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## Ex-gov. Thompson's Records Destroyed

Wisconsin State Journal :: LOCAL/WISCONSIN :: B3

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Several hundred boxes of records from former Gov. Tommy Thompson's administration were mistakenly destroyed instead of going to the Wisconsin Historical Society archives, officials said Monday.

Tom Solberg, a spokesman for the state Department of Administration, said the records were inadvertently put on the wrong truck at a state warehouse and sent to a Green Bay paper mill, where they were turned into pulp.

The records were supposed to go to the historical society in Madison.

Solberg said officials were still trying to determine what was destroyed, but they believe about 100 of the boxes came from the governor's office, and the others from unidentified state agencies.

"We have discontinued the destruction of any additional records until we can review where we are at," Solberg said. "We view this as a serious matter. We don't want this to happen again."

Gov. Jim Doyle's spokesman, Dan Leistikow, said Administration Secretary Marc Marotta "has made it clear this should never happen again."

The destroyed records covered Thompson's gubernatorial career, from Jan. 1, 1987, to Dec. 31, 2001, when he left to become secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Thompson spokesman Tony Jewell said it was sad news.

"We all know how the current administration is bound and determined to erase Gov. Thompson's legacy," he said.

Solberg said the majority of records were constituency correspondence and others involved extraditions and executive clemency. Some records on the construction and public financing of Miller Park also was lost.