

The Robert E. Dingwell Collection
7 Manuscript Boxes

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Accession No. 359

The papers of Robert E. Dingwell were deposited with the Labor History Archives in September, 1969 by Robert E. Dingwell.

Robert E. Dingwell was born January 13, 1922 in Lansing, Michigan. A high school graduate (1940) he is married and the father of five children.

During World War II he served with the Fleet Marines in the South Pacific and China from April, 1944 to February, 1946.

Among his previous occupations were managing a store, farming, factory welding. He is a former president of amalgamated Local 724, UAW and vice-president of the Michigan CIO Council (now Michigan State AFL-CIO), and at one time helped promote a national daily labor newspaper. For many years he was Educational Representative for Michigan in the AFL-CIO legislative office at Lansing and active in politics as a precinct delegate and delegate to county, state and national Democratic conventions. A Methodist he was involved with local and state civic groups.

In 1964 Mr. Dingwell was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 58th Representative District, County of Ingham (part) after running unsuccessfully in 1954, 1956 and 1958. He failed to be reelected in 1966 and 1968. He was a member of the House Committees on Elections, Insurance, Labor and Towns and Counties and also served on special committees studying migrant labor problems, Michigan water resources, and employment of the handicapped. His interest lay strongly in social legislation, and he was a key figure in much of this legislation passed by Michigan's first Democratic legislature in over thirty years.

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Important subjects are:

1. Campaigns and elections - 1964, 1966, 1968.
2. Bills and legislative programs - 1965, 1966.
The bulk of this material concerns highways and relocation, industrial safety, workmen's compensation, fiscal reform and pre-school nurseries.
3. The investigation of the State Labor Department and of Labor Commissioner Roy W. Johns in 1965.
4. A lawsuit for libber threatened by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield in 1956.

Among the correspondents are:

Governor George Romney, G. Mennen Williams, Senator Philip A. Hart, James M. Hare, August Scholle, Zolton Ferency, Joseph Kowalski, James Bradley, Roy W. Johns, Thomas Roumell, Burton I. Gordin and other officials of the Civil Rights Commission, Ardale W. Ferguson, Howard E. Hill, Neil J. McCormick, and Joseph Pollack.

Description of Series

Boxes 1-3 Series I Campaigns, 1950-1968 2 1/2 boxes

This series is arranged chronologically, then by form, and contains material such as campaign biographics and literature, correspondence, expenses, speeches, press releases, lists of workers, petition signers, delegates, and voting results.

Boxes 3-5 Series II Subject Files, 1958-1967 2 boxes

Most of the material concerns the years 1964-1966 when Mr. Dingwell was elected to and served in the Michigan House of Representatives. It is arranged alphabetically by folder and within the folder by date. It consists of correspondence, copies of bills in various stages with rotations and reports.

Boxes 5-7 Series III Correspondence, 1957-1966 2 boxes

This includes AFL-CIO, general and legislative correspondence, and two chronological file notebooks. The material for the most part is arranged chronologically, but there is overlapping because of the two notebooks. Letters and replies are often clipped together. There are separate files for certain types of correspondence such as invitations, jobs and form letters, but these are sometimes found elsewhere with relevant material. Correspondence will also be found in Series I and II on some of the same subjects, especially legislative problems.

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Description of Series Con't.

Box 7 Series IV Miscellaneous Material, 1954-1968 1/2 box
Newspapers, Maps, Pamphlets, Photographs. These are arranged according to type of material, then by year. Most of the clippings refer to campaigns and legislation, as do the pamphlets. The large map is of Lansing. There are many photographs of Mr. Dingwell alone and in groups. Photographs may also be found in the Archives general photograph file.

Folder Inventory:

Series I

Box 1 Campaigns, 1950-1964
1-1 Delegate Lists; PAC, 1950
1-2 Voting Irregularities, 1950
1-3 to Dingwell Campaign, 1954
1-7 Biographies and News Releases; Literature and Plans; Correspondence and Form Letters; Speeches and Press Releases; Sample Speeches and Press Releases.
1-8 Spring Election, 1955
1-9 Dingwell Campaign, 1956
Biography and Literature
1-10 Arthur E. Summerfield Threatened Libel Suit, 1956
1-11 Dingwell Campaign, 1958
to 1- Primary Election
12
1-13 Ingham County Democratic Executive Committee, 1964-1965
1-14 Dingwell Campaign, 1964
to 1- Through September Primary; September-November;
23 Bills; Endorsements; Issues (Romney, Stealer); Senior Citizens; Signs; Literature and Miscellany; Voting Results; Lists, Statistics, Notes.

Box 2 Campaigns, 1964-1968
2-1 to Dingwell Campaign, 1964
2-5 Democratic Delegates, Precinct; Lists, Workers' Reports; Lists, Ward 3, Precincts 2-3 (3 folders)

Series II

Box 2- Dingwell Campaign, 1966
6 to May-August; Sept.-Nov.; Expenses and Contributions;
2-11 Literature, Maps; Plans; Lists; Calendar.
2-12 Dingwell Campaign, 1968
to 2- Biographies, Nominating Petitions; Correspondence;
20 Expenses and Contributions; Legislative Record.
News Releases, TV; Sign Lists - 1966-1968 (2 folders);
Literature; Precinct Delegates.

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Box 3 Campaigns, 1968
3-1 to Dingwell Campaign, 1968
3-5 Results; Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 (4 folders);
Results: 1964, 1966, 1968

Series II

Box 3 Subject Files, 1958-1966
3-6 Agents, Legislative, 1966
3-7 Agriculture and Farm Labor, 1964
3-8 Benefits to Legislators, 1964
3-9 Blue Cross, 1958-1965
3-10 Boilers, House Bill 2227, 1965-1966
to 3- Reports and Correspondence
11
3-12 Boilers, Safety, undated material
3-13 Chiropractor, 1964
3-14 Conservation, 1964-65
3-15 Education, House Bills 2189, 2886, 1963-65
3-16 Fiscal Reform, Correspondence, 1965
3-17 Garnishment, Correspondence, 1959-1961
3-18 Highways, House Bill 3781, 1965-1966
to 3- Relocation; Discrimination; Civil Rights
20 Commission; Reports and Correspondence

Box 4 Subject Files, 1962-1967
4-1 Highways, House and Senate Journals, 1966
4-2 Industrial Safety, House Bill 305, Correspondence, 1962
4-3 Insurance, 1965-1966
4-4 Labor Committee Reports; Women, Manpower, 1964-1965
4-5 to Labor Department, 1962-1967
4-7 Annual Report; Budget; Inspection
4-8 to Labor Department Investigation, 1964-1965
4-12 Correspondence, including Romney and Johns
(2 folders); Reports (3 folders)
4-13 Labor Department, Problems, 1966
4-14 Libraries, 1964
4-15 Migrant Workers, 1964-1966
4-16 Motor Vehicles and Bikes, 1964-1965
4-17 Optometrists, 1964
4-18 Osteopathic Hospital, Senate Bill 272, 1965
4-19 Pre-School Nursery, 1964-1967
to 4- Correspondence, Committees; Pamphlets
20

Box 5 Subject Files, 1962-1966
5-1 Pre-School Nursery Printed Material, 1962-1966
5-2 Problems, Legislative, 1964
5-3 Railroad Passenger Service, House Bill 2250, 1965
5-4 Salaries, Legislative, Christian Science Monitor, 1965

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Box 5- Survey of Opinion, 1966

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5-6 Taxes, Assessments, 1966

5-7 Time Out to Vote, 1964

5-8 Tour, California, Joint Labor Committee, 1965-66

5-9 Trailer Tax, Correspondence, 1965

5-10 Travel Vouchers, 1965-1966

5-11 Workmen's Compensation, Senate Bill 114, 1963-1966

to 5- Correspondence, Notes; Printed Material

12

5-13 For 1967, 1966

Series III

Box 5 Correspondence, 1957-August, 1965

5-14 AFL-CIO, 1957-1965

to 5- Workmen's Compensation; Equal Pay; Insurance; Honest Labeling;
20 Lists; and other subjects

5-21 General, November, 1964-January, 1965

Labor Department (Romney, Johns)

5-22 Legislative, February-August, 1965

to 5- Senior Citizens; Sunday Closing; Alcoholism; Taxes;

25 Pay Raise; Voting Age; Industrial Safety; Boiler
Bill; and other subjects

Box 6 Correspondence, September, 1965-December, 1966

6-1 to Legislative, September, 1965-October, 1966

6-7 Taxes; Motor Bike Law; Nursery School; Veterans;
Billboards; Conservation; Osteopathic School; Urban
Renewal; Highways; and other subjects.

6-8 to Chronological File Notebooks, March-Dec, 1966

6-9 General (2 folders)

6-10 Letters of Appreciation, 1965-1966

6-11 Congratulatory Letters, Jan., 1965

6-12 Invitations, 1965

Box 7 Correspondence, 1965-1966

7-1 Invitations, Jan.-March, 1966

7-2 Legislative Jobs, Dec, 1964-Jan., 1965

7-3 Page Inquiries, 1965

7-4 Speech and TV Material, 1965

7-5 Form Letters, 1965

7-6 News Letters and News Releases, 1965-1966

Questionnaire

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Series IV

Box 7 Miscellaneous Material, 1954-1968

7-7 to News Clippings, 1956-1968

7-12 Campaigns; FEPC Law; Labor Department Investigation;
Unemployment Compensation; Plant Safety; Taxes;
Highway Relocation; Blue Cross; Motor Bikes;
Education; Dingwell's Key Role in 1965 - 1966
legislation

7-13 Map, Lansing, Wards and Precincts, 1967

7-14 CIO Report on Michigan Legislature, 1956

7-15 COPE Handbook, 1964

7-16 Election Information, 1963-1965

7-17 "Votes Unlimited," Campaign Information, 1968

7-18 Photographs, 1954-1968

Alone and in groups; one with Robert Kennedy and
with G. Mennen Williams. Check Archives' Photograph
File also.