Soon after Pearl Harbor, the UAW and other unions voluntarily pledged to forego strikes for the war’s duration. To compensate, the federal government agreed to control prices, but wage increases were also limited. The National War Labor Board was established late in 1941 (formally, by executive order in January of 1942) to administer wage control in national industries such as automobiles, shipping, railways, airlines, telegraph lines, and mines. It ceased operating in 1946, and thereafter labor disputes were handled by the National Labor Relations Board, originally set up in 1934.

The UAW National War Labor Board and National Labor Relations Board Collection consists exclusively of briefs of cases involving the UAW and companies in the automobile industry, especially GM, Chrysler, Ford, and Continental Motors Corporation. Boxes 1-5 (1941-50) are organized in loose alphabetical order and Boxes 5-7 (1942-44) in strict alphabetical order.