W. Ellison Chalmers Collection

Papers, 1925-1938

3.75 linear feet

Accession #166
OCLC #

The papers of W. Ellison Chalmers were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1965 by Mr. Chalmers. Additional papers were deposited in August of 1983.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, February 21, 1903, William Ellison Chalmers received a B.A. from Brown University in 1925 and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1933. While studying at the University of Wisconsin, he worked with John R. Commons lobbying for various bills in the state Legislature. Chalmers taught briefly at the University of Pittsburgh (1928-30). He received a Social Science Research Fellowship in 1933 and a Wertheim Fellowship the following year. While on the Wertheim Fellowship, he began writing his auto study manuscript and worked closely with the AFL in Detroit. Chalmers worked for the federal government from 1934 to 1947, serving as a delegate to the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 1935, after which he became a professor of economics at the University of Illinois.

Important subjects in the collection:

Auto study, 1933-1935
Worker education in the 1930's
Public vs. private ownership of utilities in Wisconsin
AFL in the auto industry
Auto Labor Board

Important correspondents in the collection:

Leonard Bright
John R. Commons
Francis Dillon
Robert W. Dunn
Senator Paul Douglas
William Green
Sidney Hillman
A. J. Muste
Selig Perlman
Frances Perkins
Norman Thomas
7.5 manuscript boxes

**Series I, Auto Industry, 1930-1935**, Boxes 1-2:
Includes AFL correspondence, press releases and reports; U.S. Auto Labor Board Code correspondence and reports; and miscellaneous reports relating to the auto industry. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Series II, Correspondence, 1925-1938**, Box 3

**Series III, Workers Education and Class Notes, 1926-1933**, Box 4:
Includes material from Bryn Mawr Summer School (1933); Pittsburgh Labor College (1928-29); University of Wisconsin Summer School (1931); YMCA Industrial Conference (1932) and notes from Commons, Kiekhoffer and Slichter as well as reports relating to the labor movement.

**Series IV, Wisconsin State Government, 1930-1931**, Boxes 5-6:

**Series V, Reports and Miscellaneous, 1929-1935**, Boxes 6-7:
Materials relating to labor-management relations, the ILO and the University of Wisconsin. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Series VI, Collective Bargaining in the Automobile Industry**, Box 8:
Selected chapters from Chalmers' manuscript. (Microfilm available in Littauer Library, Harvard University)
Box 1, Auto Industry

AFL; Correspondence, Dec 1933-Nov 1935
; Press Releases, Mar 1934-Apr 1935
; Reports, Apr 1934 (2 folders)
; Revisions of Auto Code by William Green, Jan 1935
; Thirty Hour Week Bill by William Green, Jan 1935
Analysis of Factory Employees' Age as Related to Industry Growth, Aug 1935
"Auto Industry Has Failed to Stabilize Employment," Sep 1935
Auto Industry and the NRA
Auto Industry and the Older Worker, 1935
Auto Industry Statistics
Federated Press Releases, 1930-1935
Financial Condition Auto Companies
Hiring Policies in the Automobile Industry - WPA Research Project, 1937
Interpretation of Wages in Auto Industry

Box 2, Auto Industry

Issues and Outline in Auto Industry, 1935
"Labor Market in the Auto Industry," 1937
Labor Management Relations Study in the Auto Industry
Negotiating with the Auto Employer
Notes on Auto Study, Sep 1934
"The Rising Tide of Time Payment in Auto Sales"
Status of the Auto Worker, Jan 1933
U.S. Auto Labor Board; Auto Code, Aug-Dec 1934
; Correspondence and Memorandums, 1934
; Legal Briefs, Jan 1935
; Reports, Dec 1934
U.S. Auto Labor Reports, 1934

Box 3, Correspondence

Correspondence A-B (2 folders) E-L (3 folders)
C M-N
C - Chalmers family M-N - A. J. Muste
C - John R. Commons P-V (4 folders)
D W-Y
D - Robert W. Dunn W-Y - Colston E. Warne
**Box 4, Workers Education and Class Notes**

**Workers Education**
- Bryn Mawr Summer School, 1933 (3 folders)
- Bryn Mawr Summer School; Curriculum Comm., Jun 1933
- Bryn Mawr Summer School; Student Performance
- Pittsburgh Labor College, 1928-29
- Wisconsin, 1931 (2 folders)
- Wisconsin; "The Labor Advocate," 1926
- YMCA Industrial Conference, 1932

**Class Notes**
- Commons - Econ 144, 1926
- Foreign Labor Movements, 1927
- Kiekhoffer - Econ 250, 1925
- "Labor and the Government" (Twentieth Century Fund), n.d.
- Labor - Class Discussions, 1927
- Labor Problems - Econ 122, 1931
- Labor Seminar, 1927
- Readings on Capitalism and Socialism
- Slichter, Econ 300
- Study of Attitudes About Labor Unions, 1933-34

**Box 5, Wisconsin State Government**
- Banking Commission; Small Loans, Nov 1930-Dec 1931 (2 folders)
  - Small Loans - Legislative Bills, 1931
  - Small Loans - Pamphlets, 1930
- Bills Presented, Jan 1931-Jan 1932 (3 folders)
- Governor's Budget Message, Jan 1931
- Credit Unions; General, Feb-May 1931
  - "Four Thousand Credit Union Loans," 1926
  - Pamphlets, 1931
- Insurance and Banking Committee, 1931 (2 folders)
Box 6, Wisconsin State Government and Reports and Miscellaneous

**Wisconsin State Government**

- Public Power Commission, Dec 1930-May 1931 (3 folders)
- Tax Commission, 1930
- Unemployment; General, Nov 1930-Jul 1932 (2 folders)
  - Public Policy Declaration
  - Recommendations of Wisconsin Citizens Committee on Employment, 1931
  - Explanation of the Provisions and Purpose of the Administration
  - Emergency Relief Bills, 1931
  - Unemployment Reserve Legislation for Wisconsin and Present Employment Conditions

**Reports and Miscellaneous**

- Administration of Incentives
- Annual Earnings for Workers
- Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, 1930
- Constitutional Participation in Management in the Chicago Clothing Market
- Co-operatives, Wisconsin

Box 7, Reports and Miscellaneous

- "Hours and Labor Conditions in the Iron and Steel Industry," 1929
- Joint Production Research at the Naumkeag Mills, 1934
- International Labor Organization, 1935
- Liberal Club - University of Pittsburgh, 1929-30
- Long Range Planning of Public Works
- Miscellaneous Reports
- Monotony and Fatigue
- National Recovery Administration; Press Releases, 1933
- National Survey of Potential Product Capacity
- "Roosevelt As I Knew Him" by Harold L. Ickes
- Seasonal Character of Building Construction
- Social Science Research Council
- South American Securities Corp.
- University of Wisconsin, 1930
- Weirton, West Virginia Steel Strike; NLB Hearing, 16 Oct 1933
- "Women's Wages in Michigan Industries," Feb 1935
Box 8, Collective Bargaining in the Automobile Industry

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Chapter IV  First Strikes in the Automobile Industry
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Chapter XVI  The End of the Codes and the Beginning of the Labor Disputes Act
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Appendices, excerpts