

THE WILLIAM C. GAUSMANN COLLECTION

Papers, 1942-1977

141/2 linear feet

Accession Number 901 L. C.
Number

The papers of William C. Gausmann were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1978 by Mrs. William C. Gausmann and were opened for research in May of 1986.

William C. Gausmann was born in Washington, D. C. in 1918. During the 1930s, he was active in the Socialist Party, holding a position on its national executive committee. He received a bachelor's degree in history from George Washington University in 1940 and worked for the Office of War Information until he was drafted into the Army in 1943. After the war, he worked for a short time as a correspondent for The Socialist Call. In 1948 he became editor of Labor Press Associates, a news service for labor union papers.

From 1949 to 1953 Mr. Gausmann served as a Labor Information Officer for the Economic Cooperation Administration in London, a Marshall Plan agency, and as a policy advisor to the Mutual Security Administration in Paris. His duties included the preparation of articles, newsletters, speeches, and research analyses on labor conditions and labor union activities in Europe with special reference to Communist influence in the European labor movement.

In 1953 Mr. Gausmann joined the newly-created United States Information Agency (called the United States Information Service Overseas) as a Labor Information Officer. Based in London, he was responsible for analyzing British labor conditions as well as for promoting the American point of view among British Labour Party and labor union leaders. In 1961 he was transferred to USIA headquarters in Washington, D. C. to take a position first as Labor and Minorities Advisor and later as Deputy Chief of the Bibliographic Division. In 1969 Mr. Gausmann was assigned to the North Vietnamese Affairs Division of the USIA and spent the next four years as a policy advisor to the American mission in Saigon.

From 1973 until his death in 1977 Mr. Gausmann served as senior specialist on British and Irish Affairs with the State Department's Office of Research and Analysis for Western Europe. During this period, he was also increasingly active in Lutheran Church in America social welfare and government affairs projects, serving on various committees and task forces concerned with the Church's role in the formation of public policy.

The papers of William C. Gausmann reflect his role as a labor expert, news analyst, and policymaker with the ECA/MSA, the USIA, and the State Department in Europe, the United States, and Vietnam. They also contain material related to his interest in socialism and his involvement in Lutheran Church in America programs.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

British Labour Party
Communism and the Labor Movement
European Labor Unions
International Socialism

Lutheran Church in America
North Vietnamese Leadership
Vietnam War

Among the important correspondents are:

Richard Niebanck
Victor Reuther

Walter Reuther
Norman Thomas

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Series II, United States Information Agency, 1953-1969, Boxes 3-10:

Correspondence, clippings, pamphlets, and other materials reflecting Mr. Gausmann's responsibilities as a USIA information officer and policy advisor on labor and minority affairs in England and the United States.

Series III, USIA, North Vietnamese Affairs Division, 1969-1973, Boxes 10-24: Correspondence, reports, articles, translated documents, and other materials concerning conditions in North Vietnam and the evolution of the war in the South.

Series IV, State Department, 1973-1977, Boxes 24-27:

Articles, reports, research notes, and other materials relating to Mr. Gausmann's professional interests in Western European political and economic affairs.

Series V, Lutheran Church in America, 1973-1977, Boxes 27-29:

Correspondence, memos, newsletters, and other items regarding Lutheran Church activities in the areas of social justice, political accountability, and international cooperation.

Non-manuscript Material:

A few photographs relating to the European labor movement and to Vietnam have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection. Numerous pamphlets on labor subjects, especially as they relate to Great Britain, are available in the Archives Library.

Series I
 Early Career, 1942-1953
 Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, memos, reports, articles, pamphlets, and other items relating to Mr. Gausmann's association with the Socialist Party and his professional interest in politics, the labor movement, and Communist activity in Great Britain, France, and the United States. Much of the correspondence deals with Mr. Gausmann's employment status. Some material documents his work with the Economic Cooperation Administration and its successors. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically. Correspondence is placed first in each series.

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United States Information Agency, 1953-1969

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Correspondence, reports, articles, scholarly papers, clippings, pamphlets, and other materials covering the subject areas of concern to Mr. Gausmann in his USIA career in England and the United States. These include British politics, especially Labour Party leadership and policy, labor union organization, Communist influence on the labor movement, socialism, and conditions among blacks in the United States. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically.

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