

THE PHILIP TAFT COLLECTION

Papers, 1955-1972
(Predominantly, 1960-62, 1972)

2 linear feet

Accession Number 495
L. C. Number MS

The Philip Taft papers were donated by Theresa Taft, and placed in the Archives between 1971 and 1979. They were opened to researchers in January, 1985.

Dr. Philip Taft was born in 1902, in Syracuse, New York. At the age of 14 he left New York and spent the next eight years working at odd jobs in factories, Great Lakes ore boats, the Midwest grain harvest, Northwest logging camps and the railroad. It was during this period, in 1917, that he joined the Industrial Workers of the World. He later worked with the IWW Organization Committee, an executive group for the agricultural workers.

He returned to New York and finished High School at the age of 26. He was then accepted at the University of Wisconsin, where he worked with Selig Perlman, a prominent labor historian. He co-authored The History of Labor in the U.S. 1896-1932 with Dr. Perlman while still a graduate student, and went on to write numerous books on economics and labor history. Among these was an in-depth, two volume history of the American Federation of Labor.

He received his doctorate in economics in 1935 and subsequently worked for the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, the Resettlement Administration and the Social Security Administration. In 1937, he joined the economics department faculty at Brown University and served as department chairman from 1949-1953.

Dr. Taft was one of the founding editors of the Labor History journal in 1959, and served on the editorial board until 1976. After his death in 1976, the editors of Labor History devoted an issue (Winter 1978) to him and his work. It contains, among other articles, a transcript of part of an interview with Taft, which provides information on his involvement with the IWW, his early experiences and views on organized labor.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

AFL-CIO foreign relations resolutions, 1955-1969	IWW Bisbee deportation, 1917-18 IWW federal trials, 1918-23
IWW and agricultural workers, 1913-17	

An index to subjects will be found on page 7.

Contents

4 manuscript boxes

Series I, IWW articles, 1960-62, 1972, Boxes 1-3:

Handwritten notes, photocopies of trial transcripts and other background material for Taft's four articles on the IWW. Also includes some correspondence relating to his research in Washington D.C. and Arizona.

Series II, Biographies, n.d., Box 3:

Biographies of labor leaders, politicians, journalists and others concerned with labor interests. Some are quite brief, others include newspaper clippings and more extensive information.

Series III, AFL-CIO foreign relations resolutions, 1955-1969, Boxes 3-4:

Photocopies of foreign relations resolutions, including brief discussions of the issues of each country or organization.

Series IV, Philip Taft, 1930-76, Box 4:

Biographical material relating to Taft including an oral history, newspaper articles, and the program of a memorial service.

Non-manuscript Material:

Seven books concerning labor history and economics, several newspapers, including the International Press Conference 1923-24, all of which have been placed in the Archives' library. Numerous pamphlets concerning the AFL-CIO and other unions, and reprints of most of Taft's articles were also placed in the library.

Series I
IWW Articles, 1960-62, 1972
Boxes 1-3

Handwritten notes, copies of manuscripts, correspondence regarding research, and background information on the IWW, including photocopies of trial transcripts. All pertain to four articles published in Labor History:

"The IWW in the Grain Belt", Winter 1960
"The Federal Trials of the IWW", Winter 1962
"A Note on 'General' Mosby", Winter 1972
"The Bisbee Deportation", Fall 1972

The material is arranged by article, and then by chapter or section within the article. Large groups of notes or photocopies on a single subject are arranged alphabetically by subject within the corresponding chapter or section.

Box 1

- 1-4. "The IWW in the Grain Belt"; notes
- 5-9. "The Federal Trials of the IWW"; transcript
- 10-17. "The Federal Trials of the IWW"; notes

Box 2

- 1. "The Federal Trials of the IWW"; manuscript
- 2. "A Note on 'General' Mosby"; notes
- 3-15. "The Bisbee Deportation"; notes
- 16. "The Bisbee Deportation"; annotated manuscript
- 17. "The Bisbee Deportation"; incomplete manuscript
- 18. "The Bisbee Deportation"; manuscript copy
- 19. "The Bisbee Deportation"; background notes
- 20. "The Bisbee Deportation"; transcript pp. 29-40, 87-88, 100-14
- 21. "The Bisbee Deportation"; transcript pp. 136-66

Box 3

- 1. "The Bisbee Deportation"; transcript pp. 137-71
- 2. "The Bisbee Deportation"; transcript pp. 221-62
- 3. "The Bisbee Deportation"; transcript pp. 351-55, 420-22, 440-48, 483-505
- 4-6. IWW delinquent delegates lists, 1922-28, 1943
- 7. Background material; early industrial strikes, c.1880-1904
- 8. Correspondence re: research, 1955, 1960-61
- 9. Correspondence re: research, 1965-71

Series II
Biographies, n.d.
Box 3

Biographical files on a variety of people connected with the AFL-CIO, labor in general and politicians associated with labor groups. Most are brief outlines, with no consistent format. Information includes vital statistics, organizations with which they were associated, education and employment.

There are two alphabetical sequences: The 'miscellaneous' group (arranged alphabetically within one folder) and the group that Taft assigned individual folders. Some of these include articles about or statements by the subject.

Box 3

10. Biographies; miscellaneous
11. Biographies; Eisenhower, Dwight
12. Biographies; Farrington, Frank
13. Biographies; Frey, John P.
14. Biographies; Gompers, Samuel
15. Biographies; Green, William
16. Biographies; Hillman, Sidney
17. Biographies; Lewis, John L.
18. Biographies; McBride, John
19. Biographies; McCraith, August
20. Biographies; McGuire, Peter J.
21. Biographies; Morrison, Frank
22. Biographies; Murray, Philip
23. Biographies; Perlman, Selig
24. Biographies; Powderley, Terence
25. Biographies; Reuther, Walter
26. Biographies; Roosevelt, Franklin D.
27. Biographies; Taft, Robert
28. Biographies; Truman, Harry S.
29. Biographies; Vandeleur, Edward D.

Series III
AFL-CIO Foreign Affairs Resolution, 1955-1969
Boxes 3-4

Photocopies of statements by the AFL-CIO Executive Board on foreign affairs. Each statement includes a discussion of the major issues affecting the country or organization. The series is arranged alphabetically by country, organization, or subject.

Box 3

30. Africa

Box 4

1. Captive Nations
2. Communist China
3. Contacts and exchanges
4. Crisis; Middle East
5. Crisis; Southeast Asia
6. East-West trade
7. Foreign aid
8. Franco-Spain
9. Germany and Berlin
- 10-15. ICFTU, ORIT, trade secretariats
16. International Labor Organization
17. National defense, world disarmament
18. Peace Corps
19. Soviet imperialism
20. United Nations
21. U.S. and international economic relations
22. World crises
23. Appendix I

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Series IV
Philip Taft, 1930-1976
Box 4

Transcript of an oral history done as part of the Columbia University project, biographical articles, and a memorial program given in Taft's honor in 1976. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 4 (cont'd)

- 24. Biographical information, 1930-76
- 25. Memorial, 1976
- 26-27. Oral history, n.d.

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