

THE JOSEPH BASSO COLLECTION

Papers, 1927-1968
(Predominantly, 1935-1964)
6,5 linear feet

Accession Number 368

L. C, Number MS

The papers of Joseph Basso were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1969 and were opened for research in February of 1981.

Joseph Basso was born in 1899 and came to Detroit in 1912. He joined the Detroit Federation of Labor in 1920 and was elected a trustee, an office which he held for twelve years. In 1920 he accepted an appointment as clerk to Judge James Jeffries of Detroit Recorder's Court. There he founded the City and County Public Service Employees Association which affiliated with the Detroit Federation of Labor and later became the Public Employees Union. He continued in the position of court clerk under Judges George Murphy and Arthur J. Koscinski until his retirement in 1964.

Basso was active in Democratic politics and conducted Frank Murphy's campaign for mayor of Detroit and also managed his brother, George Murphy's campaigns for judge of Recorder's Court.

Basso became secretary of the Wayne County Federation of Labor in 1932 and continued in that office until 1950. He was reelected in 1955 and held office until the merger of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor with the Wayne County CIO Council in 1958. He served until 1964 on the executive board of the Wayne County AFL-CIO (since 1969 the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO). He was also on the Education Committee and the Committee on Political Education (COPE).

He was also a member of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and was secretary treasurer of the Electrical Workers Holding Company. He served as secretary treasurer of the Federation of Labor Temple Company for twenty-five years and as the secretary treasurer of the Federation of Labor Fresh Air Camp, Inc.

Basso was active in community affairs. During World War II he served for four years on the War Rationing Board, was a labor speaker on drives for war bonds, the Red Cross, and the Community Fund, and was a senior air raid warden. After the war he was a platoon leader in the Emergency Police Reserves, a civil defense organization.

Important subjects covered in this collection are: (an index to subjects will be found on p, 19)

- AFL - Wayne County
- AFL merger with CIO
- Democratic Party politics
- International relations and peace
- Labor education
- Labor political action
- Judge George Murphy

Important correspondents are; (an index to correspondence will be found on p. 20)

- Al Barbour
- Frank X. Martel
- George Murphy
- John F. Williams

A number of photographs of the Murphys, Patrick McNamara, and the leadership of the City and County Public Service Employees Association, the Detroit Federation of Labor, and the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collections. A large quantity of labor newspapers including the Building Tradesman, labor pamphlets, and convention proceedings have been transferred to the Archives Library.

Joseph Basso

Contents

13 manuscript boxes

Series I, Frank Murphy, 1935-1963; Box 1:

Correspondence, clippings, and other materials concerning Frank Murphy relating mainly to memorials in his honor.

Series II, George Murphy, 1935-1961; Boxes 1-2:

Correspondence, clippings, and other material relating to George Murphy and for the most part dealing with his campaigns for election to Recorder's Court in Detroit.

Series III, Recorder's Court, 1927-1962; Boxes 2-4:

Correspondence, reports, court records, procedural manuals, and other items pertaining to Detroit Recorder's Court.

Sub-Series III-A, Michigan Constitutional Convention, 1961-1962; Box 4:

Pamphlets, clippings, and other materials relating to judicial matters affected by constitutional reform.

Series IV, Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, 1936-1958; Boxes 4-5:

Correspondence, minutes, reports, and other materials relating to the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor. Much of this series concerns the negotiations which preceded the merger with the Wayne County CIO Council in 1958.

Sub-Series IV-A, Postwar Period; Boxes 5-6:

Publications, correspondence, and other materials relating to concerns of the post-World War II period much of it dealing with foreign affairs.

Series V, Wayne County AFL-CIO Executive Board, 1958-1965; Boxes 6-8:

Minutes and meeting announcements of the Executive Board many of which are annotated.

Series VI, Wayne County AFL-CIO Conventions, 1958-1965; Box 8:

Minutes and convention materials from the Wayne County AFL-CIO conventions during this period.

Series VII, Wayne County AFL-CIO - General, 1959-1966; Boxes 8-11;

Correspondence, notes, and other materials relating to the Wayne County AFL-CIO. Much of this concerns the work of the Education Committee and COPE.

Series VIII, AFL-CIO, 1959-1966; Box 11:

Convention materials, and other papers relating to the AFL-CIO.

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Series IX, Michigan Federation of Labor and Michigan State AFL-CIO, 1956-1963; Box 12:

Correspondence, reports, and other items relating for the most part to the merger of the Michigan Federation of Labor with the CIO.

Series X, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1927-1964; Box 12:

Correspondence, notes, and other items relating mainly to Local Union No. 58 in Detroit,

Series XI, General Files, 1941-1968; Boxes 12-13:

Correspondence, reports, and other materials. Much of this series is devoted to politics and to civil defense.

Joseph Basso

Series I
Frank Murphy 1935-1963
Box 1

Correspondence, clippings, addresses on a variety of subjects, and published material relating to Frank Murphy. Much of the material concerns different memorials dedicated to Murphy after his death in 1949. There is also information on the restoration of the Murphy family home in Harbor Beach, Mich, which was opened as a museum in 1960. Joseph Basso was secretary-treasurer of the restoration fund committee. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1

1. Frank Murphy: Addresses (published), 1937-39
2. : Addresses (unpublished), 1935-39
3. : Birthplace restoration, 1961
4. : Flint Sit-down Strike, 1937
5. : Governor-General and Governor, 1935-37
6. : Labor Citation
7. : Memorial Portrait - Detroit
8. : Memorial Portrait - US Supreme Court
9. Frank Murphy Jr. H.S. Dedication, 1963

Joseph Basso

Series II
George Murphy 1935-61
Boxes 1-2

Correspondence, clippings, position statements, biographical information, and other material relating to Murphy's campaigns for election as judge of the Detroit Recorder's Court. Basso was Murphy's court clerk from his first election in 1935 until his death in 1961 and acted as secretary of his campaign committees. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1

10. George Murphy: Biographical information
11. : Court decisions
12. : Death, 1961
13. : Election platforms
14. : Election publicity
15. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1935
16. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1941
17. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1947
18. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1953
- 19-20. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1953 - clippings
- 21-22. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1959
- 23-24. : Election to Recorder's Court, 1959 - clippings

Box 2

1. Geroge Murphy: Elections to Recorder's Court - undated items
2. : Law Day USA, 1958-63
3. : National Lawyers Guild, 1938
4. : Statements on education
5. : Statements on housing
6. : Statements on judicial responsibility
7. : Statements on labor
8. : Statements on rights
9. : Statements on sex crimes

Joseph Basso

Series III
Recorder's Court 1922-1962
Boxes 2-4

Correspondence, reports, court records, publications, and case records, pertaining to the Detroit Recorder's Court where Basso was court clerk to Judges James Jeffries, George Murphy, and Arthur J. Koscinski. There are also a number of city, state, county, and court publications including directories, handbooks, manuals, and publications on specific legal problems. Also included are procedural manuals for the Recorder's Court used by Basso. Many of these items are annotated. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject. Bound volumes are placed last.

Box 2

10. Bail bonds
11. Budget and personnel
12. Civil defense procedures
13. Condemnation cases
14. Court procedure
15. Court rule books
16. Detroit: Charter, 1935
17. Municipal Manuals, 1927, 1936
18. Election, 1962
19. History and procedure
20. Jury instructions
- 21-22. Legal definitions

Box 3

1. Michigan: Legislative handbooks
 2. Michigan Judges' Association
 3. Municipal Judges' Conference, 1960
 4. Paternity docket
 - 5-6. Probation
 7. Psychiatric examinations
 8. Recorder's Court records
 9. Wayne County; Officeholders
- Two bound Recorder's Court procedural manuals

Box 4

Two Recorder's Court procedural manuals (in binders)

Joseph Basso

Sub-Series III-A
Michigan Constitutional Convention 1961-1962
Box 4

Pamphlets, clippings, news releases, and a small quantity of correspondence and notes relating to judicial matters affected by constitutional reform. Files are arranged alphabetically. A set of Con-Con Journals has been placed in the Archives Library.

Box 4

1. Apportionment
2. Clippings
3. Comparison with 1908 Constitution
4. Correspondence
5. Elective judiciary proposal
6. News releases
7. Notes
- 8-9. Pamphlets

Joseph Basso

Series IV
Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor 1936-1958
Boxes 4-5

Correspondence, minutes, reports, and clippings relating to the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, its executive board, and the various committees on which Basso served. Much of this material deals with the negotiations preceding the merger with the Wayne County CIO Council which took place in December 1958. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 4

10. Birth Certificate Committee
11. Board of Directors, 1936
12. Minutes, 1956
13. Constitution
14. Election, 1956
15. Executive Board, Minutes, 1956
16. Financial Reports, 1955-56
17. 1957-58
18. Foreign affairs, 1943
19. Labor Camp Committee, 1958
20. Labor education, 1958

Box 5

- Merger Meeting (AFL & CIO), Aug 1957 (bound)
Merger Meeting (AFL & CIO), Sep 1957 (bound)
1. Merger Committee, 1957
 - 2-3. Merger Committee, 1958
 4. Minutes, 1955-58
 5. Officers
 6. Political Action Committee, 1945-58
 7. Election Subcommittee, 1946-47
 8. Union history
 9. Women's Activities Dept., 1957

Joseph Basso

Sub-Series IV-A
Postwar Period
Boxes 5-6

Publications, correspondence, notes, and clippings relating to concerns of the post-World War II period. Much of the material was gathered by Basso in connection with his work as Secretary of the Postwar Planning Committee of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor. Files are arranged alphabetically by name and subject.

Box 5

- 10. American Association for the UN
- 11-13. Commission to Study the Organization of Peace (AAUN)

Box 6

- 1-4. National Planning Association
- 5. Postwar Planning Committee (D & WCFL)
- 6-7. Postwar planning and peace: Government publications
- 8-10. : Miscellaneous publications
- 11. : Yalta Conference

Joseph Basso

Series V
Wayne County AFL-CIO Executive Board 1958-1965
Boxes 6-8

Minutes and meeting announcements of the Wayne County AFL-CIO Executive Board on which Basso served. Many of the minutes are annotated. The files are in chronological order.

Box 6

- 12-15. Executive Board Minutes, 1959
- 16. Detroit Labor News Strike, 1959

Box 7

- 1-4. Executive Board Minutes, 1960
- 5-8. 1961
- 9-12. 1962
- 13-15. 1963

Box 8

- 1-4. Executive Board Minutes, 1964
- 5. Executive Board Officers

Joseph Basso

Series VI
Wayne County AFL-CIO Conventions 1958-1965
Box 8

Minutes, resolutions, reports, notes, clippings, and other items from the Wayne County AFL-CIO conventions held 1958, 1961, 1963, and 1965. Many of the items are annotated. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 8

6-9.	Convention, 1958
10-11.	1961
12.	1963
13-14.	1965

Joseph Basso

Series VII
Wayne County AFL-CIO - General 1959-1966
Boxes 8-11

Correspondence, notes, reference materials, programs, minutes, clippings, and other items related to the Wayne County AFL-CIO. A large amount of material concerns the activities of two committees on which Basso served, the Education Committee and the Committee on Political Education (COPE). There is also material on local unions and union counselling in addition to general information on union operations. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 8

15-18. Affiliated local unions, 1960-64

Box 9

1. COPE, 1959
2-3. 1960
4. 1961
5. 1962
6. 1963
7. 1964
8. 1966
9-10. COPE Materials
11. Committees
12. Community Services Committee
13. Constitutions
14-15. Delegate Body, 1959-64
16. District Headquarters
17-21. Education Committee

Box 10

1-3. Education Committee:Film Clinic
4. : Great Decisions Program, 1959-63
5. : Great Decisions Program - clippings
6. : Great Decisions Program - materials
7. : Great Decisions Program - notes
8. : Libraries
9-11. : Programs
12-16. : Reference materials

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Box 11

1. Equal opportunity
2. Financial reports, 1961-64
3. Local union officers
4. Minutes, 1959-65
5. Union counselling
6. Union counselling materials
7. Union Label Committee

Joseph Basso

Series VIII
AFL-CIO 1955-1968
Box 11

This series contains a variety of AFL-CIO papers. The largest group is material from the 1957 convention, much of it annotated. There is also a quantity of material from the Economic and Legislative Conference held in Washington in 1958. A large number of AFL-CIO pamphlets on a wide range of topics as well as convention proceedings have been placed in the Archives Library. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 11

8. Affiliated Organizations, 1957-58
9. Chicago Merger Convention, 1962
10. Constitution, 1955
11. Convention, 1955: Education resolutions
12. 1957: Appeals Committee
13. : Notes
14. : Resolutions
15. : Reports
16. : Roll Call
17. : Statements
- 18-19. Economic and Legislative Conference, 1958
20. Legislative Dept., 1965
21. Structure
- 22-23. Union Label and Service Trades Dept., 1961-62
24. UAW withdrawal, 1968

Joseph Basso

Series IX
Michigan Federation of Labor and
Michigan State AFL-CIO, 1956-1963
Box 12

Correspondence, reports, pamphlets, and other items. These relate to conventions and the merger of the Michigan Federation of Labor with the CIO, and to educational and legislative matters. Files are arranged alphabetically by name and subject. Some convention proceedings have been placed in the Archives Library.

Box 12

1. Mich. F.L.: Conference on Community Services, 1956
2. : Convention, 1956
3. : Convention, 1957 - Executive Board Minutes
4. : - Notes
5. : - Proceedings
6. : Merger Committee, 1958
7. Mich. St. AFL-CIO: Education Dept., 1958
8. : General information
- 9-10. : Legislative conferences, 1959-63
- 11-12. : Political information

Joseph Basso

Series X
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1927-1964
Box 12

Correspondence, notes, clippings, and pamphlets relating to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, particularly Local Union No. 58 in Detroit. A copy of the 1956 IBEW constitution and some agreement and rules books for Local No. 58 have been placed in the Archives Library. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 12

13. Community Service Conference participation, 1961
14. General information
- 15-16. Local Union No. 58, 1961-64
17. Union-Industries Show, Detroit, 1961
18. Union labels

Joseph Basso

Series XI
General Files, 1941-1968
Boxes 12-13

Correspondence, reports, pamphlets, and clippings on a range of subjects. The two largest areas reflect Basso's involvement in the Democratic party and his interest in civil defense. This series also has some biographical information on Basso and information on the Labor Temple in Detroit. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 12

- 19. American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, 1941
- 20. Basso: General and Biographical
- 21. : Notes
- 22. : Office of Price Administration
- 23. Budgets: Detroit and Wayne County
- 24. Building Trades Council
- 25. Civil Defense: Air Raid Wardens
- 26. : Emergency Police Reserve
- 27-28. : Pamphlets

Box 13

- 1-2. Democratic Party
- 3-4. : Conference on Legislation, 1957
- 5-6. : Dinner programs
- 7. : Fourteenth Congressional District
- 8. Ethnic organizations
- 9. Federation of Labor Temple Co.
- 10. Maps: Political districts, etc.
- 11. Politics: Conventions, 1968
- 12. : First and Thirteenth Congressional Districts. 1964-66
- 13. Third Annual Industrial Relations Conference, 1957

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