

The George Shenkar Collection

**Papers, 1947-1981
(Predominantly 1947-1968)**

2 MS Boxes

Accession Number 1430

L.C. Number MS

The papers of George Shenkar were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1990 and November of 1991 by Mr. Shenkar and were opened for research in July of 1992.

George Shenkar was born in Flint, Michigan on November 19, 1924. He graduated from Cass Technical High School, Detroit, Michigan and subsequently enrolled with the College of Engineering, Wayne State University, in 1941. He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945. He returned to Wayne State University in 1946 and graduated with a degree in engineering in June of 1947, and was employed as a junior engineer with the Detroit Water Board. Controversy over his alleged political affiliations eventually led to Mr. Shenkar's dismissal from his post in January 1950, on the formed charge of insubordination. The "Shenkar case" triggered the passing of an amendment to the city charter in September of 1949 that would require all city employees to take a loyalty oath to the United States.

After a brief residence in Los Angeles and St. Louis in 1952 and 1953, George Shenkar returned to Detroit, where he was employed by various private engineering firms and became active in various socialist organizations.

The papers of Mr. Shenkar consist of clippings and correspondence bearing upon his controversial dismissal by the Detroit Water Board, documents relating to his interest in socialism, and papers relating to the security files that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Michigan State Police, and the Detroit Police Department maintained on Mr. Shenkar.

**Contents
2 MS Boxes**

Series I, City of Detroit v. George Shenkar, 1947-1950. Box 1:
Correspondence and clippings relating to Mr. Shenkar's dismissal as an employee of Detroit Water Board and the issue of requiring loyalty oaths to the United States by all City employees.

Series II, Socialism, 1957-1969. Box 1: Manuscripts, pamphlets, and proceedings related to Mr. Shenkar's involvement in socialism.

Series III, Security Files, 1947-1981. Box 1-2: Correspondence relating to and copies of security files released to Mr. Shenkar by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Detroit Police Department, and the Michigan State Police.

Series I
City of Detroit v. George Shenkar, 1947-1950
Box 1

Clippings and correspondence relating to Mr. Shenkar's dismissal as an employee of Detroit Water Board and the issue of requiring loyalty oaths to the United States by all City employees.

BOX 1

- 1-2. Clippings, Feb-Aug 1949
- 3-5. Correspondence, Sept 1948-Mar 1950; Jan-Feb 1980
- 6-7. Sulik, Alan J. "The George Shenkar case and the development of the loyalty oath amendment for the City of Detroit", manuscript

Series II
Socialism, 1957-1969
Box 1

Manuscripts and pamphlets relating to Mr. Shenkar's interest in socialism.

BOX 1 (cont'd.)

8. Correspondence, Oct 1968
9. National Conference, American Socialist, Proceedings, Nov 28-30, 1958
10. Pamphlets, 1969
11. Shenkar, G. "Christian Democratic Socialism", Manuscript, Apr 1958
12. _____."A Revolution of Basic Marxist Theory", Manuscript, Feb 1957
13. _____."The Technological Class", Manuscript, Apr 1969
14. _____."Towards a Christian Democratic Socialist Party", Nov 1958

Series III
Security Files, 1947-1981
Boxes 1-2

Correspondence relating to and copies of security files released to Mr. Shenkar by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Detroit Police Department, and the Michigan State Police.

BOX 1 (cont'd.)

15. Correspondence, Mar 1976-Nov 1981
16. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Security Files on George Shenkar, Oct 1948-May 1968

BOX 2

- 1-3. Detroit Police Department, "Red File" on George Shenkar, 1948-1973
- 4-6. Michigan State Police, "Security Files" on George Shenkar, Feb 1947-Oct 1974