

THE NICK DiGAETANO, UAW LOCAL 7 COLLECTION

Papers, 1930-1968  
(predominantly, 1940-1960)

1.5 linear feet

Accession Number 23  
L.C. Number MS

The initial collection of papers of Nick DiGaetano was placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mr. DiGaetano in the Spring of 1961. Subsequent deposits were made by Mr. DiGaetano in 1968 and 1974. Later deposits were made by his son, Tom DiGaetano, and his grandson, Allan DiGaetano. The collection of papers was first opened for research in 1962. The collection was reprocessed in January of 1984.

Nick DiGaetano was born in Sicily in 1893. He came to Detroit where he learned the trade of metal polisher and buffer. He became active in the Italian Socialist Federation of America, an organization which in 1915 affiliated with the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.).

Mr. DiGaetano worked for many years at the Ferro Stamping Company in Detroit but in 1928 began work at the Chrysler plant on East Jefferson in Detroit. Utilizing his experience with the I.W.W. he played an important part in the effort to unionize the automobile industry. After the organization of Chrysler by the UAW, Mr. DiGaetano held numerous important union positions in Local 7. He served as Chief Steward for fifteen years, edited the Local 7 newspaper The Citadel for seven years, and served on the Union Executive Board. As a member of Local 7's Educational Committee, he helped establish a lending library for workers of the local. After thirty-one years with Chrysler, Mr. DiGaetano retired in 1959.

Mr. DiGaetano, recognizing the historical significance of the industrial union movement, collected files of local and regional union papers, aware that such material provide an invaluable day-by-day historical record. In August 1960 with the approval of the officials of Chrysler Local 7, he deposited his collection with the Archives. In December 1964, he was awarded the Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for his dedicated work in preserving extensive files of labor newspapers and other union records which document the history of the UAW and other unions. Mr. DiGaetano continued to contribute to his collection until his death in December 1982.

Contents

3 manuscript boxes

Series I, National and Local Unions, UAW - CIO, 1936-1962, Boxes 1-3

Announcements, memoranda, programs, resolutions and other materials relating to the various activities of the UAW-CIO and a number of its local unions

Series II, Personal Files, 1930-1968, Box 3

Broadsides, clippings, correspondence, minutes relating to Mr. DiGaetano's activities and interests in progressive labor organizations and social issues, with emphasis on his concern with preserving union newspapers.

Non-manuscript Material

Over 100 bound volumes of local, regional, and national union papers are available in the Archives Library. Short runs of several journals, including Research Reports, Economic Outlook, Labor's Monthly Survey, Ammunition--Political Supplement, listed in the original guide as being part of the manuscript collection, have been transferred to the Archives Library along with constitutions of the International Union (1936-1959). Also available in the Archives Library is a microfilm copy of the Chief Stewards' Grievance Books. A tape recording of an interview with Mr. DiGaetano given by his grandson, Allan DiGaetano, has been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collections. A collection of badges, buttons, and posters, listed as part of the manuscript collection in the original guide has been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

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Series I  
National and Local Unions, UAW-CIO, 1936-1962  
Boxes 1-3

Announcements, handbills, memoranda, programs, resolutions, and other material relating to various activities of the UAW-CIO and a number of its locals. Most of the material is related to or was issued by Local 7, Chrysler-Jefferson Assembly plant, Detroit, at which Mr. DiGaetano was Chief Steward for a number of years. Documents issued by or related to the national unions are followed by those of local unions. Files are arranged alphabetically with those of locals following documents of the national or regional organizations.

Box 1

1. Committee to Investigate Racketeering; Report c 1947
2. Internat'l Ed. Dept; Pamphlets, 1940-42
3. Italian Comm. Ford Organizing Drive, Banquet program, Jul 1941
4. National UAW Chrysler Conference, Resolutions, 1958
5. Special Convention; Reports, Jan 1958
6. Summer Institute, Aug 1939
7. Tool and Die Council; minimum wage resolution, 1958
8. Twelfth Annual leadership Training Institute, Aug 25, 1955
9. Local 3, Pamphlet
10. Local 7, Announcements, ballots, flyers, 1940, 1949, 1952-53, 1957, 1961-62
11. Local 7, Bulletins, circulars
12. Local 7, Chief Steward's grievance books, Chrysler Jefferson and Kercheval plants V.1 Jan 2, 1940 - Nov 1, 1945

Box 2

1. Local 7, Chief Stewards's grievance books, Chrysler Jefferson and Kercheval plants V. 2 Feb 25, 1944 - Dec 26, 1944
2. Local 7, V. 3 Jan 2, 1945 - Mar 4, 1946

Box 3

1. Local 7, Constitution and by-laws
2. Local 7, Educational Committee, Minutes, Oct 18, 1936 - Sep 13, 1942
3. Local 122, Contract memoranda, 1962
4. Local 292, Announcements, 1961
5. Local 600, Strike report, 1949
6. Local 659, Memoranda, n.d.
7. Local 742, Convention program, Oct 29, 1944

Series II  
Personal Files, 1930-1968  
Box 3

Broadsides, clippings, correspondence, and other materials relating to Mr. DiGaetano's interest and participation in progressive labor organization and social issues. The correspondence documents Mr. DiGaetano's efforts to collect the files of local union papers to the end of preserving an important segment of those records essential to the study of American unionism. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 3

8. Chrysler Corp. strike; Editorials, Nov 1939
9. Ciepley-Rappaport vs. International Association of Machinists, Correspondence, reprints, 1960
10. Correspondence, Dec 1960 - Jan 1962
11. Correspondence, Feb 1962 - Jan 1963
12. Correspondence, Mar 1963 - May 1964
13. Correspondence, Jun 1964 - Feb 1968
14. Detroit Educational Programs, 1931-33
15. Edwards, George; addresses, clippings, correspondence, 1963
16. IWW; announcements, flyers, programs, 1930, 1934-1936, 1940
17. International Labor Press Assn., Journalistic awards, banquet, Dec 1961
18. Italian-American Civil Defense Volunteer Committee; Lincoln-Washington Birthday celebrations, Feb 1942
19. Political broadsides, pamphlets, 1930-1931, 1938
20. Workers Progressive Assn. of Detroit, Minutes book, Jun-Sep 1931