

Victor Reuther: UAW New Directions Movement Collection

Papers, 1986-1991

**.75 linear feet
11/2 manuscript boxes**

Accession #2

Victor Reuther's papers related to the UAW New Directions Movement were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1991 by Mr. Reuther and opened for research in May of 2006.

The New Directions Movement (NDM) emerged in 1986 as a dissident caucus of UAW local union leaders, especially at General Motors facilities, within St. Louis-based Region 5. Its candidate for regional director at the 1986 convention, assistant director Jerry Tucker, lost by less than one vote in the closest election in UAW history. In the fall of 1988, responding to lawsuits brought by the Labor Department and Tucker contesting the election results, a federal judge ordered a new election, which Tucker, running on a platform of opposition to joint labor-management programs favored by the union's leadership, won. Forced to run for re-election on the expiration of his term at the 1989 convention, Tucker was defeated, prompting another series of lawsuits and the calling of an NDM national organizing conference later that year.

Victor Reuther, a partisan of grassroots unionism, came out of retirement in the 1980's to support Jerry Tucker and New Directions. Like Tucker, he felt that the UAW was becoming increasingly undemocratic and was losing its militancy by cooperating with management. The New Directions material he collected includes correspondence, promotional literature, publicity, meeting minutes, financial records and ephemera.

Important subjects in the collection:

Joint labor-management programs in the auto industry
Jerry Tucker
UAW dissidents
UAW elections process

Important correspondents in the collection:

Charlie Allen
Irwin Baur
Genora Dollinger
Joseph Rauh
Jane Slaughter
Jerry Tucker
Joseph A. "Chip" Yablonski

Box 1

1. Annual meeting, 1990
- 2-3. Correspondence, 1987-91
4. Funding sources, budget, 1987-90
5. Media coverage, press releases; New Directions (NDM)/ Jerry Tucker, 1986-91
6. Media coverage, speaking engagements; Victor Reuther, 1987-90
7. Membership; lists
8. National Organizing Committee meetings, 1989-91
9. National Organizing Conference, Oct 1989
10. Newsletter, 1987-90
11. Promotional literature, ephemera
12. Promotional literature, ephemera; Jack Maschhoff-designed
13. UAW contract, 1990
14. UAW convention, 1989
15. UAW locals supporting NDM; misc., 1987-91

Box 2

1. UAW locals supporting NDM; Local 599, 1988-89
2. UAW Region 1-1B director election, 1989
3. UAW Region 5, 1986-91
4. UAW Region 5; director election, 1986-88
5. UAW Region 5; director election lawsuit, 1987-90
6. UAW retirees, 1989-90