The papers of Elmer Cope were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1984 and were opened for research in May of 1992. The papers were given to the Reuther Archives by the Ohio Historical Society and were originally contained within a larger Elmer Cope Collection which is located at the Ohio Historical Society.

Elmer Cope was employed at Republic Steel in Warren, Ohio. He was an original staff member of the CIO's Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) in 1936. Later that year he became the first director of the Canton, Ohio SWOC office. He then took over as director of the Youngstown, Ohio SWOC office. Mr. Cope later served as the assistant to Regional Director, Van Bittner, in the Chicago, Illinois SWOC offices. CIO President, Phillip Murray, appointed Mr. Cope as the CIO representative in Europe in 1947 where he became the Assistant General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and contributed to the establishment of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. In 1951 he served as the Director of Economics and International Affairs of the United Steel Workers Union (USW) in their Washington, D.C. office. From 1958-1963 Mr. Cope was the Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer. Finally, he was the International Representative of the USW's Educational Department in 1964. Mr Cope died in 1965.

Mr. Cope was also involved with the National Council of Churches (NCC) from 1956-1964. His involvement in the NCC was personal and not professional as he did not represent any labor organization at the NCC in any official capacity.

The papers of Mr. Cope reflect the many different roles he served in the labor movement; assistant director in the USW, CIO representative in international trade organizations, Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, and his involvement in the USW Educational programs. Also contained within the collection are papers from his involvement with the NCC.

Important topics covered in the collection are:

- U.S. role in international trade organizations, 1952-1958
- Labor Education, 1960-1964
- Political Action, 1954-1962
This collection contains limited correspondence. The vast majority of his correspondence papers can be found at the Elmer Cope Collection located at the Ohio Historical Society.

An index to important subjects and speeches in the collection will be found on p. 11.

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2. AFL-CIO Religious Representative, C. Webber, speech on trade unions and community relations, Apr-May 1961
4. Department of Church and Economic Life study paper on farm policies, Aug 1962
5. "Let Justice Roll Down," ethical issues in the relations between growers and workers by NCC [n.d.]
6. NCC study conference correspondence, delegate and topic lists, Nov 1962
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17. NCC study conference on migratory labor, comments of Sec. of Labor, William Batts Jr., 17 Nov 1960
18. NCC study document on defense spending, [c. 1960]
19. NCC resolution on racial tensions, 8 Jun 1963
20. Religious and Labor Foundation social justice award speeches by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Herbert Lehman, 24 Apr 1957
22. Sermon by Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, 7 Jun 1964

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