

THE GEORGE BURT COLLECTION

Papers, 1940-1953

1 1/2 linear feet

Accession Number 539

L.C. Number MS

The papers of George Burt were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in March of 1972 and were opened for research in January, 1982.

George Burt, born in 1903 in Ontario, was the head of the Canadian region of the UAW from 1939 until his retirement in May, 1968. He had been the first treasurer of UAW Local 222 in Oshawa, Ontario, the place where a strike in 1937 against General Motors brought, according to many, "the CIO to Canada."

In addition to being the Canadian director of the UAW, Burt also became a general vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress which he represented at conferences on the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and served for two years as president of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

He was involved in every major contract negotiation with the big auto companies during his 29-year directorship, especially with the granting of union security at Ford in Windsor, 1946; of Ford pensions, 1950; of the SUB fund at GM, 1958; and of wage parity at Chrysler, 1968.

Just after his retirement, Burt was given an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Windsor.

The Canadian region of the UAW was originally known as District Council 26, and was chartered in 1939. This district council is the only survivor of the old UAW nomenclature, and is generally synonymous with Region 7, which comprises all of Canada. District Council 26 met every three months, and Burt, in his capacity as regional director, reported to it regularly.

These papers are composed almost entirely of the minutes of these council meetings from 1940 to 1953, and of Burt's reports to the council. Interspersed among them are other reports to the council, and resolutions. All these materials are arranged chronologically. These are followed by two folders from the council which contain its by-laws, with revisions, and a few financial reports, from 1940-1943. The remaining five folders in the collection are materials from other groups or from Burt not relating directly to council affairs. These are found at the end of the collection, and are also arranged chronologically.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- All Canadian Congress of Labor: CIO amalgamation
- Political action
- Postwar wage increases
- Regional relations with the UAW International union
- World War II: Industrial Disputes

Contents

3 manuscript boxes

Series I, District Council 26, 1940-1953; Boxes 1-3

Minutes, reports and related materials. There are also items relating to the World Federation Trade Union and the history of the UAW in Canada.

Box 1

1. District Council 26: minutes, Burt's reports, May 1940-1941
2. 1942
3. Jan-Jun 1943
4. Aug-Dec 1943
5. District Council 26: minutes and report of PAC/Convention, 28-29 Nov 1943
6. proceedings of PAC/Convention, 28-29 Nov 1943
7. District Council 26: brief submitted to the National War Labour Board
c. 1943-1944
8. District Council 26: minutes, Burt's reports, Feb-Apr 1944
9. Jun-Aug 1944
10. Oct-Nov 1944

Box 2

1. District Council 26: minutes, Burt's reports, Feb-Apr 1945
2. Jun-Oct 1945
3. Jan-Apr 1946
4. Jun-Dec 1946
5. Mar-Jun 1947
6. Sep-Dec 1947
7. Jan-Jun 1948
8. Sep-Dec 1948
9. 1949
10. Mar-Jun 1950

Box 3

1. District Council 26: minutes, But's reports, Sep-Dec 1950
2. Mar-Jun 1951
3. Sep-Dec 1951
4. Jan-Jun 1952
5. Sep-Dec 1952
6. Mar-Jun 1953
7. Aug-Dec 1953
8. District Council 26: by-laws, with changes and corrections, 1949-1953
9. District Council 26: financial reports, 1940-1943
10. Canadian War Emergency Conference: minutes, 8-9 Apr 1942
11. Report: Post War Outlook for Canadian Automobile Industry. (c.1944)
12. Burt, George: Report of the World Federation Trade Union Conference,
Prague, Czech. 8 Jun 1947
13. Burt, George; Fragments from the History of the UAW in Canada i953?