The papers of John Dillon were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1974 by Mr. Dillon and were opened for research in September of 1983. John Dillon was active in union affairs of the Mergenthaler unit of Local 475 of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UEW), 1946-1948, serving as chairman of the unit and also as president of Members for Democratic Action of Local 475. He subsequently became president of Local 770, UAW-CIO when the Mergenthaler unit voted in November, 1948 to leave the UEW and affiliate with the UAW.

The papers of Mr. Dillon consist primarily of correspondence, flyers, and memoranda of both union officials of the UEW and the dissident members of the Mergenthaler unit of the UEW, led by Mr. Dillon, who were seeking to disaffiliate with the UEW and to form a new union under the aegis of the UAW. In a National Labor Relations Board election in November, 1948, the dissidents won overwhelmingly, and Mr. Dillon was elected president of the new, UAW-CIO Local 770.

Papers are arranged chronologically.