

## **UAW Region 3 Collection**

**Records, 1950-1971  
(Predominantly, 1964-1968)**

**6.5 linear feet  
1 large volume**

Accession #374  
OCLC #

The records of UAW Region 3 were received in December of 1969 from Carroll Hutton and in January of 1976 from Charles Landmesser of the UAW Education Department and were opened for research in May of 1985.

UAW Region 3, which is headquartered in Indianapolis, can be traced back to the organizing efforts which began in the early 'thirties in the Studebaker and Bendix plants in South Bend. When the UAW-CIO was formed workers at those plants transferred their allegiance from the ineffective AFL representation and were among the earliest UAW locals. The area was represented at the 1935 convention by Forrest G. Woods and by Russell J. Merrill at the 1936 convention. This convention was held in South Bend, which is an indication of the strength of the UAW in this area at an early date. In 1937 Region 3, comprising Indiana and southern Illinois, was established, with Merrill as its first director.

Arnold Atwood became director in 1940 until replaced by Raymond H. Berndt in 1947. By this time the region had been expanded to include Kentucky. In 1949 the UAW redrew its regional boundaries in an effort to have them conform more closely to state lines, and the southern Illinois segment was transferred to Region 4. Berndt was the longest serving Region 3 director, holding that office until 1972 when he became a special assistant to President Leonard Woodcock and was replaced by Dallas W. Sells.

Region 3 has some unique characteristics: the majority of locals in the region are small, often parts suppliers to major corporations, and have fewer than 200 members; none of the large corporations whose workers are represented by the UAW in Region 3 have their headquarters in the region; and in Elkhart, the UAW has long represented workers in the band instrument industry. Region 3 reached its peak membership at 110,000, but 7,000 members were lost with the closing of the large Studebaker plant in 1964, and further inroads have been made by automation.

The papers in this collection relate chiefly to the work of the Citizenship-Legislative Department and to COPE and to the political support given to pro-labor candidates and to opposition to right-to-work legislation and various right-wing groups active in Indiana and Kentucky. The files are, to a great extent, those of Donald R. Yeagley, the region's Citizenship Representative. Legislative files relating to Yeagley's work as a representative and senator in the Indiana General Assembly form a separate series.

**Important subjects covered in the collection are:**

Committee on Political Education (COPE)  
Indiana and Kentucky elections  
Indiana General Assembly  
Right-to-work legislation  
Right-wing organizations

**Among the important correspondents are:**

Bayh, Birch  
Bedell, Daniel S.  
Berndt, Raymond H.  
Ladd, Stanley A.  
Sells, Dallas  
Yeagley, Donald R.

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 8.

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#### **Series I, Regional Files, 1950-1971, Boxes 1-11, 1 large volume:**

Correspondence, reports and printed material from the UAW, the AFL-CIO and political campaigns. The largest part of this material relates to state and national elections. There is extensive documentation of efforts to combat right-wing legislation. In addition, there are files relating to administrative matters.

#### **Series II, Donald R. Yeagley Legislative Files, 1957-1971, Boxes 11-13:**

Correspondence, reports and printed material relating to Yeagley's work as a representative from 1959 to 1962 and as a senator from 1963 to 1965 in the Indiana General Assembly.

#### **Non-manuscript material:**

Numerous photographs of Indiana and Kentucky political figures and of national candidates for office have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Collection together with a scrapbook of photographs of the Summer School held in Region 3 in 1962.

**Series I**  
**Regional Files, 1950-1971**  
**Boxes 1-11**  
**1 large volume**

Memoranda, correspondence, political fliers, voter tabulations, reports on various subjects and printed material from the UAW, the AFL-CIO, political campaigns and right-wing groups. The greater part of this series relates to state and national elections. There is considerable documentation of efforts to counter right-wing legislation. Other files relate to routine administrative matters. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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**large volume**

Analysis of 1960 Presidential Election in Indiana by District



**Series II**  
**Donald R. Yeagley Legislative Files, 1957-1971**  
**Boxes 11-13**

Correspondence, reports, voter tabulations and printed items relating to Yeagley's work as a state representative from 1959 to 1962 and as a senator from 1963 to 1965 in the Indiana General Assembly. Yeagley was vice-chairman of the Committee to Study Labor Relations, and much of the material is labor-related. Some material relates to taxes and the "Liberty Amendment," which was proposed to revoke the 16th amendment to the Constitution. Other material concerning Yeagley's work with the UAW can be found in Series I. Yeagley, an official of Bendix Local 9 in South Bend, was Financial Secretary of the St. Joseph County AFL-CIO Council and in 1965, became Citizenship Representative for Region 3. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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