This collection was deposited with the Labor History Archives in 1964 by Mrs. Arthur Elder, Francis Comfort, Florence Sweeny and Blanche Rinehart.

Arthur Elder was a Detroiter active in the labor movement and particularly concerned with the AFL affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers. He served as vice-president of the AFT and president and secretary of the Michigan and Detroit federations. Elder was also director of the University of Michigan Workers Education Service. His dismissal from this post, in 1948, produced a controversy over the influence of General Motors in Michigan and University politics.

The collection covers the period from 1921 to 1953, with emphasis on the 1940's.

Among the correspondents are:

Albert Einstein  
Mark Starr  
Frank Martel  
Norman Thomas  
Frank Murphy  
Arthur Vandenberg

Important subjects covered are:

- History of the American Federation of Teachers
- The AFT and the Communist issue
- New York City teacher's dispute
- Federal aid to education
- Flint, Michigan dismissal cases
- Tenure for teachers
- The Workers' Education Service

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