

## **Ofield Dukes Collection**

**Papers, 1964-1972**

**1 linear foot  
2 manuscript boxes**

Accession #380  
DALNET #  
OCLC #

The papers of Ofield Dukes were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1970 and 1972 by Mr. Dukes and were opened for research in December of 1979.

Ofield Dukes grew up in Detroit's Black Bottom and attended Miller High School. After serving in the Army in Korea, he enrolled at Wayne State University in Detroit, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. In his junior year he was elected vice president of the Men's Union on campus.

Unable to find employment at Detroit's white-owned newspapers, he began his career with the black-owned Detroit Courier and as news director of WCHB, an African-American radio station in Inkster, Michigan. In 1961, he accepted the position of assistant to the editor and general manager of the Michigan Chronicle, one of the nation's premier African-American newspapers.

While in Detroit, Mr. Dukes also served as president of the Youth Adult Division of the Detroit NAACP and was one of the organizers of the program, Operation Negro Equality (ONE). Mr. Dukes was also active in the Detroit Junior Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Committee for Higher Educational Opportunities for Negro Youth and Council for Political Education.

In 1964, at the invitation of Detroit lawyer, Hobart Taylor, Jr., Mr. Dukes left the city to join the Johnson-Humphrey administration as deputy director of public affairs for the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, which Taylor directed. In this position he worked with educational institutions throughout the United States, acquainting teachers and students with job opportunities for minority groups and emphasizing the importance of preparing for these jobs. After the dissolution of the Committee in the fall of 1965, Mr. Dukes served as a public relations consultant to the Plans for Progress program, which was designed to provide opportunities for African Americans in business and industry, and on the public affairs staff of the groundbreaking White House Conference on Civil Rights, "To Fulfill These Rights."

In June of 1966 Vice President Hubert Humphrey appointed Mr. Dukes to his staff to do policy and legislative research and writing. Later, Mr. Dukes assisted in coordinating press and information activities for the vice president, especially with regard to making his views on civil rights and urban affairs known to African-American media. His expertise in this area earned Mr. Dukes an important role in the Humphrey 1968 presidential campaign. In 1972, Mr. Dukes' public relations firm, Ofield Dukes & Associates, launched three years earlier in Washington, D.C., participated in Senator Humphrey's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Ofield Dukes Collection consists of correspondence, reports, press releases, speeches and articles (some authored by Mr. Dukes) and other publicity, primarily documenting Mr. Dukes' position as liaison to African-American media for Hubert Humphrey's vice presidency and presidential campaigns. The files are arranged chronologically, following Mr. Dukes' career.

**Important subjects in the collection:**

African American mass media  
African American press  
Citizens for Humphrey  
Democratic National Committee  
Humphrey, Hubert H.--1911-1978  
National Newspaper Publishers Association  
Opportunities Industrialization Center  
Presidents--United States--Election--1968  
Presidents--United States--Election--1972  
President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity  
United Democrats for Humphrey

**Important correspondents in the collection:**

Bennett, L. Howard  
Brooke, Edward W.  
Brown, James  
Edwards, Esther Gordy  
Humphrey, Hubert H.  
Keith, Damon J.  
Martin, Louis  
Robinson, Jackie  
Sheffield, Horace  
Taylor, Hobart, Jr.  
Welsh, William B.

**Non-manuscript material:**

Several photographs of Hubert Humphrey received with the collection have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Department.

**Box 1**

1. President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and Plans for Progress, 1964-65
2. White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights," 1965-66
3. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Office of; corres., reports, publicity, speeches, Jun-Jul 1966
4. , Aug-Sep 1966
5. , Oct-Dec 1966
6. , Jan-Feb 1967
7. , Mar-Apr 1967
8. , May-Jun 1967
9. , Jul-Aug 1967
10. , Sep-Oct 1967
11. , Nov-Dec 1967
12. , Jan 1968

**Box 2**

1. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Office of; corres., reports, publicity, speeches, Feb 1968
2. , Mar 1968
3. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Office of; presidential campaign, Apr 1968
4. , May 1968
5. , Jun 1968
6. , Jul 1968
7. , Aug-Sep 1968
8. , Oct-Nov 1968
9. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Office of; presidential campaign kit, 1968
10. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Office of; corres., reports, publicity, speeches, Dec 1968-Jan 1969
11. Ofield Dukes & Associates, Apr 1969
12. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey presidential campaign, Jan-Sep 1972