon Ford Carter Reagan.

20

00:01:22.050 --> 00:01:28.440

William Newmann: George Herbert Walker Bush and Clinton, so we got there 1999.

21

00:01:29.310 --> 00:01:31.110

Nia Rodgers: wow how many are there, total.

22

00:01:32.400 --> 00:01:33.420

William Newmann: Well, I think.

23

00:01:33.750 --> 00:01:48.000

William Newmann: There, there are the national archives libraries and then they're all the other libraries, which are which have documents, but they aren't necessarily formally in the national archives system, so the national archives system, I guess it starts with Hoover.

24

00:01:49.110 --> 00:02:00.210

William Newmann: On and then not sure what's happening with with the trump or how that's still too early in the process and there's certain negotiating that but some.

25

00:02:01.470 --> 00:02:05.430

William Newmann: wilson's in stand Virginia close by about an hour and a half away.

26

00:02:06.480 --> 00:02:17.250

Nia Rodgers: Oh Okay, so I can go to one pretty easily can I go to one can regular humans go to the library, or do you have to be doing big giant researching things.

27

00:02:18.150 --> 00:02:19.140

William Newmann: anybody can go.

28

00:02:20.250 --> 00:02:29.640

William Newmann: yeah anybody can go it's great and when i'm there doing the kind of research that that I like to do there are people who come in and say.

29

00:02:30.330 --> 00:02:45.540

William Newmann: You know my grandfather met Lyndon Johnson in 1966 and I know, there was a picture of him with the President and I don't have it, but it's got to be somewhere in the library and archivists will say okay well let's track that down.

30

00:02:46.350 --> 00:02:50.730

Nia Rodgers: that's wonderful I mean that's a really cool use of that.

31

00:02:51.840 --> 00:02:56.670

Nia Rodgers: of presidential i'm not saying that what you use them for is not cool sorry that didn't.

32

00:02:56.670 --> 00:02:57.300

Nia Rodgers: come out right.

33

00:02:59.340 --> 00:03:01.440

Nia Rodgers: Okay that's good for a moment, sorry about.

34

00:03:01.440 --> 00:03:01.650

That.

35

00:03:02.730 --> 00:03:06.870

William Newmann: hey there's something useful about presidential library all that stuff.

36

00:03:08.220 --> 00:03:12.300

Nia Rodgers: So okay wait so first of all, does it cost money to go to a presidential library.

37

00:03:13.020 --> 00:03:23.340

William Newmann: No, not at all it's to go into the museum you pay a regular museum fee, but if you want to do research that's no cost at all, all that information belongs to, we, the taxpayers.

38

00:03:23.610 --> 00:03:26.730

Nia Rodgers: So are those buildings together like.

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00:03:27.990 --> 00:03:38.100

Nia Rodgers: Our most presidential libraries in a bigger building that's got the museum and the presidential library and whatever or are they separate entities within a larger complex.

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00:03:38.460 --> 00:03:52.740

William Newmann: Most of them are together the exceptions, the Ford library, the library is on the campus of the University of Michigan and you see him is in grand rapids.

41

00:03:54.330 --> 00:03:55.290

Nia Rodgers: A bit distant.

42

00:03:55.470 --> 00:03:59.700

William Newmann: yeah so which was disappointing to me because I wanted to get like a Gerald Ford T shirt.

43

00:04:01.290 --> 00:04:13.800

William Newmann: I don't know, two and a half hours or so I couldn't do that and Obama is also doing it differently and that he's having his I guess Center or foundation and then all his actual records are going to be at the national archives.

44

00:04:15.000 --> 00:04:15.570

John Aughenbaugh: Now bill.

45

00:04:16.950 --> 00:04:20.370

John Aughenbaugh: nia talked about the the user experience.

46

00:04:21.450 --> 00:04:38.190

John Aughenbaugh: let's talk about who pays for these libraries libraries to be built, and then to hire the staff to go ahead and organize the materials, and you know help out researchers in the public.

47

00:04:39.600 --> 00:04:55.740

John Aughenbaugh: I mean, because you know you know this Congress allocate money for this or do the president's or their supporters have to go ahead and fundraise for the creation of these libraries.

48

00:04:56.250 --> 00:05:06.210

William Newmann: So the creation building and things like that you actually have private foundations yeah that do that, but the materials.

49

00:05:07.320 --> 00:05:12.240

William Newmann: are organized and managed and maintained by people from the national archives.

50

00:05:13.320 --> 00:05:17.850

John Aughenbaugh: Okay, so the so the and that's by federal law right.

51

00:05:20.160 --> 00:05:28.620

John Aughenbaugh: There are laws that actually regulate what Presidents can do with their materials once they leave office.

52

00:05:29.130 --> 00:05:32.250

William Newmann: Right and once and while they're still in office.

53

00:05:33.000 --> 00:05:33.720

John Aughenbaugh: There you go.

54

00:05:34.620 --> 00:05:35.820

William Newmann: you write a memo.

55

00:05:37.200 --> 00:05:42.240

William Newmann: And that, after you finished writing a memo that memo belongs to the American public.

56

00:05:43.590 --> 00:05:50.430

William Newmann: And so you don't throw it away you don't delete the email like this is part of the record that's it so.

57

00:05:50.790 --> 00:05:53.520

John Aughenbaugh: you send an email to the Chief of Staff saying.

58

00:05:54.000 --> 00:06:03.150

John Aughenbaugh: You know that flunky who just dropped off papers into my office and they copped an attitude I want them fired that goes as part of the record.

59

00:06:06.030 --> 00:06:12.330

Nia Rodgers: What what things do constitute part of the record in seriousness like if you send your Secretary an email saying.

60

00:06:12.780 --> 00:06:20.730

Nia Rodgers: So for lunch I want a Turkey sandwich and I want to you know diet Pepsi and then not that we promote diet Pepsi but anyway um.

61

00:06:21.120 --> 00:06:41.430

Nia Rodgers: But no diet coke right diet coke was the was President trump's I think button on his desk bring me a diet coke but anyway, I assume, things like that don't are not considered part of the presidential okay wait, let me back up at the library, we have what's called the presidential papers.

62

00:06:41.550 --> 00:06:55.980

Nia Rodgers: But they seem to be sort of the official when I glanced through them, and I will admit I have never read anyone any full volume of any of the Presidents papers, but we have them back to Hoover in print and bound.

63

00:06:57.930 --> 00:07:13.830

Nia Rodgers: i'm assuming that when they mean that they just mean things like official memorandum and and sort of speech texts from speeches and proclamations and that sort of thing they don't actually mean your lunch order from Papa john's right like they're not.

64

00:07:15.090 --> 00:07:16.260

Nia Rodgers: or do they mean that.

65

00:07:16.410 --> 00:07:17.700

Nia Rodgers: In the presidential library.

66

00:07:18.090 --> 00:07:25.020

William Newmann: So there are different things, so you mentioned the presidential papers that are in the library So those are the public papers, with the President.

67

00:07:25.290 --> 00:07:26.610

Nia Rodgers: yeah we have those.

68

00:07:26.820 --> 00:07:36.150

William Newmann: At vcu is it's all the public stuff right at the library, you have basically the documentary record of what the President and everyone else in the executive branch.

69

00:07:36.720 --> 00:07:49.980

William Newmann: Well, certain parts of the executive branch or we're doing right the time so right now My guess is, if you are an official and, in particular, if you're an official who's.

70

00:07:51.480 --> 00:08:00.420

William Newmann: appointed by the the Senate, so your align officer, but even if you're a staff officer with you know you've got a system to the President for X, Y amp Z.

71

00:08:01.110 --> 00:08:18.180

William Newmann: Right now, if you send an email that saying here's what I want for lunch that doesn't get deleted, as far as I can tell right now I have in the only administration that i've done research on where there's a big email record is the Clinton administration.

72

00:08:19.320 --> 00:08:24.600

William Newmann: And I found no they want what you get is imagine a printout of all the email.

73

00:08:27.120 --> 00:08:30.000

Nia Rodgers: That you read I just say that would be terrible.

74

00:08:30.390 --> 00:08:31.830

Nia Rodgers: yeah like you can.

75

00:08:31.950 --> 00:08:35.460

Nia Rodgers: Imagine the gossip that's in there and the personal.

76

00:08:35.580 --> 00:08:36.390

hysterical.

77

00:08:37.860 --> 00:08:43.530

William Newmann: What the Clinton library i'm sitting there reading and, of course, there's an archivist know sitting at the table.

78

00:08:43.800 --> 00:08:53.670

William Newmann: On the other side of the room watching everything that i'm doing because of making sure that i'm not destroying any records are ruining anything or or folding the pages wrong or or things like that's all these procedures there.

79

00:08:54.450 --> 00:09:03.210

William Newmann: And, at times, I burst out laughing and looking at me and i'm gonna do i'm gonna tell you, and a couple of times it's like yeah what you see, so I go open as a career.

80

00:09:03.750 --> 00:09:18.240

William Newmann: And they come over and I show when you said Okay, so what is that about this, I know you gotta gotta go to like three pages down you'll see what they're referring to and they're saying unflattering things about senators are Members of the House of Representatives and it's.

81

00:09:19.500 --> 00:09:20.040

William Newmann: it's there.

82

00:09:22.290 --> 00:09:31.230

Nia Rodgers: So that's email right but i'm assuming in the days before email I know listeners, there were actually days before email.

83

00:09:32.430 --> 00:09:44.880

Nia Rodgers: For the younger listeners in the crowd, so I would that have included notes and memos and posts and that sort of things that just were hanging around so you didn't get rid of any piece of paper.

84

00:09:45.510 --> 00:09:52.170

William Newmann: you're not supposed to get rid of any piece of paper, and I assume that lunch orders and things like that now people just go okay.

85

00:09:52.830 --> 00:10:01.770

William Newmann: that's fine, we can get rid of that but occasionally that kind of stuff gets in there doodles get in there right you got the legal pad and you're taking notes minutes of a meeting.

86

00:10:02.190 --> 00:10:14.160

William Newmann: And then there are no doodles like in the side of the page colon Pal the great doodles during National Security Council meetings, when he was national security advisor.

87

00:10:14.760 --> 00:10:21.510

William Newmann: And I always thought it was interesting that this the Reagan administration i'm going through the documents i'm going through pals minutes of nsc meetings.

88

00:10:21.810 --> 00:10:31.950

William Newmann: And they're phenomenal you just see how brilliant that guy was when you look at the Minutes and how he's explaining things and how just the sophistication of the arguments that he's presenting.

89

00:10:33.120 --> 00:10:37.500

William Newmann: And then you got to the point where the 1988 election happened.

90

00:10:39.120 --> 00:10:40.800

William Newmann: Right and now he's the lame duck.

91

00:10:42.360 --> 00:10:47.820

William Newmann: On all this stuff and then it just turns into lots of doodles and drawings.

92

00:10:49.980 --> 00:10:52.050

William Newmann: i'm ready so ready to be out of here.

93

00:10:54.690 --> 00:11:00.420

William Newmann: So that's all these legal pads i'm looking at i'm looking at the actual legal pad and there's no there's a picture of a boat.

94

00:11:03.600 --> 00:11:05.670

William Newmann: Never level 3D boxes and things.

95

00:11:06.780 --> 00:11:13.230

Nia Rodgers: So that's awesome I would hate to see what my notes would look like, if I were in one of those meetings.

96

00:11:14.550 --> 00:11:20.580

Nia Rodgers: But I do have a question about redaction so let's just pretend that in that meeting.

97

00:11:21.240 --> 00:11:29.730

Nia Rodgers: With Colin Powell and a bunch of other people somebody's phone number got mentioned to the group, and he noted it on the piece of paper to try to have like.

98

00:11:30.240 --> 00:11:42.570

Nia Rodgers: that's who we should call for I don't know whatever reason, some innocuous reason i'm not talking about phone numbers for hookers, although I feel certain that those are somewhere in the records for some people.

99

00:11:44.730 --> 00:11:55.770

Nia Rodgers: Are they redacted okay so they're not some people's private information, who aren't in the government, how is that handled when it's part of the governmental record.

100

00:11:56.520 --> 00:11:57.420

William Newmann: Okay, so.

101

00:11:58.590 --> 00:12:03.810

William Newmann: they've got their several laws related to all this and how they work it so you've got.

102

00:12:05.640 --> 00:12:13.590

William Newmann: For the stuff that I deal with, so I usually do with classified stuff or information that was classified and it's classified for 25 years.

103

00:12:14.910 --> 00:12:25.890

William Newmann: unless someone wants to declassified earlier, but the idea is there will be an automatic declassification of everything after 25 years, except in a series of categories.

104

00:12:27.030 --> 00:12:42.090

William Newmann: and actually preparing for for this I finally learned what the categories are because I remember research and you'll see right you'll see a piece of paper print out or a memo and there'll be a part of it that's either blacked out or it's just.

105

00:12:43.410 --> 00:12:57.900

William Newmann: it's whited out it's just it's just gone and what you'll see is like a little number next to it that will say 25 X one or 25 X four and there are 99 exemption from declassification categories.

106

00:12:59.250 --> 00:13:09.120

William Newmann: So now, I actually know what those things mean so next time I go to the library, I can say odd that's why they're keeping this classified, which is interesting because it tells me something about what that information is.

107

00:13:09.300 --> 00:13:10.320

Nia Rodgers: yeah, what are the.

108

00:13:10.680 --> 00:13:15.120

John Aughenbaugh: academy will bill, are you talking about the exemptions listed.

109

00:13:16.260 --> 00:13:18.390

John Aughenbaugh: In the Freedom of Information Act of.

110

00:13:18.450 --> 00:13:19.560

William Newmann: These are.

111

00:13:21.360 --> 00:13:24.870

William Newmann: they're part of executive order 13526.

112

00:13:26.820 --> 00:13:30.210

John Aughenbaugh: Who was in that executive order was issued by which President.

113

00:13:30.840 --> 00:13:33.030

William Newmann: This is obama's 2009.

114

00:13:33.420 --> 00:13:43.680

John Aughenbaugh: Okay, all right all right all right in does that executive order list the law or the section of the Constitution that it's based on.

115

00:13:44.520 --> 00:13:51.570

William Newmann: It is i've got it right here title 40 for us go title 44 chapter 21 and Chapter 22.

116

00:13:52.320 --> 00:13:55.200

John Aughenbaugh: I don't know 44 you said public.

117

00:13:55.230 --> 00:13:56.220

documents.

118

00:13:57.510 --> 00:14:01.920

William Newmann: And then naira is chapter 21 and Presidents directors is chapter 22.

119

00:14:02.190 --> 00:14:05.100

Nia Rodgers: And the executive order is 13526.

120

00:14:06.090 --> 00:14:08.160

William Newmann: Yes, is that what I said yes.

121

00:14:10.650 --> 00:14:17.250

Nia Rodgers: Sorry, I, the only reason i'm asking is because we'll we'll link that on the research guide, so that people can look at it.

122

00:14:19.800 --> 00:14:22.710

Nia Rodgers: If they would like to look at, but i'm curious to know what the nine.

123

00:14:24.750 --> 00:14:26.280
Nia Rodgers: With the nine categories are.

124
00:14:26.580 --> 00:14:36.690
William Newmann: They make sense right revealing the identity of a confidential human source human intelligence source aeration that relationship with intelligence, a security service right something like that.

125
00:14:38.220 --> 00:14:42.420
William Newmann: revealing information that would assist the development, production or use of weapons of mass destruction.

126
00:14:44.370 --> 00:14:46.680
Nia Rodgers: here's the plans for an atomic bomb.

127
00:14:47.070 --> 00:14:47.490
John Aughenbaugh: yeah we.

128
00:14:48.450 --> 00:14:48.960
Nia Rodgers: feel very.

129
00:14:50.070 --> 00:14:50.670
Nia Rodgers: Confident.

130
00:14:52.440 --> 00:14:54.000
Nia Rodgers: mode and use that will.

131
00:14:54.540 --> 00:14:54.810
Nia Rodgers: You know.

132
00:14:55.380 --> 00:14:57.390
William Newmann: Internet presidential records.

133

00:14:59.550 --> 00:15:08.490

William Newmann: information that would impair us crypto logic systems or activities information and I will compare the application of state of the art technology with the US weapon system.

134

00:15:10.770 --> 00:15:15.420

William Newmann: reveal formally named or number of US military war plans that remain in effect.

135

00:15:16.860 --> 00:15:30.630

William Newmann: And here's where it starts to get interesting reveal formal estimate reveal information, including foreign government information so most of the stuff that I find that's still classified is because it has to do with US ties to another country.

136

00:15:31.980 --> 00:15:32.880

Nia Rodgers: I see.

137

00:15:32.940 --> 00:15:33.150

Nia Rodgers: Which.

138

00:15:33.300 --> 00:15:37.560

Nia Rodgers: We got this information from Israel, we got this information from the UK.

139

00:15:38.190 --> 00:15:43.680

Nia Rodgers: We don't want people to we don't want people on the other side to know that they know.

140

00:15:44.430 --> 00:16:05.340

John Aughenbaugh: Well nia think about some of the critiques of President trump's press conferences or tweets where he looked like he was telling the world where the United States got intelligence in regards to what you know the Iranians were doing, the Chinese were doing.

141

00:16:05.400 --> 00:16:09.300

Nia Rodgers: etc, at one point he confirmed, we got information from Israel.

142

00:16:09.390 --> 00:16:15.450

Nia Rodgers: And yeah right I started to flail because i'm like we don't confirm, where we get anything like.

143

00:16:16.770 --> 00:16:24.930

Nia Rodgers: You just put Israeli spies in danger because right now the now somebody knows who to be looking for right like.

144

00:16:25.260 --> 00:16:43.680

John Aughenbaugh: If we can keep a secret than those other countries are going to want to go ahead and disclose their intelligence to us, which means our job at collecting intelligence, for US national security purposes got that much tougher right that much more difficult right yeah.

145

00:16:43.950 --> 00:16:47.580

Nia Rodgers: We neither confirm nor deny that there are other countries in the world and that we.

146

00:16:49.560 --> 00:16:51.300

Nia Rodgers: that's what we should be saying.

147

00:16:52.080 --> 00:17:00.780

William Newmann: And some of it is that we may have automatic declare the classification after 25 years but another country may have automatic declassification after 35 years.

148

00:17:01.230 --> 00:17:01.620

Nia Rodgers: Okay.

149

00:17:01.680 --> 00:17:05.430

William Newmann: And the conversation that I would like to see.

150

00:17:05.970 --> 00:17:09.360

William Newmann: Is between someone from the United States, and someone from that other government.

151

00:17:10.620 --> 00:17:11.880

Nia Rodgers: Okay, so.

152

00:17:13.530 --> 00:17:14.430

John Aughenbaugh: A couple more.

153

00:17:15.180 --> 00:17:26.040

William Newmann: yeah we've got reveal information that would seriously impair current national security emergency preparedness plans or current vulnerabilities of systems installations or infrastructure so they're all pretty.

154

00:17:26.460 --> 00:17:28.950

Nia Rodgers: here's how you break into our nuclear plants.

155

00:17:29.220 --> 00:17:29.880

John Aughenbaugh: yeah or.

156

00:17:30.600 --> 00:17:34.740

John Aughenbaugh: or here's where our electrical grid is deficient.

157

00:17:35.070 --> 00:17:35.760

John Aughenbaugh: or weak.

158

00:17:35.970 --> 00:17:36.900

John Aughenbaugh: or vulnerable.

159

00:17:37.920 --> 00:17:39.960

Nia Rodgers: to knock down that part yeah okay.

160

00:17:41.490 --> 00:17:49.350

William Newmann: The last one is violate a statute review international agreement that does not permit the automatic or unilateral the classification of information that 25 years.

161

00:17:49.860 --> 00:17:56.550

William Newmann: So there's that we're working with another government or another institution that says we keep this stuff classified for longer.

162

00:17:58.050 --> 00:18:14.280

John Aughenbaugh: Now, but wait, but but, but the critique your bill is, and this is a critique that's often made of government agencies, using the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act new presidential do presidents.

163

00:18:15.960 --> 00:18:39.540

John Aughenbaugh: rely, over rely on these exemptions Okay, because you know that's one of the critiques of FOIA right, you know they exemptions are overused by federal agencies do white house's do the same thing Okay, particularly with potentially embarrassing information.

164

00:18:41.010 --> 00:18:45.330

William Newmann: we'll see I can go only with the national security stuff so I don't know what happens on the.

165

00:18:45.990 --> 00:18:47.550

John Aughenbaugh: Domestic side yeah.

166

00:18:47.850 --> 00:18:51.390

William Newmann: But in the National Security stuff I found that it depends on the President.

167

00:18:52.770 --> 00:18:53.910

William Newmann: depends on the administration.

168

00:18:54.480 --> 00:18:56.670

John Aughenbaugh: Okay, so give us an example of a president.

169

00:18:57.720 --> 00:18:59.490

John Aughenbaugh: Who was quite willing to.

170

00:19:00.780 --> 00:19:02.340

John Aughenbaugh: disclose warts and all.

171

00:19:03.360 --> 00:19:03.810

William Newmann: clinton.

172

00:19:06.810 --> 00:19:09.000

William Newmann: When when he left office.

173

00:19:10.320 --> 00:19:20.040

William Newmann: They actually went through particularly information on Bosnia and even Rwanda, which you could say boy, there are a lot of warts related to US policy Rwanda.

174

00:19:20.520 --> 00:19:38.850

William Newmann: And the administration went through that stuff and they started declassifying everything that they could very quickly, so you have things from the Clinton administration, where you got a fantastic documentary record right now, whereas the Reagan administration you're still waiting.

175

00:19:39.990 --> 00:19:59.640

William Newmann: For this stuff to be declassified so I I put in about I guess over 1000 mandatory declassification requests for the Reagan administration and the response I got back from them is that yeah we'll probably have an answer for you, for all of these in 11 years.

176

00:20:00.060 --> 00:20:00.510

got.

177

00:20:02.490 --> 00:20:05.760

William Newmann: The game, which is why there's no Reagan case study in the book that I just wrote.

178

00:20:07.560 --> 00:20:09.450

John Aughenbaugh: Well i'm gonna be next decade.

179

00:20:09.480 --> 00:20:10.920

Nia Rodgers: That you write that like.

180

00:20:11.460 --> 00:20:18.000

John Aughenbaugh: I mean, but that's funny because in an upcoming podcast episode that will be posting.

181

00:20:19.230 --> 00:20:20.970

John Aughenbaugh: We focused on the Tower Commission.

182

00:20:22.020 --> 00:20:30.510

John Aughenbaugh: As part of the Iran contra affair right in one of the huge criticisms of the Tower Commission was.

183

00:20:31.860 --> 00:20:40.560

John Aughenbaugh: First of all, they had very limited ability to compel people to provide testimony and evidence, but also.

184

00:20:41.790 --> 00:20:55.260

John Aughenbaugh: The regular administration just didn't want to turn stuff over right, I mean they openly were like yeah that's classified we can't go, we can't tell you right yeah that's fascinating okay i'm sorry, you had a point.

185

00:20:55.770 --> 00:20:58.140

Nia Rodgers: No, no, I actually had a question so.

186

00:20:59.250 --> 00:21:08.010

Nia Rodgers: All right, I know this is going to sound convoluted, but I think if I were listener, and I am a listener, this is what I would want to know which is.

187

00:21:09.240 --> 00:21:17.070

Nia Rodgers: So you get there and you're looking through documents and it's clear that something's missing right it's clear that.

188

00:21:17.760 --> 00:21:30.630

Nia Rodgers: Either it's redacted within an inch of its existence, and you get of the and if Oliver right and that's, the only thing on the page and you're like okay that's not good you then put in a FOIA for that.

189

00:21:31.830 --> 00:21:42.390

Nia Rodgers: And that's the Freedom of Information Act request which goes to like if you're at the presidential library, does it go to the presidential library, or does it go to the agency that would have.

190

00:21:43.620 --> 00:21:50.190

Nia Rodgers: That would have created that document because i'm assuming that what's in the presidential papers are a bunch of the little augie.

191

00:21:50.880 --> 00:21:58.950

Nia Rodgers: helped us understand that there are 10,484 million offices in the executive office of the President, right like there's.

192

00:21:59.430 --> 00:22:09.870

Nia Rodgers: Everything is under that office so like do they have different rules within that or is that is that one rule and does it come out of the library, or does it come out of an agency.

193

00:22:11.190 --> 00:22:13.290

William Newmann: The answer is actually less convoluted.

194

00:22:13.710 --> 00:22:16.200

Nia Rodgers: Oh good, because the question was terrible sorry.

195

00:22:16.590 --> 00:22:21.600

William Newmann: Really it's really cool the way that they do this and part of it tells you something about how.

196

00:22:22.620 --> 00:22:26.790

William Newmann: Transparent a whole lot of people want the United States Government to be.

197

00:22:27.900 --> 00:22:38.310

William Newmann: So what they do is let's say someone does a FOIA or let's say I do a FOIA a Freedom of Information Act request on.

198

00:22:39.540 --> 00:22:42.330

William Newmann: Like Joe Biden's national security.

199

00:22:43.800 --> 00:22:48.660

William Newmann: I forget what he's calling him now his memorandum on on how to structure the.

200

00:22:51.030 --> 00:23:05.340

William Newmann: The National Security Council, I can't remember if he's national screening presidential memorandum or not they usually democrats start with P and Republicans start with N, but Biden started his national security director series with N, and that has destroyed my entire brain.

201

00:23:05.370 --> 00:23:05.730

I have no.

202

00:23:07.440 --> 00:23:11.610

William Newmann: Because one of the core belief systems of my life has now been rearranged.

203

00:23:12.780 --> 00:23:21.510

William Newmann: But let's say I submitted a foyer for that what will happen is is you'll have people who are in charge of processing that within the National Security Council staff.

204

00:23:22.200 --> 00:23:31.380

William Newmann: And they'll go ahead and they'll find every document related to that you know somebody writes a memo that says, you know I saw the draft change.

205

00:23:32.460 --> 00:23:35.160

William Newmann: In paragraph five change must to shall.

206

00:23:36.240 --> 00:23:43.950

William Newmann: No that's that's a memo that's a record and each one of those memos every single piece of paper will be on a list.

207

00:23:45.900 --> 00:23:52.920

William Newmann: right that comes from the fire, so they don't necessarily have to let you see the document that, but they have to let you know the existence of the document.

208

00:23:53.400 --> 00:24:02.280

William Newmann: And then what happens is at the if the Biden library is a hands on paper library.

209

00:24:03.330 --> 00:24:14.520

William Newmann: there'll be a box that will say national security directives and there'll be a folder that will say you know national city President presidential memorandum is it one or two.

210

00:24:15.870 --> 00:24:32.100

William Newmann: And in that folder will be in theory, everything is declassified will be in that folder and it might be three or four different folders know folder one folder to folder three all of this is big pile and, if anything, is not in that folder because it's been exempted from declassification.

211

00:24:33.180 --> 00:24:34.020

William Newmann: You know it.

212

00:24:35.220 --> 00:24:52.830

William Newmann: Because there's an exemption exemption sheet in the front, it says, these are the documents that are missing, so you open up that folder the library and there's this pink piece of paper and it's no 12345 it's listed, you know 40 different memos and one know you'll see the title.

213

00:24:54.420 --> 00:25:06.510

William Newmann: And there it'll be like sitting right there too it's not there, because it says no exempted, and it tells you why it's exempted, and you know that's not there sometimes there's actually even a pink piece of paper.

214

00:25:07.620 --> 00:25:12.270

William Newmann: As a placeholder that says, this is where that memo would be but it's been exempted.

215

00:25:12.720 --> 00:25:15.780

Nia Rodgers: And so, but they still give you the title of that memo.

216

00:25:16.560 --> 00:25:18.270

William Newmann: Most of the time, there are some that don't.

217

00:25:18.930 --> 00:25:19.320

Okay.

218

00:25:20.550 --> 00:25:20.760

John Aughenbaugh: But.

219

00:25:20.820 --> 00:25:23.460

Nia Rodgers: But generally speaking, you would know what you're missing.

220

00:25:24.390 --> 00:25:37.440

John Aughenbaugh: Right yeah because in and i'll give you an example on the domestic side right bills talking to us about national security memorandums within a particular presidential administration right.

221

00:25:38.310 --> 00:25:52.380

John Aughenbaugh: Think guys when Brett cavanaugh was nominated to the Supreme Court Okay, he at one point okay worked in the bush 43 White House okay.

222

00:25:53.190 --> 00:26:14.550

John Aughenbaugh: He was the chief Okay, he was he reported directly to the President, the democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee okay had made a request for all memorandums that Brett Kavanaugh on wrote okay when he reported directly to President.

223

00:26:15.960 --> 00:26:22.230

John Aughenbaugh: Because there were hoping to find dirt Okay, so that they could go ahead and not confirmed him to the Supreme Court.

224

00:26:23.460 --> 00:26:23.790

John Aughenbaugh: and

225

00:26:24.900 --> 00:26:33.480

John Aughenbaugh: What came out was you know, the list of bill just described, there were certain memos okay that were exempted.

226

00:26:34.860 --> 00:26:45.690

John Aughenbaugh: And the democrats wanted those memos right because they were like if there are exempted, there has to be some good stuff in there right there has to be some juicy stuff.

227

00:26:46.230 --> 00:27:02.130

John Aughenbaugh: That either embarrassed Kavanaugh or would embarrass Bush 43 But OK, it had already been decided, those were exempt right, so we knew they existed, we just couldn't read them.

228

00:27:03.360 --> 00:27:03.660

John Aughenbaugh: well.

229

00:27:04.140 --> 00:27:14.430

Nia Rodgers: I would like to ask, though i'm assuming that a lot of times what's in those memos in fact it's not particularly juicy but it's protecting.

230

00:27:15.240 --> 00:27:16.530

John Aughenbaugh: Oh yeah yeah yeah yeah.

231

00:27:16.650 --> 00:27:21.180

Nia Rodgers: Some some person or operation or.

232

00:27:21.510 --> 00:27:25.050

Nia Rodgers: yeah building like that right like we were saying before.

233

00:27:26.130 --> 00:27:36.390

Nia Rodgers: That just because things are exempted doesn't mean they're particularly juicy My guess is that if you got a bunch of memos that had been exempted you'd fall asleep reading them because they're not actually.

234

00:27:36.870 --> 00:27:47.160

Nia Rodgers: All that exciting their detailed stuff about a particular operation that's you know and detailed at the level that unless you're really a.

235

00:27:47.520 --> 00:28:01.950

Nia Rodgers: Policy wonk or a or a an operations walk I should say you wouldn't care you don't care about the time of day that something arrives at a certain port and then will be picked up by a guy named Bob and taken to another.

236

00:28:02.550 --> 00:28:08.580

Nia Rodgers: You know, like you, don't care about any of that because you don't know any of the players and that kind of level of detail isn't important.

237

00:28:08.940 --> 00:28:14.190

William Newmann: Sometimes the reason the memo is still classified is because of who's in the room.

238

00:28:15.480 --> 00:28:16.620

William Newmann: which may be in the Member.

239

00:28:17.370 --> 00:28:19.830

William Newmann: Oh, nothing that said.

240

00:28:20.880 --> 00:28:22.080

Nia Rodgers: In the memos interesting.

241

00:28:22.080 --> 00:28:25.560

William Newmann: It was interesting, but the fact that someone's in the room now.

242

00:28:25.950 --> 00:28:33.390

Nia Rodgers: That was the day we all got lunch with Yasser Arafat wait what Yasser Arafat was in the room, wait a minute wait wait wait that changes everything.

243

00:28:33.420 --> 00:28:42.630

William Newmann: could be more enticing that it's it's the often I think the level of staff people at least national security stuff the level of staff people who may be in the room.

244

00:28:44.130 --> 00:28:44.520

William Newmann: That.

245

00:28:44.550 --> 00:28:45.060

Nia Rodgers: Oh so.

246

00:28:45.480 --> 00:28:46.920

Nia Rodgers: How may have been in the room.

247

00:28:47.250 --> 00:28:59.250

William Newmann: In the room right here's I want to let me finish up because I think this is the next question that keep question so something may be exempted from declassification right you you open up that folder and you look at that.

248

00:29:00.000 --> 00:29:08.070

William Newmann: That pink cover sheet you're saying, I want to see this memo right well, then you put in a mandatory declassification request.

249

00:29:09.660 --> 00:29:20.190

William Newmann: and mandatory meaning i'm a citizen of the United States, I want that memo review to see if it can be declassified and that's mandatory that's the law and it has to be reviewed.

250

00:29:21.570 --> 00:29:33.330

William Newmann: So i've done thousands of those and over the past six or seven years, like every few times coming in, like once every two months.

251

00:29:33.930 --> 00:29:40.920

William Newmann: i'll get an email or i'll get depending which library i'll get an actual surface mail letter that will say.

252

00:29:41.580 --> 00:29:54.660

William Newmann: here's the outcome of this particular memo that you asked about and sometimes it'll be full declassification or declassification with some reduction in some cases it's been nope sorry not going to happen.

253

00:29:55.620 --> 00:30:02.010

John Aughenbaugh: For a whole bunch of Librarians around the United States you're annoying bill.

254

00:30:02.430 --> 00:30:02.820

Yes.

255

00:30:06.330 --> 00:30:09.390

Nia Rodgers: Well okay wait, but that goes back to my question so.

256

00:30:13.350 --> 00:30:16.080

Nia Rodgers: We love all of our patrons.

257

00:30:17.340 --> 00:30:18.780

Nia Rodgers: All of our patrons.

258

00:30:19.020 --> 00:30:19.530

William Newmann: But you don't know.

259

00:30:19.890 --> 00:30:21.450

Nia Rodgers: annoyed by them.

260

00:30:21.690 --> 00:30:24.810

John Aughenbaugh: We just have we just had another mandatory.

261

00:30:24.870 --> 00:30:27.810

Nia Rodgers: declassification we love those.

262

00:30:27.900 --> 00:30:31.650

Nia Rodgers: And we can't wait to find out what the answer is.

263

00:30:32.580 --> 00:30:35.370

John Aughenbaugh: From the political scientist at vcu.

264

00:30:36.120 --> 00:30:37.320

Nia Rodgers: Sure does want this.

265

00:30:37.440 --> 00:30:38.880

Nia Rodgers: This this information.

266

00:30:38.940 --> 00:30:41.700

John Aughenbaugh: But he can't get his book published so we.

267

00:30:41.700 --> 00:30:43.560

John Aughenbaugh: could move on.

268

00:30:43.680 --> 00:30:45.450

William Newmann: let's send them a copy of their book i'll just.

269

00:30:46.770 --> 00:30:54.090

Nia Rodgers: i'll trade you so, but the mandatory declassification request the librarian isn't determining that.

270

00:30:55.200 --> 00:31:02.610

Nia Rodgers: The issue agency is determining that right or the issuing office or the office of the President or someone.

271

00:31:02.910 --> 00:31:04.110

John Aughenbaugh: Like emotional.

272

00:31:04.350 --> 00:31:08.010

Nia Rodgers: Because i'll be honest with you, if you asked me for something I just hand it over.

273

00:31:08.250 --> 00:31:10.260

John Aughenbaugh: Right, because it was a national or.

274

00:31:10.320 --> 00:31:14.310

John Aughenbaugh: Is it the national archives build it so that makes that decision.

275

00:31:14.820 --> 00:31:28.620

William Newmann: So it's going to go back to the agency that classification and every agency has their own shop that decides those types of things and there's also in that executive order they created a.

276

00:31:29.820 --> 00:31:34.950

William Newmann: A national can't remember the exact name of it national be classifications Center.

277

00:31:36.210 --> 00:31:42.330

William Newmann: that's name i'm blowing all my name's today all the vitamins, for instance memos or national security memorandum.

278

00:31:43.680 --> 00:31:45.510

William Newmann: But they're actually was created a.

279

00:31:47.670 --> 00:31:54.660

William Newmann: National Center to try to streamline the process, so the individual agencies can't just sort of Barry requests.

280

00:31:55.380 --> 00:32:01.920

Nia Rodgers: Which i'm going to say I my experience with FOIAs is that almost always the first answer is no.

281

00:32:03.660 --> 00:32:14.880

Nia Rodgers: Like they lead with no and then you kind of have to shove them to yes, because either they're they're respecting the original person who said classify this.

282

00:32:15.480 --> 00:32:29.580

Nia Rodgers: Right, for whatever reason, or there they've got so many requests that they're just buried and there and they want to weed out the people who are casually asking versus the people who are really doing research and really want to know.

283

00:32:31.050 --> 00:32:38.100

Nia Rodgers: Right i'm assuming that there's some of that and I don't like that gate keeping aspect, but I also understand that.

284

00:32:38.550 --> 00:32:51.330

Nia Rodgers: For some of the materials in there, especially when human sources could be affected slash destroyed because of that that you would definitely want to make sure that those people were protected.

285

00:32:53.400 --> 00:32:55.350

Nia Rodgers: But D is your experience been.

286

00:32:57.000 --> 00:33:03.930

Nia Rodgers: Okay, in your mandatory declassification requests are you mostly winning or mostly losing.

287

00:33:05.040 --> 00:33:06.840

Nia Rodgers: Are you 50/50 at this point.

288

00:33:07.920 --> 00:33:09.990

William Newmann: Well, what i've got is.

289

00:33:11.580 --> 00:33:13.020

William Newmann: With the.

290

00:33:15.090 --> 00:33:19.680

William Newmann: Well, we back over second you issue the mandatory the classification request you asked for it.

291

00:33:20.790 --> 00:33:24.570

William Newmann: So then, you say to people when will I get an answer about this.

292

00:33:26.010 --> 00:33:29.040

Nia Rodgers: And they say what's your life expectancy again.

293

00:33:30.210 --> 00:33:37.650

William Newmann: Basically, so you know if i've submitted a few thousand in particular to Carter and Reagan.

294

00:33:39.000 --> 00:33:40.380

William Newmann: Where I was doing some research.

295

00:33:43.260 --> 00:33:46.830

William Newmann: I say i've gotten maybe 30.

296

00:33:48.090 --> 00:33:49.140

Nia Rodgers: wow.

297

00:33:49.380 --> 00:33:53.310

William Newmann: At this point, and I i'd say we're into four or five years.

298

00:33:54.960 --> 00:34:01.950

William Newmann: into some of this stuff and part of that actually is cutting back on the resources to do declassification.

299

00:34:03.480 --> 00:34:06.690

Nia Rodgers: Right that's not well if you're I guess okay.

300

00:34:06.840 --> 00:34:11.310

William Newmann: One way to slow the whole thing down is to say we're gonna have fewer people dealing with this.

301

00:34:13.500 --> 00:34:16.920

William Newmann: And a lot of this stuff has become really, really hard.

302

00:34:18.030 --> 00:34:19.440

William Newmann: And I connected to the.

303

00:34:20.700 --> 00:34:29.970

William Newmann: polarization the United States, a lot of this stuff has become really hard to do because of the polarization because i've looked at the list of foia requests for instance for the.

304

00:34:30.540 --> 00:34:34.860

William Newmann: George W Bush administration, so you can actually go online and see a list of all the foia requests.

305

00:34:35.220 --> 00:34:47.370

William Newmann: And the number of foia requests that are asking for information about Hillary clinton's dealings with whitewater and Hillary clinton's dealings with child sex trafficking, and all this stuff which people have to go and say.

306

00:34:48.300 --> 00:35:02.760

William Newmann: That doesn't exist, you know there's nothing there but we've got to go and see if there's anything related to that there's everybody's looking for dirt on everybody else and that's taken up huge amount of time for that could be done for a legitimate research.

307

00:35:06.600 --> 00:35:12.300

Nia Rodgers: that's makes me sad I shouldn't say because I don't.

308

00:35:13.710 --> 00:35:23.790

Nia Rodgers: Well, and one of those answers should be enough, there is no material here with Hillary Clinton and whitewater beyond these 10 things that we've given.

309

00:35:24.240 --> 00:35:29.550

Nia Rodgers: That we've that we've made publicly available, or at least the titles of publicly available quit asking.

310

00:35:30.030 --> 00:35:41.610

Nia Rodgers: like that, but I assume that they have to go look each time they get a request, so it can't just say, I know that doesn't exist because something may have been added to the archive or.

311

00:35:42.330 --> 00:35:48.060

Nia Rodgers: Right like as a person who does research right for people in libraries.

312

00:35:48.450 --> 00:35:55.290

Nia Rodgers: I can't just say oh somebody asked me about that last year and there weren't any there wasn't any academic work, published on it.

313

00:35:55.560 --> 00:36:05.070

Nia Rodgers: Because, in the meantime something may have been published, just like in the meantime something may have come unclassified so each time they get that request, they have to go look.

314

00:36:05.640 --> 00:36:14.520

Nia Rodgers: Even if they're pretty sure it's not going to be in there, so that's that's super frustrating, because it does take up an enormous amount of resources that.

315

00:36:16.950 --> 00:36:33.480

Nia Rodgers: That if we stopped being gotcha culture and we stopped being sort of this idea of I want to find dirt on people, then I mean because the reality is if you've lived more than 10 minutes there's probably dirt on you in some way.

316

00:36:34.680 --> 00:36:34.860

John Aughenbaugh: well.

317

00:36:34.890 --> 00:36:38.040

Nia Rodgers: It also depending on how people view dirt.

318

00:36:38.190 --> 00:36:38.850

Nia Rodgers: You know, like.

319

00:36:39.630 --> 00:36:42.420

John Aughenbaugh: It look at the impact on.

320

00:36:44.010 --> 00:36:55.050

John Aughenbaugh: A research process right, you know bill correct me if i'm wrong, but when you're making these requests to declassify material.

321

00:36:55.770 --> 00:37:14.880

John Aughenbaugh: you're not looking for gotcha material about President Carter or President Reagan right, you are actually researching a phenomenon okay that was important in the history of the United States foreign policy making right right, I mean correct correct me if i'm wrong right.

322

00:37:15.150 --> 00:37:15.750

John Aughenbaugh: yep no we're.

323

00:37:15.810 --> 00:37:19.440

William Newmann: we're just that we record of how decisions are made.

324

00:37:20.100 --> 00:37:30.150

John Aughenbaugh: yeah right, I mean we're trying to understand how okay two different or multiple different presidential administrations we're making decisions.

325

00:37:30.840 --> 00:37:47.010

John Aughenbaugh: And one of the you know most important elements of international politics in the second half of the 20th century right so you're trying to get that information you're not getting it because you're like ah ha.

326

00:37:47.100 --> 00:37:48.840

Nia Rodgers: i'm writing their gossip TIM.

327

00:37:48.900 --> 00:38:11.040

John Aughenbaugh: On barter did this or Aha the Reagan administration was you know chock full of you know you know blah blah blahs no I mean you're trying you're trying to go ahead and understand a phenomenon okay um and you know in part of that research process is a curiosity right.

328

00:38:11.520 --> 00:38:18.990

John Aughenbaugh: yeah we're trying to understand how our government works when our government was one of two superpowers in the world.

329

00:38:20.640 --> 00:38:23.040

Nia Rodgers: Well, and we're also trying to.

330

00:38:25.410 --> 00:38:37.350

Nia Rodgers: we're trying to compare Presidents honestly right instead of comparing them with surface things we're actually trying to compare their thought process and their advisory process.

331

00:38:37.800 --> 00:38:46.410

Nia Rodgers: Because if we can figure out what works best we can say to Presidents here's how you might want to set things up in the future.

332

00:38:47.070 --> 00:38:56.460

Nia Rodgers: Depending on what your personality type is or how you learn best or whatever, instead of every President starting more or less from scratch.

333

00:38:57.000 --> 00:39:03.390

Nia Rodgers: Right, because the record restarts with each President, even if that person has been Vice President, you were not President.

334

00:39:03.750 --> 00:39:13.710

Nia Rodgers: There were things that happened when you were not in the room, and now the learning curve is incredibly steep and and we're asking people to do that, especially.

335

00:39:14.610 --> 00:39:35.520

Nia Rodgers: In a world that is so interrelated and slow so globalized that is an amazingly hard thing to do, and if we could figure out hey it looks like this is a really good sort of best practice way to kind of approach these things, then we could give a President, a leg up on on that starting.

336

00:39:36.600 --> 00:39:43.530

Nia Rodgers: area and, instead, but we've got because we're polarized is nobody wants to tell anybody anything about how to do anything right and.

337

00:39:46.350 --> 00:39:49.470

Nia Rodgers: And you know that's incredibly unfortunate i'm.

338

00:39:50.760 --> 00:39:51.570

Nia Rodgers: I think that.

339

00:39:53.580 --> 00:40:11.190

Nia Rodgers: it's too bad that we don't have you know how in a lot of committees and organizations, you have a chair and then you have a chair elect and that person like shadows, the person doing the job for a year, so that they, they can say.

340

00:40:11.880 --> 00:40:23.040

Nia Rodgers: dude that is a terrible way to go about that or that's brilliant i'm totally going to keep doing it that way, because that really works like wouldn't it be neat if we had our elections.

341

00:40:23.400 --> 00:40:33.690

Nia Rodgers: One year backwards, so that a President stayed on an extra year and the Vice President was actually in that last year was actually the President elect.

342

00:40:34.440 --> 00:40:43.710

Nia Rodgers: And they got to sit in and learn how to I mean if it works for organizations like regular organizations, one would think it would work for the Federal Government yeah.

343

00:40:43.770 --> 00:40:46.260

William Newmann: And in the national security area.

344

00:40:47.760 --> 00:40:57.180

William Newmann: It used to work that way in which you had a lot of organizational memory, so you may have had people who worked for vince I just did research on Kennedy Johnson and Nixon.

345

00:40:57.540 --> 00:41:03.210

William Newmann: And you have people who work for Eisenhower who stayed on and work for Kennedy and P word for Johnson who stayed on and work for Nixon.

346

00:41:04.620 --> 00:41:14.160

William Newmann: And the idea was you're smart you're national security professional just because we have a new President in Office doesn't mean that US national security interests instantly changed.

347

00:41:14.880 --> 00:41:25.080

William Newmann: thinking along the lines of the polarization and who's my enemy, because the National Security profession in theory that people were sort of in and outers.

348

00:41:26.130 --> 00:41:34.560

William Newmann: Maybe in academia or think tanks and go back in and work for Defense or state or the nsc staff those people are professionals.

349

00:41:35.670 --> 00:41:40.140

William Newmann: Right that's the thinking about them so they can work for a republican or democrat.

350

00:41:41.130 --> 00:41:45.750

John Aughenbaugh: yeah and, by the way this actually ties back to.

351

00:41:48.180 --> 00:41:50.130

John Aughenbaugh: A pretty foundational concept.

352

00:41:51.210 --> 00:42:05.250

John Aughenbaugh: In the modern us administrative state nia that we've talked about in other podcast episodes which was woodrow wilson's idea that you separate politics from administration.

353

00:42:06.810 --> 00:42:20.880

John Aughenbaugh: administration would be chock full of neutrally competent bureaucrats who could and would be willing to implement whatever policy was created by elected officials.

354

00:42:21.360 --> 00:42:31.020

John Aughenbaugh: It didn't matter if it was a democratic president, a republican President it didn't matter, who was running the State Department, who was the appointed Secretary.

355

00:42:32.370 --> 00:42:46.830

John Aughenbaugh: You know you had a cadre of you know well trained well educated seasoned bureaucrats who would implement policy Okay, we don't have that anymore right.

356

00:42:47.160 --> 00:42:47.790

John Aughenbaugh: yeah I.

357

00:42:48.150 --> 00:43:02.880

John Aughenbaugh: mean you know Presidents come in office Okay, I mean we saw this with trump we're now seeing it with Biden Okay, you know we're you know we're getting advisory boards every four years for the EPA.

358

00:43:03.960 --> 00:43:05.520

John Aughenbaugh: Homeland Security.

359

00:43:06.900 --> 00:43:07.920

Nia Rodgers: master general.

360

00:43:08.220 --> 00:43:09.510

yeah it's.

361

00:43:11.250 --> 00:43:22.680

John Aughenbaugh: And again guys, you know nia you pointed this out bill just mentioned this right i'm doing Federal Government work is difficult it's complex.

362

00:43:23.220 --> 00:43:35.850

John Aughenbaugh: You need that institutional history i'm listeners, you know if you want to know how important transition is in institutional memory read Michael lewis's book The fifth risk.

363

00:43:36.690 --> 00:43:49.020

John Aughenbaugh: Right okay i'm in and that's what gets lost but let's get back to the libraries okay in I know we only have a few more minutes, right here, are we doing on time.

364

00:43:49.710 --> 00:43:51.450

Nia Rodgers: We only have a few more minutes.

365

00:43:52.470 --> 00:43:57.210

Nia Rodgers: If phil would stay with us with another episode because there's lots more questions.

366

00:43:57.450 --> 00:44:11.910

John Aughenbaugh: Okay, but okay I got two questions for you, Bill okay um what what, in your estimation share with us your most unusual presidential library experience.

367

00:44:13.680 --> 00:44:16.740

William Newmann: Okay, so i'll tell you about two folders.

368

00:44:17.820 --> 00:44:18.540

William Newmann: And folders.

369

00:44:18.840 --> 00:44:22.860

William Newmann: And folders which were hysterical and I have pictures of them, so I can.

370

00:44:24.300 --> 00:44:27.120

Nia Rodgers: Okay, why don't We ask you that question in a little bit if it's.

371

00:44:28.440 --> 00:44:29.940

Nia Rodgers: The exact process of that.

372

00:44:31.050 --> 00:44:35.100

John Aughenbaugh: By the way, yeah that's the title for the podcast episode two folders.

373

00:44:35.130 --> 00:44:36.810

Nia Rodgers: To folder okay.

374

00:44:38.190 --> 00:44:41.970

John Aughenbaugh: Okay bill Newman visiting presidential libraries.

375

00:44:43.440 --> 00:44:49.350

William Newmann: that the first folder was when I found it Eisenhower library, and it was.

376

00:44:50.490 --> 00:44:54.870

William Newmann: Give me one box, it was in but actually I can look it up to see what box, it was in, but it was.

377

00:44:55.950 --> 00:45:07.620

William Newmann: declassified material related to national security issues, and it was a folder and it just had a sticker on the tab inside the folder and it just said banana.

378

00:45:12.360 --> 00:45:16.080

William Newmann: Okay, so I assume it has something to do with the coup in Guatemala.

379

00:45:18.660 --> 00:45:20.370

William Newmann: Where we just had banana and it was empty.

380

00:45:24.840 --> 00:45:26.100

Nia Rodgers: Empty folder.

381

00:45:26.790 --> 00:45:29.460

Nia Rodgers: Right, no, it was empty or did you say.

382

00:45:30.060 --> 00:45:31.350

Nia Rodgers: Has this been stolen.

383

00:45:31.800 --> 00:45:41.610

William Newmann: Oh no that just means that when you've got those documents, for instance, you may have an entire folder which has been exempted, but the folder is still inside the box.

384

00:45:43.830 --> 00:46:00.480

William Newmann: So when you if you do a foia request and they will put together boxes of all these documents and if none of this stuff is declassified and i've done this before where i've asked her 18 boxes worth of information, and I will get 18 boxes filled with empty folders.

385

00:46:00.840 --> 00:46:01.350
yeah.

386

00:46:02.760 --> 00:46:06.840

William Newmann: Hundreds of empty folders and you'll just go through them and, through them, because maybe there's some.

387

00:46:08.010 --> 00:46:22.350

William Newmann: document wow already blown my one o'clock poll from the archives, so they can't give me another 18 boxes until three o'clock so i'm stuck with these 18 boxes, so you just go through them.

388

00:46:22.830 --> 00:46:30.990

William Newmann: Okay, and you look at the titles and actually the titles tell you something, because now, you know Okay, I know it's going to be here know.

389

00:46:31.380 --> 00:46:32.850

William Newmann: Some days many years down.

390

00:46:32.850 --> 00:46:33.210

William Newmann: The road.

391

00:46:35.010 --> 00:46:44.220

William Newmann: So, and the other folder was from the Carter administration, and it was a folder related to the paperwork reduction act.

392

00:46:44.970 --> 00:46:47.790

Nia Rodgers: That is August favorite act.

393

00:46:48.090 --> 00:46:49.020

Nia Rodgers: Right ever.

394

00:46:50.190 --> 00:46:52.980

Nia Rodgers: get into an episode, you have just made his day.

395

00:46:53.340 --> 00:46:54.450

John Aughenbaugh: Oh, my goodness.

396

00:46:54.450 --> 00:46:57.690

Nia Rodgers: into an episode, he is he is a happy happy man.

397

00:46:57.810 --> 00:47:07.500

William Newmann: I gotta send you the picture, because it was this giant folder over stuck with paper that was disorganized and none of it was lined up, and it was just all sticking out all over the.

398

00:47:07.500 --> 00:47:07.980

box.

399

00:47:14.310 --> 00:47:16.710

John Aughenbaugh: Oh yeah that's the federal government.

400

00:47:20.790 --> 00:47:22.980

Nia Rodgers: We actually have that picture for the.

401

00:47:23.160 --> 00:47:26.310

Nia Rodgers: For the guide, would you be willing to let us put that up on the guide.

402

00:47:26.520 --> 00:47:27.120

William Newmann: Oh sure.

403

00:47:27.240 --> 00:47:28.830

Nia Rodgers: cuz that's hilarious.

404

00:47:31.320 --> 00:47:32.010

Nia Rodgers: production.

405

00:47:32.220 --> 00:47:33.900

Nia Rodgers: see this folder.

406

00:47:36.390 --> 00:47:40.170

John Aughenbaugh: full of disorganized okay.

407

00:47:44.520 --> 00:47:46.140

John Aughenbaugh: paperwork reduction act.

408

00:47:47.280 --> 00:47:56.970

William Newmann: lined up Nice and needs so you know it's it's orderly and you open up the folder and it's all you know everything's lined up, but this one was just a disaster.

409

00:47:58.200 --> 00:48:12.840

Nia Rodgers: That had to be that had to be library and having a good time that you fake just for a minute they're like Okay, this is pretty funny let me do it in this way i'm not going to destroy anything or move anything but, but I am going to make it a little bit messy for hell.

410

00:48:12.840 --> 00:48:13.140

that's.

411

00:48:14.220 --> 00:48:14.700

Nia Rodgers: Great.

412

00:48:14.850 --> 00:48:16.500

John Aughenbaugh: You just made my day bill.

413

00:48:16.650 --> 00:48:22.350

Nia Rodgers: That is a wonderful that is a wonderful way to end this episode, thank you because that's mark.

414

00:48:25.740 --> 00:48:29.280

Nia Rodgers: Would you be willing to to stay with us for another episode.

415

00:48:30.000 --> 00:48:30.720

William Newmann: Oh yeah sure.

416

00:48:31.200 --> 00:48:39.300

Nia Rodgers: Wonderful Okay, well then we'll wrap up this one and we'll be back next week with our second episode thanks everybody.

417

00:48:40.380 --> 00:48:41.220

John Aughenbaugh: Thank you, Bill.

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