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Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the James Moore Audio Recordings LAV002451

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on March 05, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository: Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator: Gelles, Catherine, 1907-1985
Creator: Tappes, Shelton
Creator: Moore, James
Title: James Moore Audio Recordings
ID: LAV002451
Date: 1983-10

Physical Description: 1 items Audio Cassette

Physical Description: 246.9MB Megabytes Digital transfer of audio tape.

Physical Description: Tape is in good condition.

Language of the Material: English

Abstract: In the fall of 1983 Professor James Moore recorded an oral history interview with Shelton Tappes and Catherine "Babe" Gelles, both early organizers for the United Auto Workers Union (UAW). Taped in Tappes' Detroit home, the interviewees gave firsthand account of 1937's "Battle of the Overpass," a brutal response by members of the Ford Service Department to the UAW organizing effort against Ford Motor Company. The interview lends offers two different vantage points: Gelles', as that of a member of the UAW's Women's Auxiliary, and Tappes' as that of a Ford Employee and early Black organizer. Their testimony includes description of brutal assaults on organizers that occurred at the hands of Ford Servicemen, including Walter Reuther, Richard Frankenstein, and Gelles herself; demonstrated anti-union bias by the Dearborn Police Department; description of triage set up in the union hall to attend to the wounded; and UAW organizing efforts that followed the event. The interview was recorded for use in Mass Producing Fords, a documentary for the United Kingdom's Open University.

Preferred Citation

"James Moore Audio Recordings, Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University."

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Biographical / Historical

James Moore (b. 1947), a native of Chicago, is co-author with Adrian Desmond of the best-selling biography "Darwin" (1991), "Darwin Sacred Cause: Race, Slavery and the Quest for Human Origins" (2009), "The Darwin Legend" (1994), "The Post-Darwinian Controversies" (1979), "Religion in Victorian Britain" (1988), and "History, Humanity and Evolution" (1989). With degrees in science, divinity and history, and a PhD from Manchester University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, Moore taught history of science from 1975 to 2014 at the Open University in England where he remains an emeritus professor. He held teaching appointments at Cambridge, Harvard, Notre Dame, and McMaster universities and visiting fellowships at Durham University and the Australian National University. In 1989-90 he was a member of The Fundamentalism Project, sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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Content Description

One audio cassette tape.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Processing Information

Processed and finding aid written by Elizabeth Clemens on March 4, 2020.

Conditions Governing Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Due to the personal nature of oral history, the Library prohibits use of the material in any way that infringes on individual right to privacy, or results in libelous statements or slander, in accordance with U.S. law.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Labor unions -- Organizing
- UAW Locals and Regions