

THE ROY REDTHER COLLECTION

Papers, 1924-1971
(Predominantly, 1936-1971)

5.25 linear feet

Accession Number 1334
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Roy Reuther were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs between 1966 and 1977 and opened for research in June of 1987.

Roy Reuther was born in Wheeling, West Virginia on August 29, 1909. He was the fourth son of Valentine and Anna (Stocker) Reuther. After attending Wheeling High School Mr. Reuther took an apprenticeship with an electrical firm, joining the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1927.

Laid off from his job in Wheeling, Mr. Reuther joined his brothers, Walter and Victor, in Detroit in 1932. Mr. Reuther became interested in labor education while a student at the City College of Detroit (now Wayne State University). He obtained a job as an instructor for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (F.E.R.A.) and attended the Wisconsin School for Workers and Brookwood Labor College. He also served as a faculty member at Brookwood until his return to Detroit in 1936.

Mr. Reuther obtained a job at the Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant, and joined the UAW. He became an assistant organizing director of the UAW in Flint, and was a leader of the 1936-1937 sit-down strike against General Motors,

During World War II, Mr. Reuther took a leave of absence from the UAW to serve as a labor information specialist with the War Production Board (WPB). He briefly served in the U.S. Army before being recalled to the WPB.

Mr. Reuther returned to the UAW, serving as administrative assistant to UAW Vice President John W. Livingston from 1948 until 1949 when he became administrative assistant to his brother, UAW President Walter Reuther, in 1949. Mr. Reuther also served as director of the UAW Citizenship Department and Citizenship-Legislative Department. He was a supporter of California farm workers and also developed a close association with President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert F. Kennedy. Mr. Reuther continued to serve the UAW until his death on January 10, 1968.

In addition to his work with the UAW, Mr. Reuther directed national voter registration campaigns during the 1960 and 1962 elections. He was appointed to a Presidential Commission to study state and local voter registration in 1963.

Mr. Reuther married Fania Sonkin in 1944, and had two sons, Alan and David. Born in Russia, Mrs. Reuther immigrated to the United States in 1923 with her mother, brothers, and sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Reuther met as students at Brookwood Labor College.

The papers of Mr. Reuther reflect the Reuther family, his activities at Brookwood Labor College, his career with the UAW and WPB, and his activities concerning voter registration and worker education. Also included are condolence messages and other material collected by Mrs. Reuther following Mr. Reuther's death.

Important subjects include:

- Brookwood Labor College, 1927-1937
- Civil Rights
- Eugene V. Debs Foundation
- Farm Workers
- Flint Sit-down Strike, 1936-1937
- General Motors
- Labor Education
- Labor Organizing
- Homer Martin
- NAACP
- Valentine Reuther
- Walter P. Reuther
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Norman Thomas
- United Farm Workers
- Voter Registration, 1960, 1962
- War Production Board, 1941-1945

Important correspondents include:

- Irving Bluestone
- Cesar Chavez
- Hubert Humphrey
- Lyndon Johnson
- Edward M. Kennedy
- John F. Kennedy
- Robert F. Kennedy
- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Emil Mazey
- Wade H. McCree, Jr.
- George Meany
- John W. Livingston
- A. Philip Randolph
- Victor Reuther
- Walter P. Reuther
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Paul Schrade
- R. J. Thomas

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1 oversize envelope

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Course material and other items concerning Brookwood Labor College.

Series II, United Auto Workers Files, 1936-1970, Boxes 2-3:
Clippings, notes and other material concerning Mr. Reuther's
employment with the UAW. Particularly well documented is the
General Motors strike of 1936-1937.

Series III, War Production Board and Military Service Files, 1942-1945,
Boxes 3-4:
Correspondence, reports, personnel records and other material
relating to Mr. Reuther's service with the War Production Board and in
the U. S. Army.

Series IV, Roy and Fania Reuther Personal Files, 1924-1971, Boxes 4-11,
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Subseries A: Roy and Fania Reuther Personal Files, 1924-1971,
Boxes 4-7
Correspondence, clippings and other material concerning Mr.
Reuther, the Reuther family and other subjects of interest to
Mr. and Mrs. Reuther. Particularly well documented is the
inauguration and assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
Subseries B: Roy Reuther Memorial Material, 1968-1971, Boxes 7-9
Correspondence, condolence messages, clippings and other
material received by the Reuther family following Mr.
Reuther's death on January 10, 1968.
Subseries C: Publications, 1929-1968, Boxes 9-11, oversize envelope
Pamphlets and other publications collected by Mr. and Mrs.
Reuther,

Series I
 Brookwood Labor College Files, 1927-1937
 Boxes 1-2

Course materials, notes, booklets and other items concerning Brookwood Labor College. The materials relate to Mr. Reuther's studies as well as his work as a faculty member of the school. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1

1. American history; course materials, 1935-1936
- 2-4. American labor history; course materials, 1929-1930
5. American labor history; notes, n.d.
- 6-7. American labor movement; course materials, 1934, 1936
8. American labor movement; notes, n.d.
9. American labor movement; pamphlets, 1932, 1936
- 10-11. British labor movement; course materials, 1931-1932
12. Brookwood Labor College; commencement program, 1936
13. Brookwood Labor College; publications, 1935-1937
14. Brookwood Labor College; student enrollment lists, 1935-1936
15. Brookwood Labor Players; clippings, programs, 1936
- 16-17. Collective bargaining; course materials, 1936
18. Dramatics; notes, 1935-1936
- 19-21. Economics; course materials, 1929-1933
22. Economics; notes, n.d.
23. Foreign labor movements; course materials, 1928-1929, n.d.
24. "How to Conduct a Union"; course materials, 1934
- 25-29. Labor journalism; course materials, 1929-1936
30. Labor journalism; MS, n.d.
31. Labor legislation; booklet, 1936
32. "Materialistic Interpretation of History"; MS, n.d.
33. Parliamentary procedure; course materials, [1936]
34. Parliamentary procedure; notes, [1936]

Box 2

1. "Peace"; script, n.d.
- 2-6. Public speaking; course materials, 1928-1931, 1936, n.d.
7. Public speaking - "How to Run a Union Meeting"; pamphlet, 1934
- 8-11. Public speaking; notes, [c. 1936]
12. Social & economic history; course materials, 1933-1934
- 13-15. Trade union organization work; course materials, 1927-1931
16. "Virtue Rewarded"; script, n.d.

Series II
United Automobile Workers Union Files, 1936-1970
Boxes 2-3

Clippings, notes, correspondence and other material concerning Mr. Reuther's employment with the UAW from 1936 to 1970. Included are clippings and other items concerning the sit-down strike against General Motors in Flint during 1936 and 1937. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 2

17. Aspen Institute Executive Seminar; correspondence, 1963
- 18-19. Aspen Institute Executive Seminar; booklets, 1963
20. Detroit District Auto Council; organization, n.d.
21. Detroit Workers* Institute, n.d.
- 22-23. Flint sit-down strike; articles, 1955, 1966
24. Flint sit-down strike; clippings, 1962
25. Flint sit-down strike; injunction, 1937

Box 3

- 1-2. Flint sit-down strike; interview, 1966
3. Flint sit-down strike; map & correspondence, 1937
4. Gudell, Leo; UAW membership book, n.d.
5. ICFTU - Third World Congress; constitution & resolutions, 1953
6. Reuther brothers; clipping & awards, 1958, 1963
7. Reuther, Roy - European trip; clippings, 1957
8. Reuther, Roy - European trip; pamphlet, 1957
9. Reuther, Roy - UAW employment; correspondence, 1941, 1948
10. Reuther, Roy - UAW membership cards, 1947-1955
11. Speeches & testimony, n.d.
12. UAW convention; unity slate [1937]
13. UAW convention; proceedings, 1937
14. UAW factionalism; news release, [1947]
15. UAW political action; correspondence, 1948
16. UAW twentieth anniversary; clippings, 1956
17. Wages & prices; clippings, 1945-1947

Series III

War Production Board and Military Service Files, 1942-1945
Boxes 3-4

Correspondence, reports, personnel records and other material concerning Mr. Reuther's service with the War Production Board (WPB), Labor Morale Investigations Unit and Aircraft Labor Office. The series also includes correspondence and service records concerning Mr. Reuther's service in the U. S. Army. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 3

18. Africa & Spain; guidebooks, 1943-1944
19. China; guidebooks, 1941-1943
20. Middle East; guidebooks, 1942-1943
21. Pacific Region; guidebooks, 1942-1943
22. Reuther, Roy - Disabled American Veterans, 1945
23. Reuther, Roy - military service; clippings, 1942
- 24-25. Reuther, Roy - military service; correspondence, 1942-1944
26. Reuther, Roy - military service; personnel records, 1942
27. Reuther, Roy - WPB; personnel records, 1943-1945
28. WPB; correspondence, 1945
29. WPB; notes, n.d.
30. WPB; manufacturing statistics, 1943-1945

Box 4

1. WPB - Aircraft Labor Office; reports, 1943-1944
2. WPB - Labor Activities Unit; agenda, n.d.
3. WPB - Labor Morale Investigations Unit; reports, 1942
4. WPB - Labor Morale Investigations Unit; budget, 1943

Series IV
 Roy and Fania Reuther Personal Files, 1924-1971
 Boxes 4-11, oversize envelope

Files relating to Mr. and Mrs. Reuther's activities and interests.

This series is divided into the following subseries:

Subseries A: Roy and Fania Reuther Personal Files, 1924-1968, Boxes 4-7

Correspondence, clippings, notes and other material concerning Mr. Reuther and the Reuther family. Also included is material collected by Mr. Reuther concerning President John F. Kennedy. The series includes condolence messages relating to the death of Mr. Reuther's father, Valentine. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject. Condolence messages are arranged chronologically and alphabetically, with correspondence from UAW locals arranged by local union number.

Subseries B: Roy Reuther Memorial Material, 1968-1971, Boxes 7-9

Correspondence, condolence messages, clippings and other material relating to Mr. Reuther's death on January 10, 1968. Files are organized by subject, then arranged chronologically and alphabetically. Condolence messages and contributions from UAW locals are arranged by local union number.

Subseries C: Publications, 1929-1968, Boxes 9-11, oversize envelope

Pamphlets and other publications collected by Mr. Reuther concerning atomic energy, political campaigns and issues, the Soviet Union, and other subjects of interest to him. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject,

Subseries A: Roy and Fania Reuther Personal Files, 1924-1971

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5. AFL-CIO voters' registration campaign, 1962
6. AFL-CIO voters' registration campaign; newspaper, 1962
7. Economic Club of Detroit, 1954
8. Kennedy, John F. - assassination; clippings, 1963
9. Kennedy, John F. - assassination; magazine, 1964
10. Kennedy, John F. - election; magazine, 1960
11. Kennedy, John F. - election; newspaper, 1960
- 12-15. Kennedy, John F. - inauguration; clippings, 1961
16. Kennedy, John F. - inauguration; magazine, 1961
17. Kennedy, John F. - inauguration; program, 1961
18. Kennedy, Robert F. - assassination; newsletters, 1968
19. Midwest Democratic Conference; notes, 1960
20. National Voters Registration Committee; correspondence, 1960
21. National Voters Registration Committee; news release, 1960

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22. Oakland County Democratic Committee; program, 1968
23. President's Committee on Voting; report, 1963

Box 5

1. Reuther family; clippings, 1950, 1952, n.d.
2. Reuther family history; notes, 1965, n.d.
3. Reuther, Fania; correspondence & pamphlet, 1968, n.d.
4. Reuther, Roy - Berlin trip; correspondence, 1965
5. Reuther, Roy - biographical material; 1967-1968
6. Reuther, Roy; clippings, n.d.
7. Reuther, Roy; correspondence, 1965, 1967, n.d.
8. Reuther, Roy - education; clippings, 1931-1933
9. Reuther, Roy - European trip; postcards, n.d.
10. Reuther, Roy - Lakeview High School; speech, 17 Jun 1965
11. Reuther, Roy; membership cards, passes & permits, 1949, 1963, n.d.
- 12-15. Reuther, Roy; notes, n.d.
16. Reuther, Roy; track book, [1924]
17. Reuther, Roy; WPA employment, 1938-1939
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20. Reuther, Valentine - condolence messages; government, Nov 1967
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- 1-2. Reuther, Valentine - condolence messages; miscellaneous, n.d.
- 3-6. Reuther, Valentine - condolence messages; UAW locals 1-1005, Nov 1967
7. Reuther, Walter; civil rights pamphlet, 1965
8. Reuther, Walter; clippings, 1938, 1961, 1963
9. Reuther, Walter; Eugene V. Debs Award, 1968
10. Reuther, Walter - Ford strike anniversary; clippings, 1966
11. Reuther, Walter - March on Washington; newsletter, 1963
12. Reuther, Walter - Solidarity Day; newsletter, 24 Jun 1968
- 13-14. Reuther, Walter; Time magazine, 1945, 1955
15. Reuther, Walter & May; memorial tributes, 1970
16. Reuther, Walter & May; obituaries & clippings, 1970
17. Reuther, Walter & May - Family Education Center; newsletter, 1970
18. Roosevelt, Franklin D.; clippings, 13 Apr 1945
19. Socialist Party, U.S.A.; resolutions, 1938
20. Thomas, Norman; article, 1965
- 21-22. United Farm Workers; articles & newsletters, 1969-1970
23. Voter registration; commemorative stamp, 1964
24. Wisconsin School for Workers; yearbook, 1934
- 25-28. World War II; clippings, 1 Jan - 27 Jul 1945

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- 5-11. Condolence messages; community, 10-31 Jan 1968
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 13. Condolence messages; flower cards, [Jan 1968]
- 14-21. Condolence messages; government, 10 Jan - Apr 1968, n.d.
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- 19-20. Memorials; correspondence & clippings, Jan - Dec 1968
 21. Memorials; UAW news releases, 10 Jan 1968
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30. Pamphlets; Adolph Hitler, 1935
- 31-32. Pamphlets; atomic energy, 1946

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1. Pamphlets; consumer cooperation, 1940
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- 6-10. Pamphlets; miscellaneous, 1934-1959, n.d.
11. Pamphlets; Nixon, Richard, 1960, 1968
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