The papers of the Jewish Labor Committee - Michigan Region covering the period 1947 to 1962 were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April, 1965 by the JLC. A second installment, covering the period 1958 to 1973, was received in September 1975. Part One was opened in 1970. Part Two was opened in 1981. The finding aid was rewritten at that time.

The JLC was founded in 1934 by Jewish labor groups interested in helping Jews escape from Nazi Germany and other totalitarian countries. It worked with the American trade union movement to ease immigration restrictions to facilitate the entry of Jewish refugees into the United States. During World War II the JLC was active in the underground in Europe and in efforts to save Jews from extermination.

At the war's end the JLC organized relief for displaced persons and aided in their resettlement. It also vigorously supported the state of Israel and helped publicize the problems of Jews under hostile regimes.

In the United States the JLC has encouraged participation by American labor in the movement for civil rights for all citizens. They have a national office in New York City with regional offices in important cities across the country. Their educational work in the field of civil rights has been conducted at all union levels from the leadership to the rank and file. To further their objectives they have worked with and provided leadership for a wide range of community relations groups.

The papers in this collection are those of the Michigan Regional Office which has been active in the fight for civil rights in Michigan and led in the campaign for civil rights legislation in the state. Although this collection focuses on the work of the Detroit office there are also papers relating to JLC programs elsewhere in the United States.
General subjects covered in this collection are: (for a selective index to important subjects see p. 19)

- Anti-Semitism
- Black-Jewish relations
- Bombings in the South
- Civil rights movement
- Detroit-Urban Problems
- Discrimination in housing and employment
- Michigan civil rights legislation
- Michigan constitutional convention
- School desegregation
- School prayer issue
- Soviet Jewry
- United States - Middle East relations

Among the correspondents are: (for a selective index to correspondence see p. 24)

- Ed Connor
- Charles C. Diggs, Jr.
- William T. Gosset
- Martha W. Griffiths
- John Hannah
- Lillian Hatcher
- Herbert Hill
- Mildred Jeffrey
- Arthur L. Johnson
- Lawrence B. Lindemer

- Harold C. McKinney, Jr.
- William Oliver
- William T. Patrick, Jr.
- Mel Ravitz
- August Scholle
- Horace Sheffield
- Don Slaiman
- Don Stevens
- Neil Staebler
- G. Mennen Williams
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Part 2.

Series II, JLC-Michigan Regional Office - Correspondence and Reports, 1959-1973; Boxes 11-13:
Correspondence, interoffice memoranda and reports to the New York national office relating to the work of the Detroit office.


Series IV, JLC National Office, 1964-1973; Boxes 14-15:
Committee minutes, conventions reports, policy statements, and other material eminating from the New York office.

Series V, JLC Regional Offices, 1960-1973, Boxes 15-16:
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Series VI, JLC Publications and Publicity, 1960-1973; Box 17:
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Series VII, Michigan Civil Rights Legislation, 1959-1963; Boxes 18-21:
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Series VIII.Organizations, 1958-1973; Boxes 22-34:
Correspondence, reports, publications, and clippings relating to organizations to which the JLC belonged or with which they worked on community relations and civil rights.

Series IX, Subject Files; Boxes 35-45:
Reference files consisting principally of publications, reprints, reports, minutes, and some correspondence. These relate to specific topics on civil rights, labor, Jewish issues, and social problems.
Part I

Series I

JLC - Michigan Regional Office Files, 1947-1962
Boxes 1-10

Correspondence, memoranda, pamphlets, mailings, financial records, and other items relating to the work of the Detroit office of the JLC during this period. These files relate to Jewish community concerns, civil rights legislation, discrimination both in Michigan and elsewhere, and reflect the interaction of the JLC with other organizations interested in social action. These files are arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

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