The records of the SEIU Historical Collection, Part 1 were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in September 1997 and were opened for research in June 2006. Part 2 of the collection was accessioned in September 1997 and was opened for research in August 2006.

The Service Employees International Union has been in continuous existence since 1921, although its roots extend back to 1902. Originally chartered by the AFL, it became a member of the AFL-CIO when those two organizations merged in 1955. In 2005, SEIU disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO to lead a coalition of other unions to form the Change to Win Federation.

In its early years, SEIU primarily organized janitors and window washers. In addition to these, it eventually organized a range of other service workers, including doormen, elevator operators, nonacademic school employees, healthcare workers and public employees as well as service workers based in bowling alleys, stadiums and cemeteries, to mention just a few. Originally called the Building Service Employees International Union, the organization changed its name in 1968 to reflect a membership increasingly based in areas other than buildings.

The SEIU Historical Collection comprises a variety of records documenting the union’s history. Some of these records include an original unedited draft of what would become the union’s official history entitled, *A Need for Valor* and the original essays that the union contracted John Jentz to write about the union’s early history. Other such histories and some of the primary sources used to write them are found within the collection as well. Except for Andy Stern, who had not yet begun his tenure as international president when these records were collected, there are also files on each international president, the years in which they served as well as files on other important figures in SEIU history. Records addressing jurisdictional issues, federal government decisions, organizing campaigns, and a particular local union investigation are also located in this collection. Record types include correspondences, memos, reports, biographical material, obituaries, speeches, banquet and souvenir programs, arbitration decisions, meeting minutes, agreements, clippings, press releases, reports, and transcript of meeting concerning investigation of Local 32E.
Important Correspondents

Asher, Les
Bambrick, James
Benenson, Aaron
Butler, Walter
Chapman, Gordon W.
Collins, Walter
Cooper, William
David, Paul
Despres, Leon M.
Fairchild, George
Gompers, Samuel
Green, William
Hardy, Charles
Hardy, George
Hearn, Albert
Horan, Jerry
Levey, Charles
McFetridge, William
McGrath, Matthew L., Jr.
Meany, George
Murray, Milton
Quesse, William
Scalise, George
Schnizler, William
Sullivan, David
Sweeney, John
Ward, William V.
Weinlein, Anthony
Young, Thomas
Zander, Arnold

Important Subjects in the Collection

Labor disputes
Labor laws and legislation
Labor movement
Labor movement leaders
Labor movement – Religious aspects
Labor union democracy
Labor unions – Corrupt practices
Labor unions – Discipline
Labor unions – Elections
Labor unions – Jurisdictional disputes

Labor unions – Law and legislation
Labor unions – Officials and employees
Labor unions – Organizing
Labor unions – Press coverage
Labor unions – Public relations
Labor unions – Rules and practice
Strikes and lockouts
Unfair labor practices
Wages – Law and legislation
Contents

9 Manuscript Boxes

Part 1

Series I, SEIU Presidents and their Tenure of Service, 1910-1996, Boxes 1-3
This series contains correspondence, clippings, meeting minutes, statistical reports, biographical material, obituaries, speeches, and assorted other material regarding SEIU presidents and key moments about the years in which they served. The series is arranged chronologically according to the terms served by the presidents beginning with William Quesse and ending with John Sweeney. However, the first folder contains material regarding those efforts leading up to 1921 when SEIU became firmly established.

Series II, Selected Historical SEIU Figures, 1926-1996, Boxes 3-4
This series contains correspondence, memos, clippings, press releases, speeches, bios, obituaries, and banquet and souvenir event programs, amongst other material regarding SEIU figures that the union considered important. Except for the first folder, which contains records on miscellaneous leaders, the other folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series III, SEIU Historical Accounts and Sources, etc., 1937-1996, Boxes 4-5
This series contains articles, clippings, correspondence, memos, notebooks, published and unpublished academic papers by James Bambrick, John Jentz, Grace Palladino, students and others. Citations and bibliographies are also contained in the series. Two of the folders contain the original draft version of SEIU’s official history, A Need for Valor: The Roots of the Service Employees International Union, 1902-1992. The series is arranged alphabetically.

Series IV, Historical Subject Files, 1934-1970s, Box 6
This series primarily contains photocopies of documents on various aspects of SEIU history, primarily of the 1930s through 1940s. The documents appear to have been specifically used by SEIU staff members (or those they contracted) to write about SEIU history. The series is arranged alphabetically.

Part 2

Series V, Key Records, 1905-1971, Boxes 7-9
Records addressing jurisdictional issues, federal government decisions, organizing campaigns, and local union investigations are located in this series. More specifically, the series comprise memos, correspondences, jurisdictional and other agreements, arbitration decisions, meeting minutes, clippings, press releases, reports, and transcript of meeting concerning investigation of Local 32E

For a listing of other SEIU-related resources at the Archives as well as a selected bibliography, review relevant pages of the Archives’ website at http://www.reuther.wayne.edu
Part 1

Series I
SEIU Presidents and Their Tenure of Service, 1910-1996
Boxes 1-3

Box #1

1-2. Pre-1921 Records Re: BSEIU and/or Locals; wage scales, memos, list of AFL-chartered unions, meeting minutes, AFL charter application, etc., 1910-1978
3. William Quesse Years; telegrams, articles, photos of Quesse Mausoleum, 1921-1951
4. William Quesse Years; receipts and expenses, 1922-1923
5. William Quesse Years – Organization of Women Workers; corr., questionnaire results, statistical reports, meeting minutes as well as corr., including several from Samuel Gompers, 1923-1924
6. William Quesse Bio Material; clippings, memos, corr., 1924-1979
7. Oscar Nelson; articles and obits., 1935-1943
8-9. Jerry Horan Years; corr., article, agmt, organizer’s manual, constitution, 1926-1977
16. George Scalise Bio Material; clippings, flyer, corr., photo, 1940-1955

Box #2

1. William McFetridge Years; clippings, list of chartered and revoked locals, membership and death ben. stats., legislative dept. rpt, rpt of relevant technology issues, corr., resolutions, Marina City brochure, gen. brochure, 1940-1960
2. William McFetridge Years; clippings, 1960-1962
3-4. William McFetridge Bio Material; clippings, bio sketches, speeches, testimonials, banquet programs, 1945-1969
5. William McFetridge; speeches and columns, 1948-1960
6. David Sullivan Years; clippings, blank charter, 1960-1971
12-13. George Hardy Years; corr., clippings, speeches, bio, California State Senate memorial resolution, 1940-1990

Box #3

1. John Sweeney; clippings, press release, corr., 19841996
   (see box 3, folder 23 for material regarding Andrew Stern pre-presidency years)
Series II
Selected Historical SEIU Figures, 1926-1996
Box 3-4

Box #3

2. SEIU Leaders, Miscellaneous; corr., clippings, obits, bios, speech, 1926-1988
3. Allers, John; clipping (see pp. 52-53), 1966
5. Burke, Tom; clippings, 1940-1960
6. Cooper, William; clippings, record of proceedings, poem, obit, funeral info., 1941-1955
8. David, Paul; clippings, IEB proceedings, picture, 1941
11. Fairchild, George; speeches, 1954-1978
13. Hardy, Charles; clippings, 1943-1948
14. Hare, Arthur; press release, 1964
15. Hearn, Albert; clippings, 1963
16. Levey, Charles; corr., clippings, brochures, bulletins, bios, 1937-1986
17. Liebes, Richard; clipping, 1947
18. McKinney, Frank; clipping/obit, 1990
19. Murphy, Joseph; obit, 1995
21. Ottley, Peter; clippings, obits, funeral program, 1965-1990
22. Perry, Albert; clippings, bulletins, programs, memos, corr., 1935-1977
24. Weinlein, Anthony; clippings, 1951-1967
25. Weinlein, Anthony; speeches, 1957-1978
26. Weinlein, Anthony; material regarding passing, 1979-1980

Box #4

1-2. Young, Tom; membership book, union card, Local 32B incorporation records, corr./memos, clippings, Local 32B history, 1934-1978
Series III
SEIU Historical Accounts and Sources, etc., 1937-1996
Boxes 4-5

Box #4

3-4.  *A Need for Valor* (original manuscript), pp. 1-274 w/ cover letter, 1983
9.   Darrow, Clarence; memo, bio notes, 1957
10.  History – SEIU History thru 1937

Box #5

1-5.  Marina City; clippings, statement of David Sullivan and brochure, 1964-1967
6.    McFetridge, William and 1964 SEIU Convention; clippings, 1964
7.    Notebook Listing Audits, Organizers, Representatives and Officers, ca. 1945-1962
13.   SEIU General Histories; clippings, articles, historical sketches, 1948-1991
14.   SEIU History – Clippings, etc. for 1984 Convention, 1961-1984

Box #6

4. American Federation of Labor; corr., 1937-1946
5. Ball Parks; corr., memos, 1935-1947
6. California; clippings, corr., proposition 12, 1939-1944
7. Canada; corr., 1941-1944
8. Charters, list of, 1940-1945
9. Congress of Industrial Organizations; corr., 1937-1941
10. Death Benefits; corr., 1944-1946
11. Finances; corr., 1941
12. Hardy, Charles and George; corr., news bulletin, note cards, 1935-1942
13. Hospitals; corr., resolution, bulletin, 1942-1944
15. Jurisdictional Fights; corr., 1937-1940
16. Local 32J; corr./memos, 1945-1947
17. New Jersey Window Washers -- Racketeering; corr./memos, 1942-1945
18. New York Locals; reports, 1941-1944
20. New York Window Cleaners Local 2; corr., meeting minutes, strike notice, 1934-1936
21. Organizing Arrangements -- Misc. Locals; corr., 1938-1942
22. Organizing -- South; corr., 1941-1944
23. Philadelphia; memos, corr., 1935-1936
24. Professionalization; executive board material, corr., 1942-1943
25. Public Relations -- Broadcasting; corr., radio script, 1944
26. Racketeers; corr., 1937-1942
27. Real Estate; corr., superintendents guide, 1935-1942
28. Scalise, George -- corr., Local 32B semi annual report, clipping, trial transcript, meeting minutes, 1934-1945
29. Secondary Sources, 1936 and 1958
30. SEIU Information; corr., clippings, 1944-1945
32. Strikes, 1939-1947
33. Teamsters; corr., 1939-1941
34. Technological Changes; contract provisions, articles, n.d.
35. Unionism -- Ideology; corr., memos, 1938-1945
36. Wage and Hour Law, 1943
37. Window Cleaners; corr., 1941
38. Women; corr., 1943
39. World War II; corr., memos, clippings, 1941-1944
Part 2

Key Records, 1905-1971
Boxes 7-9

Box 7

1. AFL-CIO Compilation of SEIU Jurisdictional Record; correspondence, no-raiding agreement, minutes, convention resolutions, charter request, meeting minutes, 1905-1956

Box 8

1. Policy Statements -- Includes Information on Jurisdictional Questions w/ Other Unions; reports, memos, correspondences, AFL-CIO No-Raiding Agreement, fact sheet re: SEIU membership over AFSCME, 1936-1960
2. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Airline Stewards and Stewardesses; minutes re: international charter, 1951
3-5. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. AFSCME; charter request, correspondences, memos, jurisdictional agreements, list of locals, clippings, certification of representation, Bureau of National Affairs Labor Report, memorandum of understanding, AFSCME position statement, 1960-1968
6. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canada -- National Union of Public Service Employees and National Union of Public Employees; correspondences, memorandum of understanding, jurisdictional agreement, 1957
7. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canada, The Trades & Labor Congress; memorandum of understanding, 1954
8. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canadian Union of Public Employees; organizational outline, correspondence, proposal for jurisdiction, questionnaire, 1957-1971
Box 8 cont’d

9. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Hotel and Restaurant Workers; minutes, jurisdictional agreements, clippings, correspondences, 1937-1957
10. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Operating Engineers; agreement, convention resolution, 1925-1926
11. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-69, Oct 30, 1940
12-15. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-249, Nov 12, 1940
16-17. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 250-370, Nov 13, 1940

Box 9

1-2. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 371-532, Nov 13, 1940
3-6. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 533-788, Nov 16, 1940
7-10. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 790-1046, Nov 16, 1940
11-14. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-285, Nov 26, 1940
15. SEIU Organizational Activity Comments from Officers; correspondences, 1946
16. SEIU Organizational Activities w/ Colleges and Universities; correspondences, list of organized and unorganized colleges and universities, 1946
17. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Hospitals; surveys of NYC hospitals, study of registered nurses, correspondences, resolution, 1947 and 1964
18. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Nurses in Wisconsin; correspondences, clippings, queries, 1946
19. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Race Tracks; correspondences, racing dates, 1952
SEIU Historical Records, Part 3
.5 linear feet (1 MB)
1938-1996, bulk 1939-1995

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Finding aid written by Alexandra A. A. Orchard on December 6, 2013

Accession Number: LR001924

Creator: Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Acquisition: The SEIU Historical Records, Part II were deposited by SEIU on July 10, 1998. The Reuther Library serves as the official repository for SEIU.

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: “SEIU Historical Records, Part 3, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: The note file used by Jentz to write three essays on the history of SEIU along with the software used to create the note file are available as electronic files (see folder 10-17 Historic Research Project, 1977-1996).

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.
Abstract
See Part 1 for materials documenting SEIU presidents, historical figures, historical accounts, and subject files, and see Part 2 for key records. Part 3 consists of two series, Series VI: Court Cases, primarily documenting court cases, in particular a 1939 court case involving Charles Hardy and eventual SEIU President George Hardy. This series also contains materials including correspondence, publications and flyers. The second series in Part 3, Series VII: Historic Research Projects, contains materials from various historic research and oral history projects undertaken by SEIU. Subject matter includes former SEIU presidents William Quesse and George Scalise.

Important Subjects:
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Important Names:
Hardy, Charles
Hardy, George, 1911-
Scalise, George
Quesse, William

Arrangement
Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.
Box #  Folder #  Folder Title

**PART 3**

**Series VI: Court Cases**

**Box 10**

10 1  Correspondence, 1939
10 2  Court Case, Local 87 Award, 1939 April 19
10 3  Court Case, BSEIU Affidavit, 1939
10 4  Court Case, Locals 9, 14, 117, 87, 44, and 250, 1939 December
10 5  S.F. No. 16,392, Petitioners' Brief, 1940
10 6  S.F. No. 16,392, Respondents' Brief, 1940
10 7  Constitution and Bylaws, California State District Council
10 8  Sample Agreements, 1938-1939
10 9  Charles Hardy, Election Ribbon, 1940
10 10 George Hardy, Election Certificate, 1964
10 11 Notes
10 12 Labor Institute Summer Session, 1939 June-July
10 13 Amendment, Local 9
10 14 Flyers
10 15 Publications, 1940-1963
10 16 Clippings, Hardy Case, 1930-1940

**Series VII: Historic Research Projects**

**Box 10**

10 17 Historic Research Project, 1977-1996
10 18 Oral History Project, In-House Planning, 1977
    Scalise History Project, Correspondence and Research
10 19 Materials, 1983-1996
10 20 Quesse, Background Documents and Reports, 1995
10 21 Quesse, Correspondence and Articles, 1995-1996
10 22 Quesse, Biography and History, 1995
10 23 Quesse, Pardon Letters, 1995
10 24 Quesse, Photographs, 1995