

**AFT Presidents Office:  
Alfred Loewenthal**

**1970-1979**

**7 LINEAR FEET**

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Detroit, MI

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**Accession Number** 348

**Creator:** American Federation of Teachers, Alfred Loewenthal

**Provenance:** This collection arrived from various shipments from the AFT from 1980s-1990s. The contents were first processed into the AFT Presidents Office collection. The AFT archivist broke the collection apart to create the President's Office – Shanker, Presidents office 1960-1974 part I and II and the AFT human rights collection.

**Language:** Materials in English

**Access Restrictions:** Collection is open for research

**Use Restrictions:** Refer to the Reuther library Rules for Use of Archival Materials

**Separated Materials:** None

**Related Material:** AFT Office of the President: Albert Shanker  
AFT Office of the President: 1960-1974. Parts I and II  
AFT Oral History Collection

**Notes:** Citation of collection "AFT Presidents Office, Al Lowenthal, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University."

**Arrangement:** All Series in are in arranged in Alpha order.

**Admin/Biographical Note:** American labor leader; assistant to the president, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, 1965-1967; assistant to the president, American Federation of Teachers, 1970-1979.

Lowenthal administered several departments of the AFT, among them COPE, Legislation, Colleges and Universities, International Education and communications. He represented President Shanker in the development of the AFL-CIO Public Employee

Department, and in strengthening relationships between the AFT and the International Federation of Free Teacher Unions.

**Scope Content:**

**Series I: AFT Offices files, 1973-1978**

These files consist of internal memos, publications, correspondence, reports, etc., that are related to the growth of the AFT's prominence in the collective bargaining for teachers in K-12 and higher education as well as with politics and educational issues. COPE files are mostly about building the program. Education research folders contain information about the formation of the Education Issues department, the beginnings of QuEST, and the work that the AFT would take on with this department in education reform. Files concerning editorial issues demonstrate the power struggle within the AFT and the shifting voice of the AFT on how to get its message out to the public and to its members. Organizing department materials pertain mostly developing an organizing strategy, and costs associated with organizing various locals and developing future leaders. The executive council files have unique information on the Boston Bussing issue.

**Series II: State Federation, 1970-1979**

State Federation series contains organizing information, and internal issues with various state federations. There are a plethora of communications from the AFT about internal issues and basic information about the AFT national message. There is a wealth of information ranging from organizing battles with AFSCME, NEA and other unions. There is very good files on merger questions with the AFT and the NEA. California, Florida, Hawaii are especially full of this type of information on merger, organizing in higher education and internal issues. Other subjects of interest are Southern organizing by the AFT and the jurisdictional dispute with Local 189.

**Series III: AFL-CIO, 1970-1978**

This series contains correspondence, reports, memos and the like pertaining to the AFL-CIO. The subjects range from AFL-CIO general activities and policy statements; public employee pensions; and foreign affairs. The files on Public Employee Department are business correspondence about the department, organizing efforts and issues concerning labor law reforms. There is material on AFSCME's issues with the department. Jurisdictions files deal with AFT and other unions over public employee representation. NEA files contain detailed information about the AFSCME – NEA agreement to work together in organizing public employees.

**Important Names:**

Bob Bhaerman  
Bob Nielsen

Edward McElroy  
Marilyn Rauth  
Rachelle Horowitz  
Dave Elsila  
Jules Kolodny  
Greg Humphrey  
Carl Megal  
Marjorie Stern

Raoul Teilhet  
Harley Hiscox  
Jack Golodner  
Al Barkan  
Phil Kugler  
Ramsey Clark  
Jerry Wurf

**Important Subjects:**

Collective Bargaining  
Higher Education Organizing  
Human Rights  
International Teacher unionism  
International Unionism  
Merger – Teacher Unions  
State and Federal Legislation  
Union Organizing  
Public Employees  
Public Television

Public Arts  
School Financing  
Labor Law Reform

**Subject Organizations:**

A. Philip Randolph Institute  
National Education Association  
American Federation of State, County  
and Municipal Employees

**Important Places:**

Washington DC  
New York City, New York  
California  
Florida  
Oregon

**Genre/Form:**

Clippings  
Correspondence  
Minutes  
Newsletters  
Reports

**Arrangement:** Organized into 3 series. I. AFT Office Files; II. State Federation, III. AFL-CIO

**Abbreviations Used:**

COPE – Committee on Political Action  
IFFTU – International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions

QuEST – Quality Educational Standards in Teaching  
PUSH – Professional Union Staff Headquarters

**Series I: AFT Office Files**

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