

THE STANLEY AND MARGARET COLLINGWOOD NOWAK COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1957

3 linear feet
2 scrapbooks

Accession Number 3

L. C. Number

The papers of Stanley and Margaret Collingwood Nowak were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1965. A reorganization of the material, with the addition of some material which had been closed, was completed in 1976.

Stanley Nowak was born in Przemysl, Poland, in 1903. He emigrated to the United States with his sister in 1913 and joined his father in Chicago. After leaving school at the age of fourteen, Nowak worked on a Polish newspaper in Chicago and involved himself in activities in the Polish community. With the coming of the Depression, he lost his job in Chicago. He moved to various places, including Detroit and South Bend, Indiana, before eventually settling in Detroit in 1933. He eventually obtained a job as a union organizer for the United Automobile Workers in 1936. In this capacity, he was involved in the sit down strikes at the American Aluminum Company in 1936 and helped in the organization of the employees at the Ternstedt Manufacturing Company. He met Margaret Collingwood during this time, and they were married in 1935.

After obtaining his citizenship in 1938, Nowak was elected to the Michigan Senate from the twenty-first district on the Democratic ticket. He was re-elected four times, serving a total of ten years. His Senate career was marked by his work for the labor unions, minority rights, old age assistance, and other welfare measures.

In late 1942, Nowak was accused of having fraudulently obtained his citizenship by not admitting on his papers that he had been a member of the Communist Party. The charge was dropped in early 1943.

Nowak left the Senate in 1948 to run for other offices and to devote more time to his union activities.

In 1952, just before the implementation of the Walter-McCarran Act, Nowak was again indicted for falsifying his naturalization papers, virtually the same charge as was filed in 1942. This time, the case went to court and Nowak's citizenship was ordered revoked in 1955. Appeals were made all the way to the Supreme Court, where the decision was reversed in 1958.

Since that time, Nowak has been the editor of *The People's Voice* (Glos Ludowy), a Polish weekly newspaper to which he also frequently contributes articles. He has also continued to make some speaking engagements.

Margaret Collingwood Nowak was born in Hartford, Wash, in 1908, one of six children. Her family moved to the Detroit area to obtain employment in the auto industry, and she graduated from Northern High School in 1931. She furthered her education by attending business schools and the University of Michigan Extension Center, studying economics and labor history. She became involved in union organizing and political activity, and through this, met her husband, Stanley Nowak in 1932. They were married in 1935 and had one child, Elisa, in 1939 Mrs. Nowak served as her husband's secretary while he was a State Senator. She also became involved in politics in her own right when she campaigned for the U. S. House of Representatives in 1952 on the Progressive Party ticket.

From 1957 until 1973, Mrs. Nowak was the head bookkeeper for the Detroit law firm which handled her husband's defense in the 1952 indictment. Since her retirement, she has been involved in writing a biography of her husband, an early draft of which is included in the collection. She has also continued to work with her husband and has become very interested in Women's studies, writing a series of articles on Feminists for her husband's paper.

Important subjects covered in the collection include:

Michigan Senatorial campaigns, 1942-1950
 1942 and 1952 indictments for falsifying citizenship
 papers
 Communism in the 1950's
 Labor's relation with Senator Nowak

Contents

8 manuscript boxes
2 scrapbooks

Series I, Boxes 1-3. Michigan Senate, 1938-1942.

Correspondence, speeches, Margaret Collingwood Nowak's diary, scrapbooks, and campaign materials covering early years of Stanley Nowak's Senate career, 1938-1942.

Series II, Box 3. 1942 Indictment.

Material on Stanley Nowak's first indictment for falsifying his citizenship papers; includes scrapbooks of defense campaign material and publicity, 1942-1943

Series III, Boxes 4-6. Michigan Senate, 1943-1952.

Correspondence, speeches, Margaret Collingwood Nowak's diaries, campaign material, legislative scrapbooks and clippings covering remaining years in the Senate. There is also material from campaigns for other offices including Margaret Collingwood Nowak's campaign for U. S. Congress.

Series IV, Boxes 6-7. 1952 Indictment.

Material on Stanley Nowak's second indictment for falsifying his citizenship papers; includes scrapbook of newspaper clippings, defense campaign materials, the brief for the Supreme Court hearing, transcripts of testimony during Appeals Court Hearing. 1952-1957.

Series V, Biographical materials

Miscellaneous biographical material on Stanley and Margaret Collingwood Nowak. Also Margaret Collingwood Nowak's manuscript of the biography of Stanley Nowak.

Non-manuscript material

Six photographs from Margaret Collingwood Nowak's Congressional campaign showing various candidates who were running on the Progressive Party ticket in 1952 have been placed in the Archives; Audio-Visual Collections.

Series I
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, speeches, Margaret Collingwood Nowak's diaries, scrapbooks and other material relating to Stanley Nowak's early Senate career. The material is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material, and chronologically within each topic. This series covers the period from March 8, 1938 to December 31, 1942.

Box 1

1. Campaign material, 1942
2. Conference of the 16th Congressional District, 1938
- 3-6. Correspondence, 1938-1942
- 7-8. Diaries of Margaret Collingwood Nowak, 1939-1940

Box 2

- 1-2. Diaries of Margaret Collingwood Nowak, 1941-1942
3. Know Your Sales Tax
4. Legislative Scrapbook, 1941

Box 3

- 1-2. Recounts, 1938, 1940
- 3-11. Speeches, 1939-1942

Series II
Box 3
1 scrapbook

Scrapbook of all press releases, materials distributed by defense workers, petitions, etc., during period of first indictment from December 11, 1942 to May 22, 1943. Scrapbook of newspaper clippings about indictment is shelved with the collection.

Box 3

12. Defense campaign scrapbook, 1942-1943

First Indictment, 1942, scrapbook, shelved separately

Series III
Boxes 4-6

Correspondence, speeches, campaign material, newsletters, legislative materials, Margaret Collingwood Nowak's diaries, American Slav Congress and other Slavic groups materials, and other materials connected with Stanley and Margaret Collingwood Nowak's activities during his last years in the Michigan Senate, covering the period from January 1, 1943 to November 17, 1952. The materials are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material, and chronologically within each topic.

Series III cont.

Box 4

1. American Polish Labor Conference, May, 1944
2. American Slav Congress, 1946-1951
- 3-9. Campaign material, 1944, 1947-1950
10. Confidential Report on Michigan Congressmen. 1945
- 11-17. Correspondence, 1944-1950
18. Detroit election returns, 1948

Box 5

- 1-2. Diaries of Margaret Collingwood Nowak, 1943-1944
3. G. L. K. Smith, 1943
4. Grand Jury Investigation, 1945
5. House Un-American Activities Committee testimony, 1952
6. Kim Sigler, 1946-1947
7. Kosciusko League of America, 1944
8. Legislative scrapbook, 1943
9. Margaret Collingwood Nowak's Congressional campaign, 1952
- 10-13. Michigan Legislative Newsletter and press releases, 1947
14. Miscellaneous clippings

Box 6

1. Miscellaneous materials
2. Nowak Newsletter, 1950
3. Poland borders, 1946-1948
4. Progressive Party, 1948
5. Proposed legislation
6. Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony, 1949
- 7-13. Speeches, 1943-1950
14. McCarran Act clippings, 1952

Series IV
Boxes 6-7
1 scrapbook

Material pertaining to 1952 indictment for falsifying citizenship papers. This series covers the period from just before the indictment, starting February 21, 1952 to the Supreme Court Hearings in October, 1957. The material is arranged alphabetically.

Box 6

15. Brief for Supreme Court trial, 1957
16. Strange Trial of Stanley Nowak, 1954

Box 7

- 1-9. Transcript of Appeals Court testimony, 1954
- 1952 indictment, scrapbook, shelved separately

Series V
Box 8

Miscellaneous biographical materials on Stanley and Margaret Collingwood Nowak. Included is an early draft of Mrs. Nowak's biography of her husband.

Box 8

1. Margaret Collingwood Nowak, biographical material
2. Stanley Nowak, biographical material
3. Stanley Nowak - The Making of an American

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PART II

Papers 1928-1979

1 Manuscript Box
.5 Linear Foot

Accession Number 3
L. C. Number

The Stanley and Margaret Collingwood Nowak Collection, Part I, was deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1965. Part II of the collection was received in 1980. The papers provide examples of literature authored by Margaret Nowak including descriptive impressions of Poland and a series of biographical sketches on American women. In addition, background information of a general nature regarding such varied topics as depression work relief, Supreme Court denaturalization cases and union and civil rights activists are represented.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

American Women
Depression Work Relief
Labor Oppositionists
Rebecca Maisenberg Denaturalization Case, 1957
Stanley Nowak Denaturalization Cases, 1943 and 1957
Poland
Labor Theatrical Productions
UAW Retiree Advisory Council

Important correspondents include:

Goodman, Crockett, Eden & Robb, Attorneys
Dave Miller

An index to the correspondence may be found on page 4.

Contents

1 manuscript box

Series I, Literature Authored by Margaret Collingwood Nowak, 1964-1979:

News feature articles on a Polish visit, text of a talk on labor oppositionists, biographical sketches of Great Women written for a seminar at the Trinity Church of the Brethren. Also included are a series of small photographs presumably used as illustration in the Great Women seminar as well as personal and legal correspondence.

Series II, Generalized Background Material, 1928-1976:

Scrapbook of news clippings dealing with depression work relief projects, legal briefs and news clippings regarding Stanley Nowak and Rebecca Maisenberg denaturalization cases, Stanley Nowak State Senate activities, labor publications and material on union and civil rights activists.

Series I

Literature Authored by Margaret Collingwood Nowak, 1964-1979

Box 9
Folders 1-9

News feature articles on a Polish visit, text of a talk on labor oppositionists, biographical sketches of Great Women written for a seminar at the Trinity Church of the Brethren. The material is arranged in a dated chronology beginning with the visit to Poland. The biographical sketches are ten in number and are in alphabetical order. Correspondence, both personal and legal, is included in one folder.

1. Margaret Nowak Publications, Elisa Nowak Publication, Poland, 1964
2. Margaret Nowak, 1968, Text of talk on Labor Oppositionists
3. Margaret Nowak, Women Biographies, Susan B. Anthony, Grimke Sisters
4. Margaret Nowak, Women Biographies, Anne Hutchinson, Mother Jones
5. Margaret Nowak, Women Biographies, Lucretia Mott, Ernestine L. Rose
6. Margaret Nowak, Women Biographies, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton
7. Margaret Nowak, Women Biographies, Lucy Stone, Harriet Tub man
8. Photographs Relating to Women Biographies
9. Correspondence, 1957-1979

Series II

Generalized Background Material, 1928-1976

Box 9
Folders 10-21

Scrapbook of news clippings dealing with depression work relief projects, legal briefs and news clippings regarding Stanley Nowak and Rebecca Maisenberg denaturalization cases, Stanley Nowak State Senate activities, labor publications and material on union and civil rights activists. The papers are arranged chronologically according to date.

10. Labor Publications, 1928-1929
11. Scrapbook, News Clippings, Sept. 1935 - Dec. 1935
12. Labor Theater Production, 1938
13. News Clippings, Re: S. Nowak, 1943
14. Senate Activities, Campaign Literature, 1943-1947
15. Supreme Court Petition, October Term 1956
16. Supreme Court Brief Draft, October 1957
17. Supreme Court Brief, October 1957
18. Supreme Court, Nowak and Maisenberg Briefs, October 1957
19. Nowak Defence Committee Press Releases, 1957-1958
20. Article on Labor Organizers, 1976
21. Miscellaneous Material, Union and Civil Rights Activists

Index to Correspondence

Goodman, Crockett, Eden & Robb, Attorneys, 9-9

Kraus, Dorothy and Henry, 9-9

Manfredi, Frank, 9-9

Miller, Dave, 9-9

Perlo, Victor, 9-9

Travis, Robert, 9-9