THE CHARLES BECKMAN COLLECTION PAPERS, 1933-1962 PREDOMINANTLY, 1936-1960 FOUR LINEAR FEET

Accession Number 892

The papers of Charles Beckman were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1978 by Mary Beckman. The collection was processed and opened for research in May of 1979.

Charles Beckman was born in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, in 1901. His family later moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he received his early education. In 1913, his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where five years later, he became an apprentice at the L.K. Comstock Company. He left soon after for a position as a trimmer at the Briggs auto plant. From 1919 until 1920, Mr. Beckman worked at the Fisher Body plant on Coit Road as a fireman, but was laid off until 1921 when he was rehired by Fisher Body as a trimmer.

After two unsuccessful attempts by the AFL to organize the plant in 1929, the company in response to the AFL's action, formed a company union in which Mr. Beckman was elected committeeman by the Trim Shop. However, he left the company union a year later and joined the AFL, Federal Local 14163 which struck the plant in 1932. Two years later, he joined the AFL Federal Local 18614. In 1936, it was chartered by the UAW as Local 45.

Since 1936, Mr. Beckman served eighteen consecutive terms as president of Local 45, and in between a term as vice president, as well as two terms as trustee. He also served for twenty years on the Shop Committee, eighteen of these as chairman. Mr. Beckman was active in the UAW's GM Sub-Council #3 and served as chairman of the Sub-Council for three years and secretary for two. In addition, he served three terms as a member of the GM Negotiating Committee. Mr. Beckman was also a delegate to the meetings which chartered the Cleveland District Auto Council, and later served seven terms as secretary and nine as president of that body. On two occasions he was elected vice president of the Ohio State CIO Council.

From the time that he participated in the organizational strikes at Fisher Body, Mr. Beckman recognized the importance of helping to organize wherever and whenever the occasion called. He was at many organizational meetings and picket lines of other unions. In addition to his efforts in labor organization and negotiation activities, he encouraged and took a leadership position in promoting picnics, dances, parades, and Christmas Parties. Mr. Beckman was also active in community affairs, in civil rights causes, and in opposition to fascism and war. He retired in 1960 and died on December 2, 1969.

The papers of Mr. Beckman reflect his work with Local 45 and the organizations with which it was affiliated and, to a lesser degree, his involvement in political and social issues.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Activities of the Cleveland District Auto Council, 1934-1944.

Activities of the Local 45 Negotiation Committee, 1937-1940.

Anti-fascist and anti-war activities, 1941.

Call to the National Conference of Negro Youth, 1941.

Call to the National Negro Congress, 1940.

Call to the Ohio CIO Women's Conference, 1941.

Cleveland Sit-Downs, 1936-1937.

General Motors Strike, 1939.

Grievances and grievance procedures, 1937-1941.

Ladies Auxiliary, 1936-1937.

The Reuther-Wilson debate on war production, 1942.

UAW factional disputes, 1939.

Among the correspondents are: (An index to the location of these letters will be found on the last page of the guide).

John L. Lewis

Homer Martin

Walter Reuther

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Clippings relating to the "Munich Betrayal," the NLRB, UAW and General Motors negotiations, the Reuther-Wilson debate on war production, strikes, various local political and social issues, and the series of articles entitled "Inside the CIO."

Box 1-2 Series II Conferences and Conventions:

Contains reports, resolutions, financial statements, speeches, roll calls, and other material relating to the various conferences and conventions of the UAW, the Ohio State CIO, and the Cleveland District Auto Council.

Box 3-8 Series III Correspondence and Reports:

Contains the correspondence, reports, resolutions, grievances, financial statements, by-laws, constitutions, agreements, and other material relating to the organizations with which Mr. Beckman was associated.

Box 9-10 Series IV Minutes:

Minutes of the regular and Executive Board meetings of the Cleveland District Auto Council and its various committees; the meetings of the General Motors Council and Sub-Council; the various boards and committees of Local 45; the Trim Shop; and the Tool and Die Countil.

Non-Manuscript Material:

Nine photographs most of which relate to Local 45, Ohio State CIO and UAW conventions in the late 1930's, as well as a (ca. 1944) poster advertising the "UAW-CIO GI-Mail" have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual collections. Numerous pamphlets concerning labor conferences and conventions as well as labor law and education have been placed in the Archives Library along with numerous, and mostly labor, periodicals and newspapers. A list

of the library material is located at the end of this guide.

See also UAW Local 45 Collection, Accession number 876. Charles Beckman's oral history is available to serious researchers in the Archives Reading Room.

- Box 1 Folder 12 Conferences and Conventions: UAW, Fisher Body Conference, August 20-22, 1938.
 - 13 Conferences and Conventions: UAW, "Minutes Chevrolet, Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac and Yellow Cab Conference," August 27-29, 1938.
 - 14Conferences and Conventions: UAW, "Minutes of Conference," September 11-12, 1938.
 - 15 Conferences and Conventions: UAW, "Minutes of Conference," September 17-18, 1938.
 - 16-20 Conferences and Conventions: UAW Special Convention, week of March 27th, 1939.
 - 21 Conferences and Conventions: "Auto Council Education Conference," October 28, 1939.
 - 22 Conferences and Conventions: UAW 5th Annual Convention, July 29, 1940-August 2, 1940.
 - 23Conferences and Conventions: "UAW-General Motors Conference," includes correspondence, February 8-27, 1941.
- Box 2 Folder 1-3 Conferences and Conventions: UAW 6th Annual Convention, April 4-17, 1941.
 - 4 Conferences and Conventions: General Motors Apprentice Conference, July 27, 1941-October 2, 1941,
 - 5 Conferences and Conventions: Ohio CIO Convention, October 17-19, 1941.
 - 6-7 Conferences and Conventions: UAW 14th Constitutio Convention, March 22-27, 1953.
 - 8-9 Conferences and Conventions: UAW Full Employment Conference, December 6-7, 1953.
 - 10 Conferences and Conventions: National Conference of General Motors Locals, January 12-15, 1955.
 - 11-15 Conferences and Conventions: UAW 15th Constitutional Convention, March 27, 1955-April 1, 1955.
 - 16 Conferences and Conventions: Summary of General Motors Conference, May 9, 1955.

Series I Box 1

Clippings relating to the "Munich Betrayal," NLRB, UAW and General Motors negotiations, Reuther-Wilson debate on war production, strikes, and various political and social issues. The files are arranged chronologically. The series of articles entitled "Inside the CIO" have been placed at the end of the series. The series covers the period 1938-1962.

- Box 1 Folder 1 Clippings: Includes articles on the "Munich Betrayal and its Consequences," and the Cleveland election, 12/10/38.
 - 2 Clippings: Includes "An article on the NLRB, June 18, 1940-July 14, 1940."
 - 3 Clippings: Includea articles on the UAW and General Motors negotiations, and the Reuther-Wilson debate on war production, March, 1942-April 1, 1942.
 - 4 Clippings: Includes articles on the Buick locals rejection os possible strike action by the International, January 10, 1948-May 26, 1948.
 - 5 Clippings: Includes a newspaper advertisement on the benefits to the workers of the union, January 9, 1953-May 20, 1955.
 - 6 Clippings: October 8, 1957.
 - 7 Clippings: Includes articles on the UAW convention, January 23, 1958-July 24, 1958.
 - 8 Clippings: February 21, 1962.
 - 9 Clippings: The series of articles entitled "Inside the CIO," January 11-17, 1938.

Series II Boxes 1-2

Contains reports, resolutions, financial statements, speeches, roll calls, and other material relating to the various conferences and conventions of the UAW, the Ohio State CIO, and the Cleveland District Auto Council. The files are arranged Chronological and cover the period 1933-1958.

- Box 1 Folder 10 Conferences and Conventions: Works Conference of Fisher Body, November 6, 1933.
 - 11 Conferences and Conventions: "General Motors Conference," November 14-15, 1937.

- Box 6 Folder 1 Correspondence, Reports: November 1-11, 1940.
 - 2 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Vultee</u> <u>Striker</u>, November 12-30, 1940.
 - 3 Correspondence, Reports: December 7-17, 1940.
 - 4 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Labor's</u> <u>Non-Partison League Bulletin</u>, December 20-31, 1940.
 - 5 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a CIO Organizing Committee Report, 1940.
 - 6 Correspondence, Reports: January 3-29, 1941.
 - 7 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a call to the CIO "Organizers Conference" and a copy of the <u>Legislative</u>
 <u>Bulletin</u> of the Ohio CIO Council, February 2-28, 1941.
 - 8-9 Correspondence, Reports: March 4-24, 1941.
 - 10 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Legislative</u> Bulletin of the Ohio CIO Council, April 1-15, 1941.
 - 11 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the <u>News Bulletin</u> of the Youth Committee Against War, April 17-30, 1941.
 - 12 Correspondence, Reports: Includes recommendations on the dispute between the UAW dnd General Motors which was before the National Defense Mediation Board, and the "Tentative Understanding" arrived at before mediation, May 2-16, 1941.
 - 13-14 Correspondence, Reports: May 17, 1941-June 20, 1941.
 - 15 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the <u>Souvenir Program</u> of the 6th annual Local 45 picnic, and the call to the Ohio CIO Women's Conference, June 22-29, 1941.
 - 16-19 Correspondence, Reports: July 2, 1941-October 29, 1941.
 - 20 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the call to the National Conference of Negro Youth, November 2-28, 1941.
 - 21 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a resolution of the Auto Council expressing its full support to the United States war effort as a result of Pearl Harbor, December 1-15, 1941.
 - 22 Correspondence, Reports: 1941.

- 21 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Republic</u>
 <u>Steel Strike News</u>, June 7-30, 1938.
- 22-23 Correspondence, Reports: July 1-28, 1938.

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- 1-5 Correspondence, Reports: August 1, 1938-December 27, 1938.
 - 6 Correspondence, Reports: Contains resolutions, 1938.
 - 7 Correspondence, Reports: Contains the proposed supplement to the UAW contract for tool and die, engineering, and maintenance workers, 1938.
 - 8 Correspondence, Reports: Includes Local 45 list of officers, and list of members on the negotiating committee, 1938.
- 9-10 Correspondence, Reports: 1938.
- 11-19 Correspondence, Reports: January 2, 1939-July 30, 1939.
 - 20 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a memorandum on the settlement of the tool and die makers strike, 8/3-14/39.
- 21-23 Correspondence, Reports: August 15, 1935-September 30, 1939.

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- Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the Ohio Industrial Union Council Convention, October 1-13, 1939.
 - 2 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the activities of CIO Region 2, October 19-27, 1939.
 - 3-4 Correspondence, Reports: November 2, 1939-December 31, 1939.
 - 5 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the proposed changes in the naterioal agreement by Sub-Council 3, and a list of people in various committees in the Auto Council,1939.
 - 6-7 Correspondence, Reports: 1939.
 - 8-11 Correspondence, Reports: January 3, 1940-March 18, 1940.
 - 12 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the "American Civil Liberties Union Rally, March 20-31, 1940.
- 13. Correspondence, Reports: April 2-26, 1940.
- 14. Correspondence, Reports: Includes a "Call to the National Negro Congress," and the "Call to the Mother's Day Peace Parade," April 27-28, 1940.
 - 15-22 Correspondence, Reports: May 1, 1940-October 31, 1940.

- 17 Conferences and Conventions: UAW Special Constitutional Convention, January 22-24, 1958.
- Conferences and Conventions: UAW Special Constitutional Convention, includes a brief biography of Beckman and a short history of Local 45, January 22-24, 1958.

Series III Boxes 3-8

Contains the correspondence, reports, resolutions, financial statements, and other material relating to the organizations with which Mr. Beckman was associated. The files are arranged chronologically. A number of the files are grouped by document type or subject and have been placed at the series in alphabetical order. They consist of labor agreements, audits of Local 45, "Auto Council Paid Bills and Receipts," by-laws and constitutions, credentials of delegates to the Auto Council, the General Motors Strike Bulletin, grievances, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Local 45 News, petitions, Beckman speeches, tickets for picnics, raffles, and dances, and the decisions of the UAW Office of the Umpire. The series covers the period 1934-1962.

- Box 3 Folder
- Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on "The Need of a Progressive Program in the United Automobile Workers Union," June 9, 1935-December 23, 1935.
- 2 Correspondence, Reports: Includes reports on deportation for labor and political activity, and a "Sketch of the American Labor Movement," January 3, 1936-September 30, 1936.
- 3-6 Correspondence, Reports: October 6, 1936-March 30, 1937.
- 7 Correspondence, Reports: Includes "Seniority Rules for the Fisher Body Cleveland Division Male and Female Help," April 6-27, 1937.
- 8 Correspondence, Reports: Includes "Seniority Groups for the Fisher Body Cleveland Division Male and Female Help," May 1-29, 1937.
- 9-10 Correspondence, Reports: June 1, 1937-July 27, 1937.
 - 11 Correspondence, Reports: Includes CIO Draft Constitution, August 4, 1937-September 29, 1937.
 - 12. Correspondence, Reports: October 9-30, 1937.
 - Correspondence, Reports: Includes "Call to Action!" by the People's Congress for Democracy and Peace, 11/1-26/37.
- 14-20 Correspondence, Reports: December 3, 1937-May 27, 1938.

Box 3 Folder 21 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Republic</u>

<u>Steel Strike News</u>, June 7-30, 1938.

22-23 Correspondence, Reports: July 1-28, 1938.

Box 4

- 1-5 Correspondence, Reports: August 1, 1938-December 27, 1938.
- 6 Correspondence, Reports: Contains resolutions, 1938.
- 7 Correspondence, Reports: Contains the proposed supplement to the UAW contract for tool and die, engineering, and maintenance workers, 1938.
 - 8 Correspondence, Reports: Includes Local 45 list of

officers, and list of members on the negotiating committee, 1938.

9-10 Correspondence, Reports: 1938.

11-19 Correspondence, Reports: January 2, 1939-July 30, 1939.

20 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a memorandum on the settlement of the tool and die makers strike, 8/3-14/39.

21-23 Correspondence, Reports: August 15, 1935-September 30, 1939.

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- Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the Ohio Industrial Union Council Convention, October 1-18, 1939.
- 2 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the activities of CIO Region 2, October 19-27, 1939.
- 3-4 Correspondence, Reports: November 2, 1939-December 31, 1939.
- 5 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the proposed changes in the national agreement by Sub-Council 3, and a list of people in various committees in the Auto Council, 1939.
- 6-7 Correspondence, Reports: 1939.
- 8-11 Correspondence, Reports: January 3, 1940-March 18, 1940.
 - 12 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a report on the "American Civil Liberties Union Rally, March 20-31, 1940.
 - 13 Correspondence, Reports: April 2-26, 1940.
 - 14 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a "Call to the National Negro Congress," and the "Call to the Mother's Day Peace Parade," April 27-28, 1940.
- 15-22 Correspondence, Reports: May 1, 1940-October 31, 1940.

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- 2 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Vultee</u> Striker, November 12-30, 1940.
- 3 Correspondence, Reports: December 7-17, 1940.
- 4 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Labor's</u> <u>Non-Partison League Bulletin</u>, December 20-31, 1940.
- 5 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a CIO Organizing Committee Report, 1940.
- 6 Correspondence, Reports: January 3-29, 1941.
- 7 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a call to the CIO "Organizers Conference," and a copy of the <u>Legislative</u>
 Bulletin of the Ohio CIO Council, February 2-28, 1941.
- 8-9 Correspondence, Reports: March 4-24, 1941.
 - 10 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a copy of the <u>Legislative</u> Bulletin of the Ohio CIO Council, April 1-15, 1941.
 - 11 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the News Bulletin of the Youth Committee Against War, April 17-30, 1941.
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- 13-14 Correspondence, Reports: May 17, 1941-June 20, 1941.
 - 15 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the <u>Souvenir Program</u> of the 6th Annual Local 45 Picnic, and the call to the Ohio CIO Women's Conference, June 22-29, 1941.
- 16-19 Correspondence, Reports: July 2, 1941-October 29, 1941.
 - 20 Correspondence, Reports: Includes the call to the National Conference of Negro Youth, November 2-28, 1941.
 - 21 Correspondence, Reports: Includes a resolution of the Auto Council expressing its full support to the United States war effort as a result of Pearl Harbor, December 1-15, 1941.
 - 22 Correspondence, Reports, 1941.

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			3	Correspondence, Reports: "Agreements-All Locals," May 31, 1934-1937.	
			4	Correspondence, Reports: Agreements, UAW and General Motors, February 11, 1937-March 12, 1937.	
			5	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, UAW and General Motors, March 7, 1938.	
			6	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, John F. Cummins and Cleveland Industrial Union Council, March, 1940.	
			7	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, UAW and General Motors, 1940.	
			8	Correspondence, Reports: Analysis of the UAW and General Motors agreement of 1940, June 18, 1940-January 1, 1941.	
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			10	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, UAW and General Motors, 1941.	
			11	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, UAW and General Motors, May 29, 1950.	
			12	Correspondence, Reports: Agreement, UAW and General Motors, June 12, 1955.	
			13	Correspondence, Reports: Audits, Local 45, April 1, 1937-March 31, 1939.	
			14	Correspondence, Reports: "Auto Council Paid Bills and Receipts," November 17, 1939-September 23, 1941.	
			15	Correspondence, Reports: By-Laws and Constitutions, Constitution of Auto Council, 1936.	
			16	Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions, Constitution of Local 45, ca. 1938.	
			17	Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions,	
				Constitution of the Cleveland Industrial Union Council,	
				November, 1939.	
			18	Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions,	
				Proposed Constitution of the Farmer-Labor par	ty, ca. 1939.

Box 7 Folder 19 Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions,

Draft Constitution of the City Council of New York,

April, 1940.

20 Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions,

Constitution of Labor's Non-Partison League of Ohio,

CIO, September 28-29, 1940.

21 Correspondence, Reports: By-laws and Constitutions,

By-laws of the Auto Council, 1940.

Box 8 Folder 1-3 Correspondence, Reports: Credentials of delegates to the

Auto Council, February 21, 1937-December 9, 1941.

4 Correspondence, Reports: General Motors Strike Bulletin,

July 3-25, 1939.

5-8 Correspondence, Reports: Grievances, October 27, 1937-

August 29, 1941.

9 Correspondence, Reports: Ladie's Auxiliary, May 1, 1936-

October 25, 1937.

10 Correspondence, Reports: Local 45 News, October 7, 1938-

November 4, 1941.

11-12 Correspondence, Reports: Petitions, 1938-1941.

13 Correspondence, Reports: Speeches of Beckman, 1941-ca. 1944.

14 Correspondence, Reports: Picnic, raffle, and dance

tickets, June 28, 1936-1941.

15-17 Correspondence, Reports: Decisions of the UAW Office of

the Umpire, November 29, 1940-March 24, 1941.

Series IV Boxes 9-10

Minutes of the R egular and Executive Board m eetings of the Cleveland District A uto Council and its various committees, the meetings of the General Motors Council and Sub-Council, the various boards and committees of Local 45, the Trim Shop, and the Tool and Die Council. Some of the files contain correspondence, lists of officers and delegates, as well as lists of those on various committees. The files are arranged alphabetically by organization and cover the period 1934-1953.

Box 9 Folder 26 Minutes: Local 45, Executive Board, February 24, 1938-November 30, 1938,

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- Minutes: Local 45, Executive Board, January 2, 1939-November 29, 1939.
- 2 Minutes: Local 45, Extraordinary Finance Committee, March 24, 1938-August 24, 1938.
- 3-6 Minutes: Local 45, Negotiating Committee, May 13, 1937-November 22, 1940.
 - 7 Minutes: Local 45, Press Room, January 2, 1938.
 - 8 Minutes: Local 45, Raffle Committee, September 9, 1938.
 - 9 Minutes: Local 45, Regular Membership, January 2, 1939-January 21, 1940.
 - 10 Minutes: Local 45, Stewards, April 15, 1939-May 6, 1939.
- 11 Minutes: Local 45, Trial Committee hearing on the case of Anna Urbas. Includes charges against her, June 3, 1938.
- Minutes: First meeting of the Trim Shop, n.d.
- 13 Minutes: Trim Shop, February 26, 1937-October 30, 1937.
- Minutes: Tool and Die Council, March 7, 1940.

Box	9 Folder	1	Minutes:	Auto Council. Ed	ucation Commit	tee, April 10, 1938-		
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			11	Minutes: A	auto Council, Reg	gular Membership and Executive		
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17 Minutes: General Motors Council, November 10-				ouncil, November 10-12, 1939.				
	18 Minutes: General Motors Council, Includes correspond				ouncil, Includes correspondence,			
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			19	Minutes: G	eneral Motors Co	ouncil, December 7-8, 1940.		
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			21	Minutes: C	General Motors Su	ub-Council, Includes corres-		
				pondenc	e, November 21,	1953-December 28, 1953.		
			22	Minutes: L	ocal 45, Arrange	ment Committee, June 16, 1941-		
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			23	Minutes: Lo	ocal 45,	Bingo Committee, June 23, 1938.		
			24	Minutes: Lo	ocal 45, (Cutive Board, January 2, 1939.		
			25	Minutes: Lo	ocal 45, 1	Election Rules Committee, ca.		

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Non-manuscript m aterial: P amphlets a nd ne wspapers t hat ha ve been pl aced i n t he Archives Library co llections. T he l ist i s ar ranged al phabetically b y au thor o r organization that published the item.

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- CIO, CIO Yearbook, 1951.
- CIO, CIO Yearbook, 1952.
- CIO, CIO's Legislative Program, ca. 1941.
- CIO, Daily Proceedings of the Third Constitutional Convention, in five pamphlets, 1940.
- CIO, Free Labor Means Victory, n.d.
- CIO, Officer's Report, 1941.
- CIO, Proceedings First Ohio CIO Convention, 1938.
- CIO, Proceedings of the 1939 Ohio CIO Convention, 1939.
- CIO, Proceedings 1940 Convention, 1940.
- CIO. Proceedings Thirteenth Constitutional Convention, 1951.
- CIO, Excerpt About Unemployment Compensation in Ohio, 1940.

CIO, Council of, Constitution Ohio CIO Council, 1940.

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