

THE WESLEY W. AND RITA S. COOK COLLECTION

Papers, 1941-1964

3 3/4 Linear feet

Accession Number 676

L.C. Number

The papers of Wesley Warren Cook were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in October of 1974 by Mr. Cook and were opened for research in March of 1980.

Wesley Cook was born in Windom, Minnesota on August 16, 1902. He studied at German universities during the years 1929-1932. He received a B.A. and M.A. from Northwestern University. Mr. Cook became a member of the Textile Workers Union of America on March 13, 1937. During the years 1949-1952 he was an employee of the United States government assigned to the Marshall Plan in Austria. Mr. Cook rose to the positions of Director of the Synthetic Yarn Division, TWUA and Administrative Vice President of the Executive Council, TWUA, AFL-CIO, CLC.

The papers of Mr. Cook consist of office files which reflect the duties of his two official positions with the TWUA.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Arbitration of TWUA-Synthetic Yarn Division grievances, 1941-1964

Emergent unionism in the South, 1941-1964

Factionalism within the Executive Council-TWUA, 1963-1964

Lobbying efforts of the TWUA regarding the depressed textile industry, 1958-1961

TWUA Twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention, preparations for, 1964

TWUA Local 371's investment in a segregated Southern school, prevention of, 1960

Contents

7 1/2 manuscript boxes

Series I, Office Files, 1958-1964; Boxes 1-3:

The office files of Mr. Cook as Administrative Vice President of the Executive Council, TWUA. Included are statements and reports regarding the depressed textile industry and the lobbying efforts of the TWUA, 1958-1961. The proceedings of Executive Council meetings are contained in binders which constitute numbered volumes, 1963-1964. One folder of newspaper clippings is included pertaining to factionalism within the Executive Council and emergent unionism in the South, 1964.

Series II, Office Files, 1941-1964; Boxes 4-8:

The office files of Mr. Cook as Director of the Synthetic Yarn Division, TWUA. The files consist solely of arbitration decisions concerning TWUA members' grievances against various textile manufacturers, 1941-1964. An exception is one decision involving a union local and the TWUA international, 1960.

Non-manuscript material

A duplicate of the published Statement of Wesley Cook Representing Textile Workers Union of America has been placed in the Archives' Library. A notation of this has been placed in the case file. Two additional copies of this Statement- made by Mr. Cook before the Senate in 1958, remain in Series I.

Series I
Office Files 1958-1964
Boxes 1-3

Statements and reports of the TWUA, its Vice President Wesley Cook, its President William Pollock, and of the Rayon Staple Fiber Producers Association concerning lobbying efforts in behalf of the depressed textile industry, 1958-1961. The proceedings of the Executive Council and newspaper clippings are concerned with factionalism in the Executive Council, preparations for the TWUA Twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention, and emergent unionism in the South among other subjects, 1963-1964. Mr. Cook was the spokesman for a majority faction of the Executive Council which opposed the reelection of President Pollock at the TWUA convention of 1964. Despite this opposition Mr. Pollock was reelected. The files concerning lobbying efforts and the newspaper clippings precede the volumes of Executive Council proceedings. Both groupings are arranged chronologically. Together they cover the period 1958 to April 30, 1964.

Box 1

1. Wesley Cook; statements before the Senate, 1958, 7 Feb 1961
2. TWUA; state. to the Comm. for Reciprocity Info., 20 Jun 1960
3. RSFPA; state. to the Comm. for Reciprocity Info., 27 Jun 1960
4. TWUA; statements to the US Tariff Comm., Jun 1960
5. TWUA; Tariff Comm. report, 28 Jul 1960
6. RSFPA; memo. re: Tariff Comm., 13 Jan 1961
7. TWUA; state. to the Senate re: textile industry, 1 Feb 1961
8. William Pollock; state. before the Senate, 7 Feb 1961
9. RSFPA; brief re: US Tariff Comm., 23 Feb 1961
10. William Pollock; state. to the President's Textile Comm., 8 Mar 1961
11. Clippings re: factionalism, Southern organization, 1964
12. Exec. Council; proceedings, 24 Sep 1963

Box 2

- 1-2. Exec. Council; proceedings, vols. I-II, 11-13 Nov 1963
- 3-4. Exec. Council; proceedings, vols. I-II, 21-23 Jan 1964

Box 3

- 1-3. Exec. Council; proceedings, vols. I-III, 31 Mar-30 Apr 1964

Series II
Office Files 1941-1964
Boxes 4-8

Arbitration decisions concerning the grievances of TWUA-Synthetic Yarn Division members against various manufacturers. The majority of cases pertain to Southern manufacturers during a period of emergent unionism in the South, 1941-1964. A unique decision involves a Southern union local and the TWUA international, 1960. It prohibits this local's investment in a segregated Virginia high school. Due to its unique character this decision has been placed first. The following decisions are arranged alphabetically by name of manufacturer and then chronologically. Originally many of these decisions were contained in binders and prefaced by tables of contents. The tables of contents may be consulted for a summary description of the nature and outcome of the cases. In most of the original binders the decisions were arranged in reverse chronological order and the tables of contents followed this arrangement. In these instances the reverse chronological order has been maintained for the convenience of researchers using the tables of contents. Decisions not included in tables of contents are noted as such.

- Box 4 Note: Decisions contained in Box 4 are not included
 in tables of contents.
1. Arbitration decision re: Local 371. 13 Oct 1960
 - 2-11. Arbitration decisions re: Amer. Viscose Corp., 20 Apr
 1951-7 Jul 1964
-
- Box 5 Note: Decisions contained in Box 5 are arranged
 in reverse chronological order.
1. Table of contents re: Celanese Corp. Local 1874,
 7 May 1962-28 Nov 1955
 - 2-3. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Local 1874, 7 May 1962-
 28 Nov 1955
 4. Table of contents re: Celanese Corp. Local 1874,
 6 Dec 1954-15 Jan 1941
 - 5-9. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Local 1874, 6 Dec 1954-
 15 Jan 1941
 10. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Local 1093, 4 Nov 1963-
 27 Oct 1962
- Note: Decisions contained in this folder are not included in
tables of contents.

Series II
Office Files 1941-1964
Boxes 4-8

Box 5 cont.

11. Table of contents re: Celanese Corp. Local 1093
10 Sep 1962-Feb 1957
- 12-13. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Local 1093, 10 Sep 1962-Feb 1957

Box 6 Note: Decisions contained in Box 6 are arranged
in reverse chronological order.

1. Table of contents re: Celanese Corp. Local 1093,
11 Dec 1956-23 Jul 1951
- 2-5. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Local 1093,
11 Dec 1956-23 Jul 1951
6. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Locals other than 1874 or 1093, 4
May 1964-20 Mar 1964
Note: Decisions contained in this folder are not
included in tables of contents.
7. Table of contents re: Celanese Corp. Locals other than 1874 or 1093, 6
Aug 1962-13 Dec 1949
- 8-10. Arb. dec. re: Celanese Corp. Locals other than 1874
or 1093. 6 Aug 1962-13 Dec 1949
11. Table of contents re: Courtaulds, Inc., 26 Jul 1961-
4 Feb 1960
- 12-13. Arb. dec. re: Courtaulds, Inc., 26 Jul 1961- 4 Feb 1960
14. Arb. dec. re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 28 Feb 1964-
28 Nov 1962
Note: Decisions contained in this folder are
not included in tables of contents.
15. Table of contents re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 27 Jun
1962-3 May 1960
16. Arb. dec. re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 27 Jun 1962-
3 May 1960

Series II
Office Files 1941-1964
Boxes 4-8

- Box 7 Note: Decisions contained in Box 7 are arranged in reverse chronological order.
1. Table of contents re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 1 Nov 1958-2 Feb 1955
 - 2-3. Arb. dec. re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 1 Nov 1958-2 Feb 1955
 4. Table of contents re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 19 Mar 1954-29 Mar 1947
 - 5-6. Arb. dec. re: Industrial Rayon Corp., 19 Mar 1954-29 Mar 1947
 7. Miscellaneous arb. dec, 10 Apr 1964-25 Feb 1963
Note: Decisions contained in this folder are not included in tables of contents. The majority of these decisions pertain to Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co. A complete listing includes: Cranston Print Works Co. Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp. Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co.
 8. Table of contents re: Misc. arb. dec, 16 Nov 1962-17 Feb 1960
Note: The majority of these decisions pertain to Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co. A complete listing includes:
Cranston Print Works Co.
Frank Chervan, Inc.
Gold-Tex Fabrics Corp.
Hampton Looms of Virginia
Moore of Bedford, Inc.
Pacific Columbia Mills, Inc.
Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co.
Skenandoa Rayon Corp.
 - 9-14. Misc. arb. dec, 16 Nov 1962-17 Feb 1960

Series II
Office Files 9441-1964
Boxes 4-8

- Box 8 Note: Decisions contained in Box 8 are arranged in reverse chronological order.
1. Table of contents re: Misc. arb. dec, 16 Nov 1959-21 Nov 1949
Note: The majority of these decisions pertain to Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co. and Gold-Tex Fabrics Corp. A complete listing includes:
Ashland Corp.
Brookford Kills
Cranston Print Works Co.
E. I. Dupont De Nemours & Co.
Gold-Tex Fabrics Corp.
Mt. Vernon-Woodberry Mills, Inc.
New Bedford Rayon Co.
Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Co.
Skenandoa Rayon Corp.
United States Rubber Company
 - 2-5. Misc. arb. dec, 16 Nov 1959-21 Nov 1949
 6. Table of contents and arb. dec. re: Richmond Piece Dye Works, 4 May 1957