

Joe Felmet Papers
.25 linear feet (1 MB)
1944-1993

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Jared Natzke on August 14, 2012.

Accession Number: LP001507

Creator: Joe Felmet

Acquisition: The Reuther Library received this collection in three successive deposits in 1992 and 1993.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

Notes: Citation style: “Joe Felmet Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Workers' Defense League Records

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been minimally arranged by the Reuther Library, and reflects its original order as received. In some cases a file inventory or box listing is available. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Abstract

Joe Felmet participated in the first “freedom ride” of the civil rights movement. This 1947 trip, known as the “Journey of Reconciliation,” was meant to test the Supreme Court’s ruling that banned segregation on interstate travel. The sixteen riders were arrested multiple times along the way and Felmet was sentenced to three weeks on a chain gang in North Carolina.

Felmet was a lifelong peace activist and an advocate for civil liberties. He was a conscientious objector during World War II and refused to be inducted into the military. He went on to become an active leader of the Southern chapter of the Workers’ Defense League (WDL). He later ran for the US House in 1974 and the US Senate in 1978.

His papers consist of articles and personal remembrances of his civil rights and free-speech activism and copies of FBI files on the WDL.

Important Subjects:

Congress of Racial Equality
Fellowship of Reconciliation (U.S.)
Journey of Reconciliation, 1947
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Workers’ Defense League

Important Names:

Houser, George
Houston, Charles
Lynn, Conrad
Marshall, Thurgood
Peck, James
Rustin, Bayard
Watts, Rowland
Worthy, William

Arrangement

Material has been minimally arranged and reflects its original order as acquired by the Archives. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.