The papers of Morag McLeod Simchak were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1978 through arrangements made between Dorothy Haener of the Women's Department of the UAW and Marian Henry, the executor of Ms. Simchak's will. The collection was processed and opened for research in February of 1979.

Morag McLeod Simchak was born in 1914 in London and was from the Isle of Skye, in the Hebrides, Scotland. She was educated in Britain and continental Europe. She came to the United States in 1941 and became an American citizen in 1945.

From 1951 to 1960, Ms. Simchak was employed by the Washington Office of the United Rubber Workers International Union. Her activities for the URW included writing and producing a bi-weekly Washington newsletter and aiding workers by stressing the need for amendments to strengthen the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

In 1961 Ms. Simchak became a Federal employee for the Department of Labor. Her government service included two years with the Women's Bureau, eight years with the Wage and Hour Division, and a special assignment as head of the Division of Systems Evaluation in the Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance. Before she retired, Ms. Simchak became Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards. Her assignments related to equal employment opportunities, particularly in the areas of sex discrimination and age discrimination in employment.

In 1974 Ms. Simchak served as president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Association. She also served as representative of the National Episcopal Church in the U.S. to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Morag Simchak was recognized as the Department of Labor's leading expert on the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967. She received nationwide recognition and many awards for her achievements. The Morag McLeod Simchak Collection is a reflection of her efforts to achieve equality for the working woman. Ms. Simchak died of cancer September 12, 1978.
Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Age Discrimination
Equal Pay Act, 1963
International Women's Year Conference, 1975

Contents

2½ Manuscript boxes

Series I, Box 1, 4 folders: United Rubber Workers International Union. Report, newscumbs, bulletin and index of URW locals relating to Ms. Simchak's activities while working at the Washington Office of the URW.

Series II, Boxes 1-3: Federal Service Files. Articles, speeches, correspondence, reports, outlines, memos, activity reports and related materials which reflect Ms. Simchak's central involvement in achieving equal rights for women.

Non-manuscript material
Several photographs of Ms. Simchak, the International Women's Year Conference, and the signing by President John F. Kennedy of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 have been placed in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections. Published materials, such as hearings before various congressional committees on EPA of 1963 have been retained in the collection.
Before entering Federal service, Ms. Simchak was employed by the Washington Office of the United Rubber Workers International Union. This small series of four folders reflects a portion of her activities. Materials include a report, URW index, bulletins and a newsclip for the years 1956 and 1960. The series is arranged in chronological order.

Box 1


Ms. Simchak initiated and coordinated all Labor Department activities, 1961-1963, in support of the Equal Pay Bill, served as liaison with the U.S. Congress and with all other organizations, to achieve passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. She was also a delegate for the International Women's Year Conference of 1975. This series of articles, lecture tours, speeches, correspondence, activity reports, background papers and a reference notebook of EPA material, as well as the published hearings and congressional newspapers, reflect these activities. The series is arranged alphabetically by activity subject. Material within each subject is arranged chronologically and covers the period 1961-1976.

Box 1

8. Age Discrimination: Address of Ben P. Robertson before the Senate Special Committee on Aging, December 18, 1969.
18. EPA-Articles: General, 1970-74
19. EPA-Bennett Amendment, history of: copies of the Congressional Record, 1963-1965
22. EPA-Congressional Record, copies of, May 1963.
23. EPA-"Enforcement Activity With Respect to Professional, Administrative, and Executive Employees," a memorandum, November 22, 1977.

Box 2

4. EPA-Published Materials: as listed,


5. EPA-Speech: of Clarence T. Lundquist at the National Retail Merchants Association's Annual Convention (written by M. M. Simchak), January 10, 1966.
15. EPA-Regulations and Interpretations: "Defining the Terms: Executive...Administrative...Professional...Outside Salesman," August 17, 1966.

Box 3

1.-3. International Activity Reports of M. M. Simchak to O/LAB Director, 1974-1976.
4. International Women's Year Conference (IWYC): Background paper for the Conference held in Mexico City June 19 to July 2, 1975.