

THE GORDON W. CHAPMAN

COLLECTION Papers, 1934-1967

2 Linear feet

Accession Number 923  
L.C. Number

The papers of Gordon W. Chapman were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1979 by Mr. Chapman and were opened for research in March of 1980.

Gordon W. Chapman was born in Tomah, Wisconsin on September 5, 1907. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin's School of Commerce in 1931, he became an assistant director in the Wisconsin Public Welfare Department from 1934 to 1936. He joined Local 1 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and was appointed national accountant for that union. He was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1937.

From 1937 to 1944 Chapman continued in his position as Secretary-Treasurer. In 1944 he took on the job of Executive Assistant to AFSCME President Arnold Zander, and served in that capacity until he was re-elected to the Secretaryship in 1948. In the 1950s Chapman also worked actively in a variety of capacities for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Chapman resigned from AFSCME in 1961 to accept a State Department appointment as special assistant for the coordination of international labor affairs. He left the State Department in 1962 and was again elected Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME. In 1966 Mr. Chapman retired because of ill health.

Mr. Chapman's papers reflect almost exclusively his work in AFSCME.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Growth and Development of Public Employee Unionism Legal  
Restraints on Public Employee Unions Union Factionalism

Among the important correspondents are: (an index to these is on the last page of this guide)

A.E. Garey  
William Green  
Joseph Padway

Jerry Wurf  
Arnold Zander

Contents

4 1/2 manuscript boxes

Series I, Office Files, 1934-1967; Boxes 1-3;

Correspondence, clippings, reports and other materials relating to Mr. Chapman's tenure as an AFSCME official.

Series II, Minutes and Meetings of the International Executive Board, 1965-1966; Boxes 3-5

Agenda and minutes of the meetings of AFSCME's International Executive Board in 1965 and 1966.

Non-Manuscript material:

Approximately 42 photographs relating to AFSCME functions, most of which have appeared in the Government Employees Journal or Public Employee, along with one photo-history album on the AFSCME'S 1940 convention, have been placed in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections.

The scrapbook of AFSCME organizer Adrian L. Mitten is also available in the Archives Audio-Visual Collections. The scrapbook consists of photographs, clippings, and annotated commentary by Mr. Mitten on his grass-roots organizing of AFSCME locals for the period 1937 to 1966.

Series I

Office Files, 1934-1967

Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, clippings, reports, and other items concerning Gordon M. Chapman's career as an AFSCME executive official. Included in the series are correspondence from the AFL's General Counsel on the legal position of public employee unions, clipping files, materials on several AFSCME conventions, financial records, general administrative records of the international, correspondence and reports from local and regional AFSCME affiliates, and the travel records of Mr. Chapman. The material is arranged by topic and covers the period from 1934 to 1967.

Box 1

1-4. AFL Correspondence, 1934-1948

5-14. Clipping File, 1934-1952

15-18. Convention Materials, 1935-1937, 1962

Box 2

1-2. Financial Records, 1937-1965

3-11. General Administration, 1939-1967

12-19. Local Administration, A-N

Box 3

1-5. Local Administration, 0-Z

6-7. Travel Records, 1942-1946

Series II

Minutes and Meetings of the International Executive Board,  
1965-1966

Boxes 3-5

Agenda and minutes of the meetings of AFSCME's International Executive Board. The folders are arranged alphabetically by type of material and cover the period from May 1965 to Nov 1966.

Box 3

- 8-9. Agenda; International Executive Board Meetings, May 1965  
and Sep 1965

Box 4

- 1-3. Agenda; International Executive Board Meetings, Dec 1965,
- 4-6. Agenda; International Executive Board Meetings, Apr 1966
- 7-10. Agenda; International Executive Board Meetings, Oct-Nov 1966

Box 5

- 1. Financial Report, 30 June 1966
- 2. Minutes of International Executive Board Meetings, 1965
- 3. Minutes of International Executive Board Meetings, 1966

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