

The President's Passport

August 12, 2010. (1 min. 23 sec.)

(Excerpt from West Wing Week: Mailbag Day, Summer Edition. 5 min. 55 sec.)

00:40

(Narrator)

Our first letter comes from Jonathan Talcott in Pittsburgh, and it, too, deals with official paperwork.

00:45

Jonathan asks: "Does the President receive stamps in his passport when he travels?"

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To find out, we started with the President's personal secretary, Katie Johnson.

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The President does indeed have a passport.

[Katie Johnson – POTUS Personal Secretary]

00:57

In fact, one of my first jobs when I got here was to fill out the President's application for his new passport after he became President.

01:04

And in the application form, there's a box that says "occupation."

01:08

And for the President, I got to put "President of the United States," which took up more than the entire box.

01:13

(Narrator)

Where is it kept?

01:15

(Ms. Johnson)

His passport is under the safekeeping of our Advance Staff over in the Eisenhower Executive Building.

01:21

(Mr. Whichard)

Hey, Jonathan, we're in the White House Scheduling Advance Office where we actually keep the President's passport in our safe here along with all of the other White House staff

passports, so I'll open it up and I'll show you the President's passport.

01:21-01:24

[Jordan Whichard – Trip Coordinator]

01:36

So here is our safe. We keep the President's passport in the file marked "POTUS Passports."

01:42

So here's the cover page.

01:44

The President's signature is on it.

01:46

And yes, he gets Customs stamps just like everybody else does.

01:53

So this is the back page of the President's passport, the endorsements page.

01:58-02:03

If you zoom in you will find out that the bearer of this passport is the President of the United States.