

EIMER COPE-OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAPERS, 1945-1964
(Predominantly 1952-1960)

5 linear feet

Accession Number 931
L.C. Number

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.

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Research Department reports, speeches, and wage stabilization reports.

Series I
National Council of Churches, 1956-1964
Box 1

Speeches from various religious leaders and study reports on labor, business, economics, and the church. The larger portion of the materials are from the Fourth National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life which was hosted by the NCC in November 1962. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1

1. AFL-CIO Religious Representative speeches to the National Safety Congress meeting, 19 Oct 1960
2. AFL-CIO Religious Representative, C. Webber, speech on trade unions and community relations, Apr-May 1961

3. Christian Century and the Religious Council pamphlets, 1958-1962
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
7. NCC study conference general reports and final drafts Nov '1962
- 8-13. NCC study conference reports, topics 1-6, Nov 1962
14. NCC study conference speeches by Peter Drucker, Dr. Masao Teknaka, and J. Irwin Miller, Nov 1962
15. NCC study conference speeches by Rev Roger Shim and Charles P. Taft, Nov 1962
16. NCC conference speeches by Dr Roy Blought and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, Apr 1956
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
21. "Roman-Catholic Strategy with Labor," by Rev. Paul Musselman, Apr 23-26 1958
22. Sermon by Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, 7 Jun 1964

Series II
Labor Organizations, 1945-1964
Boxes 1-10

Documents relating to Mr. Cope's activities as a labor official.

This series is divided into the following four subseries:

Subseries A: Labor Education, 1956-1964, Boxes 1-2

Manuals from various labor education programs and extensive documentation of finances, correspondence, and program development of the Ohio State Labor Education and Research Service. Files are organized topically, then alphabetically within each manuscript box.

Subseries B: International Labor Organizations, 1952-1957, Boxes 3-5

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Labor Organization newsletters and press

releases. Also includes the newsletter of the German Federation of Trade Unions, D.G.B. and assorted official ICFTU and ILO documents.

Subseries C: Political Action, 1945-1964, Boxes 5-9

CIO and AFL-CIO press releases, Executive Board statements and speeches. Committee of Political Education (COPE) election and legislative analysis. Various COPE handbooks, pamphlets and newsletters. Documents are arranged topically, then alphabetically within each manuscript box.

Subseries D: United Steel Workers International Union, 1951-1958, Boxes 9-10

Research Department general reports, speeches and wage stabilization reports. Speeches by USW President, David McDonald. Documents are arranged alphabetically.

Subseries A: Labor Education, 1956-1964

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23. Ohio State Labor Education and Research Service (OSLERS) activities, finances, and Labor Advisory Committee Minutes (LAC), 1956
24. OSLERS correspondence, minutes and program development, 1957
25. OSLERS correspondence and program development, 1958
26. OSLERS program development and information concerning AFSCME Local 550 and USW District 25 involvement, 1959

Box 2

1. AFL-CIO Education Department finances and programs, 1960-1962
2. AFT Newsletter, Labor Education News, Apr 1964
3. American Labor Education Service Annual Report, 1959
4. Florida Labor School manual, Jul 1962
5. International Chemical Workers Annual Summer School manual, 1960
6. Labor Education Division-University of Minnesota, 16th Annual Labor Conference introduction and agenda, May 1964
7. Labor Education Viewpoints. Spring 1963 and Spring 1964
8. OSLERS correspondence and program development, 1960
9. OSLERS correspondence and program development, 1961
10. OSLERS report, "People, Politics and Government," 1963
11. OSLERS, NALC conference manual, [c. 1963]
12. Pennsylvania St. Department of Labor Education and USW,

Job Classification Conference manual, Oct 1963

13. Philadelphia AFL-CIO Labor Education Conference
manual, Oct-Nov 1962

Subseries B: International Labor Organizations, 1952-1957 Box 3

1. ILO News Service press releases, Feb 1955-Oct 1957
2. ILO pamphlets, 1954-1957
3. U.S. Department of Labor report considering continued affiliation with the ILO, [c. 1957]
4. Information Bulletin, 1951 (1 of 7)
5. Information Bulletin, Jan-Jun 1952, (2 of 7)
6. Information Bulletin, Jul-Dec 1952, (3 of 7)
7. Information Bulletin. Jan-Jun 1953, (4 of 7)
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9. Information Bulletin, 1954, (6 of 7)
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11. List of U.S. delegates at the 40th ILO session, Jun 1957

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1. American Committee for Africa publication, Africa Today. May-Jun 1955
2. Committee for a National Trade Policy, Congress and world Trade, May-Jul 1954
3. Committee for a National Trade Policy press releases, Apr-Jul 1954
4. Committee for a National Trade Policy, Trade Talk. May 1955-Dec 1956
5. D.G.B. Newsletter. Feb-Dec 1952, (1 of 3)
6. D.G.B. Newsletter. 1953, (2 of 3)
7. D.G.B. Newsletter. 1954, (3 of 3)
8. Free Labour World, Nov-Dec 1954
9. ILO NEWS. Jul 1953-Oct 1954
10. Inter-American Organization of Workers (Mexico) publication, Inter-American...Labor Bulletin, Dec 1956-Jan 1957
11. Spotlight, Uncensored News From the Dictatorship Countries. May 1951-Apr 1952, (1 of 5)
12. Spotlight Uncensored News From the Dictatorship Countries. May-Dec 1952, (2 of 5)
13. Spotlight, Uncensored News From the Dictatorship Countries, Jan-Jun 1953, (3 of 5)
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1. AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department Memo's, Mar-Apr 1960
2. Assistant Sec. of Labor statement on ILO, 23 Feb 1956
3. Foreign Operations Administration (FOA) functional statements, 7 May 1954
4. FOA organizational charts, 7 May 1954
5. FOA membership lists and Labor Advisory Committee report, Apr-May 1954
6. FOA fact sheet, objectives, and administrative charts, 3 June 1954
7. FOA Labor Committee 16 Mar 1955
8. ICFTU Africa Regional Conference, Jan 1957,
9. ICFTU, International Trade Secretariats General Conference, agenda and membership lists, Apr 1955
10. ICFTU's 37th International Labor Conference credentials check, 1954
11. ICFTU Regional Activities Fund Committee Report, Mar 1955
12. ICFTU Executive Board Meeting Report, Nov 26-30 1956
13. ICFTU Director, C.H. Millard, speech, "International Organization and Training Program in the Inter-American Region," Feb 1957
14. ICFTU memorandum 4 Apr 1952
15. Legislative Secretary, John Baker, report on the U.S. operations in the Far and Middle East, 23 Dec 1952
16. Organization for the Economic Co-operation and Development Case Study #7, "The Puerto Rican Workers in New York," Dec 1963
17. Proceedings and resolutions from the ICFTU Africa Regional Conference, Jan 1957,

Subseries C: Political Action, 1945-1964 Box 5

18. COPE Handbook, 1958
19. COPE Research Dept. report, 1959 elections, Aug 1959
20. COPE Research Dept. pre-1960 election analysis, Feb 1960
21. COPE Research Dept. list and statistical analysis of all Senatorial and Gubernatorial elections in Nov 1960, 8 Aug 1960
22. COPE Research Dept. summary lists for the Nov 1960 elections, Aug 1960
23. National COPE to State COPE'S detailing the goals and strategies for local COPE operations, [c. 1959]
24. National COPE Director, James McDevitt, on COPE Administration, 16 Aug 1960

25. Report from McDevitt on COPE and 1962 elections, Jun 1961
26. Women's Activities Report to the COPE Operations Committee, 17 Aug 1959

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1. Citizens for Ohio's Future Newsletter 23 Aug 1963
2. Citizens League of Greater Cleveland press release on housing problems, [n.d.]
3. COPE correspondence, 1959-62
4. COPE financial statements and balance sheets, 1959
5. COPE handbook, 1962
6. COPE pamphlets, [c. 1955-1964]
7. Elmer Cope correspondence, 1959-1961
8. Elmer Cope speeches to Ohio House of Representatives and Bowling Green University, "Grass Roots Political Education," Jun 1958 and Mar 1960
9. Handbook for Ohio students of political action published by Ohio Chamber of Commerce, [c. 1961]
10. Hubert Humphrey address to the 15th Ohio CIO Convention, 4 Dec 1953
11. Ohio AFL-CIO analysis of the 1962 elections, 19 Jul 1962
12. Ohio AFL-CIO financial statements, Jul 1963
13. Ohio AFL-CIO minimum wage law, [c. 1962]
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17. Ohio COPE Research Department voter and Congressional district analysis, Jul 1962
18. Ohio COPE statistical analysis of Senatorial districts, Jul 1962
19. Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, J. Lantz, speech, "An Analysis of Democratic State Platform and Legislation Passed by the 103rd General Assembly," [c. 1960]
20. "The Republican Record of Reaction in the 103rd Ohio General Assembly," Democratic Party, [c. 1960]
21. United Organization of Labor press releases on Right-to-Work laws, [c. 1958]

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1. AFL-CIO News Service. 1956-1961, (1 of 2)
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4. News From the AFL-CIO, AFL-CIO press releases, Dec 1955-Jul 1962
5. News From CIO. CIO press releases, Sep 1953-Jul 1954,

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6. News from CIO. Jul 1954-Sep 1955, (2 of 2)
7. Notes From COPE. AFL-CIO. by national COPE, 1961-1963
8. Ohio AFL-CIO analysis of 1963 unemployment compensation bill, 1963
9. Ohio AFL-CIO, unemployment, 18 May 1962
10. Ohio Democratic Party, General Revenue Fund 1959-1961, [C. 1962]
11. Ohio Democratic Party Legislative concerns, [c. 1959], (1 of 4)
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1. AFL-CIO's Andrew Biemiller on the Labor-Management Reform Bill (S. 505), 28 Jun 1959
2. AFL-CIO Executive Council Statements, 14 May 1963
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5. AFL-CIO Executive Council Statements, 13 Feb 1956
6. AFL-CIO on Anti-Trust laws, [c. 1962]
7. AFL-CIO on farmers and farm workers, 1960-1965
8. AFL-CIO pamphlets, civil rights, [c. 1963-1965]
9. AFL-CIO pamphlets, Labor-Management Bill, [C. 1959]
10. Blue Collar Scholar, 8 Nov 1963
11. Business and government on Socialism in U.S., [c. 1950]
12. Chronological history of the IUD-Building and Construction Trades Department meetings, [c. 1962]
13. CIO Executive Board press releases, 1950
14. CIO Executive Board press releases, 1949
15. CIO Executive Board Recommendations, Aug 30-31, 1948
16. CIO Executive Board Resolutions, 1949
17. CIO Executive Board Resolutions, 15 Feb 1950
18. CIO general counsel, Arthur Goldberg on national wage stabilization policy, 2 Feb 1951
19. CIO memorandum on G.I. reemployment, Jun-Jul 1947
20. CIO report on economic policy, 16 Feb 1954
21. CIO report on FE-UAW conflict, 4 Apr 1949
22. COPE pamphlets and stickers, 1955-1965
23. List of dates and locations of 1952 CIO conventions, 1952
24. Textile Workers Union of America, Taft-Hartley, Dec 1955
25. Trade Union Leadership Council endorsement of JFK-Johnson presidential ticket, 1960
26. U.S. Department of Labor Press Service, 25 Mar 1963

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1. AFL-CIO analysis of Anderson-King Bill, 1960-196
2. AFL-CIO Legislative Fact Sheets, 1961
3. AFL-CIO Legislative Fact Sheets from the "Get America Back to Work Conference," Jan 22-25 1962
4. AFL-CIO Legislative Notes on unemployment insurance, Oct 1962-Feb 1963
5. AFL-CIO Legislative issues from the conference of state and local central body officers, 11 Dec 1963
6. AFL-CIO Legislative Department Fact Sheets, 1964
7. AFL-CIO Social Security Department on health insurance for the elderly, [c. 1962]
8. AFL-CIO, Trades-Expansion Act of 1962, 26 Jul 1962
9. AFL-CIO, Unemployment Compensation, 1958 and 1961
10. AFL-CIO V.P., A. Phillip Randolph, report on civil rights, 12 Oct 1961
11. CIO Committee for Economic Policy reports, 1950
12. CIO Secretary-Treasurer, James Carey, speech, "We Have Just Begun to Fight," 1 Sep 1947
13. CIO President, Phillip Murray, speech on wage and employment, 7 Jul 1945
14. Deputy Commissioner of Labor Statistics on unemployment 20 Apr 1963
15. Goldberg analysis of Goldwater S. 748 Bill, [c. 1961]
16. Senator Hubert Humphrey responds to chamber attack on Price-Profit issues, 26 Apr 1957
17. George Meany, AFL-CIO President, 10 Dec 1955
18. George Meany to the House and Ways Committee on H.R. 4222, 27 Jul 1961
19. George Meany to the House Ways and Means Committee on the President's 1963 Tax Message, 13 Mar 1963
20. George Meany to the House Ways and Means Committee on pending Civil Rights Legislation, 17 Jul 1963
21. National Conference for Human Rights, "Management's Responsibility for Equal Opportunities," 3 Feb 1958
22. Stanley Ruttenberg, AFL-CIO Director of Research to the House Ways and Means Committee General Tax Revision Hearings on Tax Reform, 20 Jan 1958
23. Ruttenberg before the Joint Economic Committee Hearings on the President's Economic Report, 29 Jan 1958
24. Ruttenberg to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, 9 Dec 1960
25. Ruttenberg to the Subcommittee on Unemployment on the Impact of Automation, 29 Mar 1961

Subseries D: United Steel Workers Union, 1951-1958

26. Wage Stabilization Reports to District Directors, #1-9, Feb 13-28 1951, (1 of 3)
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1. International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) Report,
[C. 1963]
2. IMF Revision of Rules [n.d.]
3. IMF News in Brief, 1956
4. David McDonald, USW President, on international trade,
27 Mar 1958
5. McDonald speech on human rights, 3 Feb 1958
6. Report on the Steel industry dispute, 1959-1960, Oct 1960
7. USW District 25 Notebook for the 1st Annual Labor
Institute, 1955
8. USW Legislative Manual, 1956
9. USW Local #4516 Arbitration case, Jun 1953
10. USW National Policy Conference Reports,
Jan 30-Feb 1 1955
11. USW Research Department Memo's, 1956-1957
12. USW Research Department Report, 1 Jun 1953
13. USW Research Department Report, 1 Jan 1955
14. USW Report, "Why a Steel Increase in 1957," Aug 1957
15. USW Report on compulsory arbitration, [c. 1960]
16. Wage Policy Committee of the USW Statements, Jul
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