

# NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Political Science / American History

## Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars

Presidential Influence and the Politics of Pork

Scott A. Frisch and Sean Q Kelly

With a foreword by Les Francis  
and an afterword by Jim Free

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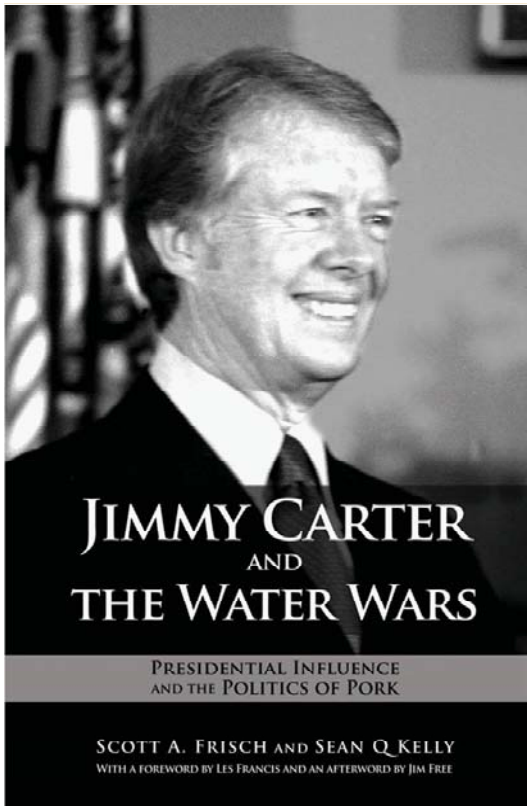
**“This book should be  
mandatory reading.”**

– Stuart E. Eizenstat,  
former Chief Domestic Policy Adviser  
to President Carter and Executive Director of the  
White House Domestic Policy Staff, 1977–1981

### Description

This book represents a leap forward in our understanding of the dynamics of congressional-presidential relations. It provides an answer—with hard data, both qualitative and quantitative—to an age-old question: Can presidents influence votes in Congress? Using data collected from the archived papers of President Jimmy Carter, the authors identified the members of Congress that Carter targeted and what he said to them. Using roll call data, the authors also identify which of these members sided with the president and which did not. Second, the authors also address the question raised by one of Carter’s top advisors: “...[I]f the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee is talking to a member, and you’re talking with the member, guess who’s going to win...” Using data from the papers of Carter’s chief congressional rival (Tom Bevill, Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations), the authors show who the president was lobbying, who Bevill was lobbying, and who was more successful.

*(Continued on reverse)*



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## Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars

### Description (Continued)

This book also delivers a much better understanding of pork barrel politics. Pork barrel projects are expenditures included in congressional appropriations (spending) bills that are aimed at funding projects in the districts of House members (and states of Senators) that demonstrate a member's concern for the "folks back home." It is typically assumed that such projects help members of Congress to get reelected. Presidents—especially in recent years—have complained that these projects represent "wasteful government spending," and they have sought to gain control over the appropriations process by limiting such expenditures. This tension between the branches, most recently evident in battles over congressional earmarks, has important implications for how Congress spends money and how budgets are determined in a democratic context: Should the popularly elected representatives control spending priorities in their districts and states, or should the executive?

*Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars* takes the reader into the maelstrom created by the framers of the constitution who awarded the "power of the purse" to the Congress but granted the veto power to the president. This is a critical book for all in political science and American studies.

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### RAVE REVIEWS

"This book adds broadly to the dynamics of presidential leadership in Congress and makes a real contribution to the literature on presidential influence in Congress."

—Lance T. LeLoup

Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of Political Science  
Washington State University

"Do you want to know how Washington really works? Read Frisch and Kelly's *Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars*. They bring to life the events surrounding a critical turning point in the Carter Presidency. This is required reading for anyone interested in presidential leadership in Congress."

—Representative Butler Derrick  
(D-South Carolina, retired)

"Frisch and Kelly not only tell a great story, but also systematically analyze the effect of Carter administration efforts to lobby members of Congress. The result is an important study of presidential influence in Congress."

—John Anthony Maltese  
Albert Berry Saye Professor of Political Science  
University of Georgia

### About the Authors

Scott Frisch is Professor and Chair of the Political Science program at California State University Channel Islands. He received his BA from Lafayette College, a Masters in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Political Science from the Claremont Graduate School.

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