THE CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS OF MICHIGAN COLLECTION

Papers, 1933-1963
(Predominantly, 1935-1955)

49.5 linear feet

Accession Number 304
L.C. Number MS

The papers of the Civil Rights Congress of Michigan were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in July of 1968 by Ernest Goodman and the Civil Rights Congress of Michigan and opened for research in 1979. Additional papers were placed in the Archives by Mr. Saul Wellman, former member of the Civil Rights Congress, in December of 1974 and opened for research in May of 1984.

The Civil Rights Congress of Michigan was organized in 1935 as the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights. Reverend J. H. Bollins was Chairman and Patrick O'Brien was counsel. They supported labor in the early Ford and G.M. Strikes and also academic freedom. They opposed police brutality under Commissioner Pickert, the Dunckel-Baldwin Bill, censorship, the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, fascism, and discrimination and attempted to take cases to court to get legal decisions on their issues. In this they were supported by other local groups such as the ACLU, AFL locals, the Young Democrats, the Professional League for Civil Rights, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and Methodist and Baptist churches.

In about 1938 the name of the group was changed to the Civil Rights Federation. J. H. Bollins continued as Chairman and Reverend Owen Knox of the Bethlehem Methodist Church became Treasurer. In 1940 Reverend Knox became Chairman of the CRF and also of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. At this time the purpose of the CRF was stated to be "the defense of civil rights on the part of widely divergent groups throughout Michigan...labor, farm, church, fraternal, language, racial, political, civic, professional, women and youth groups." They defined civil rights as the rights to free speech, press, assembly and worship, the rights of labor to organize and bargain and equal rights for all minorities.

In 1941 Reverend Knox resigned from both organizations over the issue of war policy. From 1941 on the emphasis of the group was on cases of discrimination and those holding unpopular political positions. They attacked the Dies Committee, the Mundt-Nixon Bills and the Smith Act and actively supported those who were indicted in these cases.

About 1945 the name of the organization changed to the Civil Rights Congress with Jack Raskin as executive secretary. In 1950 he was succeeded by Arthur McPhaul and Anne Shore became the director of organization. They dissolved in 1955 and the work was carried on by some of the veterans of the CRC staff, the ACLU, religious groups and various committees.
Part 2 contains additional material on topics found in Part 1 and covers new civil rights issues from 1954 on including the campaign to abolish the Un-American Activities Committee, the campaign to repeal the McCarran Act, and the case of Arthur McPhaul versus the United States in 1959.

Important subjects covered in Part 1 of the collection are:

- Academic freedom
- Anti-lynching
- Black Legion
- Dies Committee
- Discrimination
- Fascism
- Father Coughlin
- FEPC
- Ku Klux Klan
- Legislation
- Police brutality
- Poll Tax
- Rosenberg case
- Scottsboro boys
- Smith Act
- G.L.K. Smith
- Strikes

Among the important correspondents in Part 1 are:

- Roger Baldwin
- Franz Boas
- Charles Beard
- Ruth Benedict
- Ed Carey
- Frank Couzens
- John Dingell
- Tracy Doll
- Ernest Goodman
- Dashiell Hammett
- David Henry
- Granville Hicks
- Edward Jeffries
- Robert LaFollette
- Estes Kefauver
- Milton Kemnitz
- Owen Knox
- Patrick McNamara
- Vito Marcantonio
- Homer Martin
- A. G. Mazerick
- Frank Murphy
- Stanley Nowack
- Harper Paulson
- William Patterson
- Louis Rabaut
- Jack Raskin
- A. Ruthven
- Anne Shore
- Neil Staebler
- Norman Thomas
- Robert Weaver

Important subjects covered in Part 2 of the collection are:

- Discrimination
- Fair Employment Practices
- Smith Act
- Un-American Activities
- Police brutality

Among the important correspondents in Part 2 are:

- J. H. Bollens
- George W. Crockett
- Ernest Goodman
- Arthur McPhaul
- Jack Raskin
- Anne Shore
- Maurice Sugar

An index to subjects and correspondents in Part 2 will be found on p.30
The Civil Rights Congress of Michigan
Collection

99 manuscript boxes

Contents

Part 1

Series I, Civil Rights Congress Office File, 1935-1955, Boxes 1-11:
This series contains material from the Civil Rights Congress of Michigan, the National Civil Rights Congress, the ACLU, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, and the Professional League for Civil Rights. The papers of each of these groups are not interfiled. Within each group the folders are filed alphabetically and then chronologically. Printed material is included at the end of the series.

Series II, Black Legion - KKK, 1936-1952, Boxes 12-16:
Folders in this series are filed chronologically and then alphabetically. Much of the series consists of newspaper clippings. The last box contains an index file to newspaper clippings by name of persons.

Series III, Fascism, 1933-1947, Boxes 17-25:
The series includes material on native and foreign fascism. It includes material on G.L.K. Smith, Charles Lindberg, native fascist groups, Hitler and Nazi Germany. The folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. Newspaper clippings make up a large part of the series. Printed material is included at the end of the series.

Series IV, Un-American Activities, 1935-1955, Boxes, 26-43:
This series contains records on the Dies Committee, Smith Act, Un-American Activities Committee and appropriate legislation. As with the other series files of individual cases are included. It is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. Cases, the Dies Committee, Legislation, Smith Act, and Un-American Activities Committee are the major subjects, each of which has sub-headings. Printed material is included at the end of the series.

Series V, La Follette Committee, 1936-1939, Boxes 44-46:
Very little of the series relates to correspondence. The majority consists of printed pamphlets of the committee hearings.

Series VI, Labor, 1935-1954, Boxes 47-60:
This series contains material on fair employment, labor employment, labor legislation and strikes. Each of these subjects has its own sub-heading. The folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. Newspaper clippings are abundant. Printed material is included at the end of the series.

Series VII, Discrimination, 1932-1954, Boxes 61-75:
The major portion of this series relates to Black discrimination although there is material on anti-Semitism and discrimination against other minority groups and aliens. Files of individuals are grouped under cases. The folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. Miscellaneous printed material is included at the end of the series.
Part 1 cont'd

Series VIII, Academic Freedom, 1935-1954, Boxes 76-78:
Much of the material in this series relates to Academic Freedom in Michigan Universities during the 1940's. The folders are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically.

Series IX, Police Activities, 1935-1953, Boxes 79-81:
The material includes both statements and clippings of police activities in the 1930's and 1940's - for the most part folders are broken down into types of activity as strikebreaking, shouting and the like. The folders are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically. Some printed material is included at the end of the series.

Series X, Criminals Index File, 1930's, Box 82:
This series consists of a box of index cards arranged alphabetically by person. Some identification of the person is given. It covers the late 20's and early 30's.

Series XI, Miscellaneous Civil Rights, 1935-1954, Boxes 83-94:
Newspaper clippings and printed material make up a large part of this series and are included at the end of the series. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Part 2

Series XII, Civil Rights Congress Office Files, 1937-1960, Boxes 95-96:
Correspondence, minutes, reports, and other materials relating to the Michigan Civil Rights Congress and the staff. Files from the Professional League for Civil Rights can be found in this series.

Series XIII, Civil Rights Issues, 1933-1963, Boxes 96-99:
Correspondence, trial transcripts, clippings and other materials covering various issues including the campaign to for a Fair Employment Practices Committee in Michigan, discrimination, un-American activities, the Smith Act, and anti-labor activities. There is some material on Civil Rights activities after the CRR was dissolved.

Non-manuscript Material:
Approximately 62 photographs relating to activities and people connected with the Civil Rights Congress have been placed in the Audio-Visual Collection. Numerous labor newspapers, reports, pamphlets and other materials relating to civil rights received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.
Part 1

Box Listings

Series I  Civil Rights Congress Office File

Box 1  (Civil Rights Congress of Michigan)

- Conference for Protection of Civil Rights - 1935-37
- Civil Rights Federation - organization - 1938-41
- Civil Rights Federation - publicity - 1936-39

Civil Rights Congress

- Administration report - 1944
- Affiliated organizations - 1939-40
- Anniversary Dinner - 1944
- Attacks on CRC - 1950
- Bank Account - 1943
- Cases not accepted - 1953-54
- CRC certificates - 1950
- CRC Michigan Chapters - 1947-49 (2 folders)
- CRC Muskegon - 1947
- CRC St. Aubin, Gratiot - 1951
- CRC 12th Street - 1951
- Christmas Dance - 1951
- Conferences and rallies - 1938-39 (2 folders)
- State Conference to Save Civil Rights - 1939
- Conferences and rally's - 1940
- State Conference for Protection of Civil Rights - 1940 (2 folders)

Box 2  State Convention on Civil Rights - 1941 (2 folders)

- Congress on Civil Rights - 1946
- Conference - 1947
- Pre Convention Activities - 1949
- State CRC Conference - 1949
- Conference - 1952
- CRC Correspondence - 1939 (2 folders)
- CRC Correspondence - Jan.-May, 1939
- CRC Correspondence - June-Oct., 1939
- CRC Correspondence - 1942-1951 (7 folders)

Box 3  CRC Correspondence - 1952-1955 (4 folders)

- Dance - 1948
- Dinners - 1949-54
- 19th Anniversary Dinner - 1954
- Patterson dinner - 1951
- Howard Fast - Music Hall - 1950
- Finances - 1940
- Finance Campaign letters - 1949
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Box 3 cont'd.

- Finances - 1953
- Form Letters - 1953
- Garden Party Case - 1953
- Garden Party Case transcript - 1953
- Goodman radio speeches - 1941
- Aubrey Grossman Meeting - 1951
- Knox Resignation - 1941 (3 folders)
- CRC Miscellaneous - 1942
  - CRC Miscellaneous - 1946-51 (6 folders)
- Mass Meeting - 1952
- Membership Committee - 1943-44
- Membership Meetings - 1952-54

(Meetings)

- Executive Board Meetings - 1949-54 (2 folders)
- Steering Committee Meetings - 1939-1942 (5 folders)
- Steering Committee Meetings - 1952-55

- Arthur McPhaul - personal - 1946
- Civil Rights Newsletter - 1940
- Petitions and Resolutions - 1940-46 (4 folders)

Box 5
- Petitions and resolutions - 1947-50 (3 folders)
- Picnic - 1949-50 (2 folders)
- Press releases and statements - 1949
- Report - 1940-41
- Reports - 1952-54 (2 folders)
- Radio scripts - 1952
- Research Material - 1947-50 (2 folders)
- Paul Robeson Meeting and Concert - 1947
- Skits and Songs - 1954
- Threat letters

Box 6 (National CRC)

- National CRC - 1948-50 (3 folders)
- Board Meeting - June 1950-52 (2 folders)

(Chapters)

- Baltimore
- Birmingham, Alabama
- Chicago - 1954
- Cleveland - 1953-54
- East Bay, Caly
- Los Angeles - 1951-54
- Massachusetts
- Miami
- Minneapolis - 1954
- New Jersey - 1954
- New York State
- Pennsylvania
- Pittsburgh
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Box 6 cont'd.

San Francisco - 1954
Seattle
Toledo
Wisconsin - 1954
CRC Chapter Bulletin correspondence - 1950

Box 7  Civil Rights Cases - national - 1950-52
Convention - 1947
Chicago Conference - 1954
St. Louis Conference - 1954
National CRC Correspondence - 1946-54 (11 folders)

Box 8  National CRC Minutes - 1946-47 (2 folders)
William Patterson - contempt - 1950-52
William Patterson - contempt, clippings - 1950-52
William Patterson case - 1954
William Patterson speeches - 1953
National CRC Releases - 1946-48 (3 folders)

(ACLU)

American Civil Liberties Union - 1939-44 (2 folders)

(National Federation for Constitutional Liberties)

National Federation for Constitutional Liberties - 1940-44
National Federation for Constitutional Liberties - 1940-42
(4 folders)

Box 9  National Federation for Constitutional Liberties - 1942-46
(4 folders)
Conference - 1940
National Conference on Civil Rights - 1941

(Prof. League for C.R.)

Professional League for Civil Rights - 1937-41 (5 folders)
Mary Van Kleek Conference - 1937
Professional League clippings - 1936-38
League Lecture Series - 1938
League Lecture Series - 1945 (3 folders)

Box 10  (Bulletins and Pamphlets)

Civil Rights Bulletin - 1935-37, 1941
CRC Bulletin - 1949
CRC Chapter Bulletin - 1951-54
CRC Liberator - 1949
Civil Liberties News - 1945-46
Civil Liberties Quarterly - 1941-47
Civil Rights News - 1938-39 (2 folders)
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Box 10 cont’d.
Civil Rights Newsletter - 1940-50
National CRC Chapter Bulletin - 1950-52 (7 folders)

Box 11
National CRC Chapter Bulletin - 1941-1944 (5 folders)

ACLU Bulletin - 1941-1944 (5 folders)
Action Bulletin - 1940-45
"Civil Rights" by McPhaul - 1952 (2 folders)
The Issues - 1946-47
Miscellaneous pamphlets

Series 2 Black Legion

Box 12
Black Legion - 1936 (2 folders)
Correspondence - American Civil Liberties Union - 1936
Correspondence - city, county, state, authority - 1936
Correspondence - federal authority - 1936
history
Material issued by Conference for Protection of Civil Rights - 1936
Meeting - June 12, 1936
Press Releases - 1936
Black Legion - 1937 (2 folders)
Press Releases - 1937-39 (3 folders)
Clippings - May, 1936 (2 folders)

Box 13
Clippings - May, 1936-July, 1936 (7 folders)

Box 14
Clippings - July, 1936-Oct., 1936 - (8 folders)

Box 15
Clippings - Nov.-Dec., 1936-42 (6 folders)
Clippings - Boston Post and Rutland Herald - 1936
Clippings - pictures - 1936 (3 folders)

Box 16
Clippings - 1937
KKK Correspondence - 1927-40
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history
KKK - United Sons of America - 1952
KKK Clippings - 1939 - (3 folders)
Black Legion index file

Series 3 Fascism

Box 17
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American First Committee clippings - 1941 - (2 folders)
American Legion - clippings
American Mothers - 1941-43
Anglo-Saxon Federation - 1936-41
Anti-Communist Propaganda - 1935-37
Anti-Communist Propaganda pamphlets - 1937
Anti-Nazi Activity - 1937-38
Anti-Nazi Activity - clippings - 1938-39 (3 folders)
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Box 17 cont'd.
Axis radio - 1943
Senator Bilbo - 1945
Bilbo campaign - 1945-46 (2 folders)
John Bugas - 1944
Father Coughlin - miscellaneous - 1933
    Father Coughlin - correspondence re: 1938-39
Father Coughlin - 1940-44
Father Coughlin - Social Justice - 1939

Box 18  Father Coughlin - Speeches and articles - 1938-39
Father Coughlin - clippings - 1938-42 (7 folders)
Father Coughlin - Pamphlets
The Cross and The Flag - 1942-43
Leo Donnelly - 1943
Fascism - 1939-43
Fascism - clippings - 1939-43
Fascism - pamphlets
Fifth Column - 1940
Fifth Column hysteria - 1938-44 - clippings
Fifth Column hysteria - clippings - 1940

Box 19  Fifth Column press - 1943
Fifth Column press - 1947
Hamilton Fish (George Hill trial) 1942
Hamilton Fish - clippings - 1941-42
Friends of Democracy - 1943
German - American Bund - 1936-40
German - American Bund - clippings - 1936-43 (5 folders)
G.A. Bund Activities - clippings - 1942
G.A. Bund spies - 1943 - clippings
Clare Hoffman - clippings - 1942
Industrial Legion of America - 1942
Knox - Spivak meeting - 1939
Charles Lindbergh - clippings - 1938
Charles Lindbergh - clippings - 1941-42 (2 folders)
McCarty - Norris riots - 1939
Maloney Broadcast - 1942
National Workers League - 1940-42

Box 20  Native Fascist Organizations - 1942-44
Native Fascist Organizations - pamphlets - 1941-43
Native Fascist Organizations - clippings - 1940-43
Nazi - clippings - 1938
Nazi - clippings - 1942
Nazi - pamphlets - 1939
Nazi activities - 1938-39
Nazi activities - clippings - 1938-39 (2 folders)
Nazi activities - international - clippings - 1938-39
Nazi agents and activities - 1936-38
Nazi spies - clippings - 1938 (5 folders)
Nazi spies - pamphlets and clippings - 1941-42
Nazis in United States - 1938-39
Nazis organizations - 1939
Nazis propaganda - clippings - 1938-39
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Nazis propaganda - pamphlets - 1938-39
Nazi protest meeting - 1938

Box 21     Dr. Norris - 1941
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Smash 5th Column Conference - April-July, 1942
Smash 5th Column Conference - Aug., 1942
G.L.K. Smith - 1933-46
G.L.K. Smith - 1935-42
G.L.K. Smith - 1939-44
G.L.K. Smith - campaigns - 1942-44
G.L.K. Smith - 1944-46
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G.L.K. Smith - America First - clippings 1943-44
G.L.K. Smith Committee of 1,000,000 - 1939
G.L.K. Smith - speeches - 1939-44
Knox on G.L.K. Smith - 1939

Box 22     G.L.K. Smith on Labor - 1941-43
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George Vierick - clippings - 1941-42
Professor Van Moltke case - 1938
Louis B. Ward - 1940
Gerald B. Winrod - clippings - 1937-39
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The Fundamentalist - 1939-40
Germany Today - 1939, 1946
The Hour - 1939-1940 (3 folders)

Box 23 The Hour - Jan.-May, 1941-43 (4 folders)
Social Justice - 1938-42 (2 folders)
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Henry Ford
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Miscellaneous pamphlets

Box 24 Miscellaneous pamphlets

Box 25 Miscellaneous pamphlets

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Bail clippings - 1950-51
Communism - clippings - 1935-39 (2 folders)
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Box 26 cont'd.

Communist Party Petition - 1940
Communist Party Petition - Michigan - 1940
Communist Party Petition - Michigan - clippings - 1940
Communist Party Petition - Illinois - 1940
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Communism - 1946
Communism - clippings - 1946
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Constitutional Amendment - clippings - 1950

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Simon Gerson case - 1938
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McNaboe - clippings - 1938

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Carl Marzani case - 1947-51
Carl Marzani case - clippings - 1947-51
Massachusetts Red Hunt - clippings - 1938
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Oklahoma cases - 1940
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Box 28 cont'd.
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   Rosenberg case - clippings - 1953 (2 folders)
   Rosenberg - SObell case - pamphlets - 1952-54 (2 folders)
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   Trial of 12 - 1943 (3 folders)
   Non partisan committee to defend "12" - 1949-50
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   Saul Wellman Trial - 1953
   Harry Dexter White - clippings - 1953

Box 31  Anita Whitney - 1948
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   Dies Committee - 1938
   Dies Committee - correspondence - 1938
   Dies Committee - resolutions - 1938
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   Dies Committee - correspondence - 1939
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   Dies Committee - resolutions - 1939-40 (2 folders)
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   Dies Committee - Michigan I.W.O. - 1941
   Dies Committee - HR 6269 - 1941-42
   Dies Committee - correspondence - 1942 (2 folders)
   Dies Committee - press releases - 1942
   Dies Committee - correspondence - 1943 (2 folders)
   Dies Committee - press release - 1943
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Box 32  Dies Committee - clippings - 1938-43 (7 folders)
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   FBI Communist Attack - clippings - 1950
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Box 33  Fifth Amendment - 1953
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      Anti Communist Legislation - clippings - 1954
      Baldwin (little Dies) bill - 1939
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- Callahan Act - clippings - 1947-48
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- Hittle Bill - 1951
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- Mundt Bills - 1948-50 (2 folders)
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- Committee to defeat the Mundt Bill - 1948-50
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  - Mundt-Nixon bill - clippings - 1948-50 (2 folders)
  - Mundt bill - clippings - 1948
  - Narrow ballot bill - 1939 (H403)
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  - Little Dies committee - 1938
  - Loyalty - 1950-53
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- McCarthy Book burning - clippings - 1952-53
  - McCarthy Foreign Policy - clippings - 1952-53
  - McCarthy Labor, liberal - clippings - 1952-53
  - McCarthy - Stevens controversy - clippings - 1954
  - McCarthy - un-Americans, clergy - clippings - 1952-54
    (2 folders)
  - McCarthy - clippings - 1952-53 (2 folders)
  - McCarthy - pamphlets - 1952-53 (2 folders)
  - Michigan Committee to defend the Bill of Rights - 1948-49
  - Minorities - ballots - 1940
  - Names of communists - clippings - 1952
  - P.L. 637 - 1954
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  - Red Baiting - 1936-41
  - Rogge witch hunting - speech - 1940
  - Smith Bill - HR5138 - 1940

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- Smith Act - 1940-48
  - Smith Act CRC correspondence - 1948-53
  - Smith Act - 1955
  - Smith Act Banquet - 1952
  - Smith Act Campaign - 1952-53 (2 folders)
  - Smith Act Campaign material - 1953-54
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  - Smith Act - families - 1952
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  - Smith Act - labor - clippings - 1948-52
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Box 37  Smith Act legal documents - 1951 (2 folders)
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        Smith Act - Michigan - 1952
        Smith Act - Michigan - bail - 1954
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        Smith Act - Detroit Trial legal documents - 1953
            (2 folders)
        Smith Act - Detroit Trial - clippings - 1953-54

Box 38  Smith Act - clippings - Detroit Trial - 1953-54
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        Smith Act - pamphlets - Detroit - 1952-53
        Smith Act - clippings - Detroit - 1952-53 (2 folders)
        Smith Act - Chicago
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Box 39  Testimonies - clippings - 1952 (5 folders)
        Smith Act - Teamsters - 1941
        Smith Act - Trial Report - 1952
        Smith Act - Wellman et al - 1956
        Smith Act - clippings - 1940-51 (6 folders)

Box 40  Smith Act - clippings - 1951
        Smith Act - clippings - 1955
        Smith Act - pamphlets - 1956 (2 folders)
        Smith Act - pamphlets and flyers
        Smith Act - leaflets, bulletins, reprints
        Smith Act - pamphlets (2 folders)
        Sondergard tour - June, 1950
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1952 (2 folders)
un-American Activities Committee - pamphlets and
cippings - 1953 (2 folders)
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Box 43
Miscellaneous pamphlets

Series 5 La Follette Committee

Box 44
Correspondence with La Follette committee - 1936
La Follette committee - 1938-39
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Hearings

Box 45
Hearings

Box 46
Hearings

Series 6 Labor

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A.F. of L. - cippings - 1938-39 (2 folders)
A.F. of L., CIO - cippings - 1938-39 (2 folders)
Anti Labor - cippings - 1942-41 (2 folders)
Thurman Arnold letter - 1940
Harry Bridges - cippings - 1938
Harry Bridges trial - cippings - 1939
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Box 48
Harry Bridges - clippings - 1941 (2 folders)
Harry Bridges - clippings and pamphlets - 1952
(2 folders)
Building trades - clippings - 1938
Chrysler - clippings - 1937-39 (2 folders)
CIO - 1944
CIO - CNPL - CRF Fight - 1942
CIO - outside Detroit - clippings - 1937-39
CIO - Plymouth - 1937-38
Cleveland Industrial Safety Council - 1940
Tom Coleman - UPW - Loyalty - clippings - 1950 (2 folders)
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