

## **John W. Anderson Collection**

### **Papers, 1947-1980s**

**1 linear foot**  
**1 storage box**

Accession #135  
OCLC #

The papers of John W. Anderson were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mr. Anderson in 1966 and opened for research in 1966. Additional papers were placed in the Archives by Mr. Anderson between 1977 and 1979 and opened for research in May of 2007.

John W. Anderson was born in Wisconsin in 1906 and majored in economics at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1931. He was hired at Briggs Manufacturing in 1933 as a metal finisher. Later that year he joined the IWW and began organizing the auto plants. In 1936 he went to work at Fleetwood Fisher Body, quit the IWW and promptly joined the UAW, becoming chairman of Local 15's organizing and strike committees. He held several positions in the local, including the presidency from 1947 to 1949.

Anderson, a founding member of the Socialist Workers Party in 1938, was a vocal critic of Walter Reuther and his "subversion" of the UAW. After his retirement in 1966, he joined other UAW dissidents in criticizing the union's leadership for its rapprochement with management and unwillingness to support rank-and-file grievances.

The John W. Anderson Collection consists of publications, unpublished writings by Anderson and other material relating to his life as a member of the UAW's militant wing, including items documenting his suspension from the union for accusing Local 15 officers of misusing union funds.

#### **Important subjects in the collection:**

General Motors Fleetwood Fisher Body plant  
International Socialists  
Walter P. Reuther  
UAW contract negotiations, 1964  
UAW dissidents  
UAW Local 15

#### **Related collections:**

UAW Oral Histories

**Box 1**

- 1-2. Autobiographical manuscript #1 (partial), n.d.
- 3-5. Autobiographical manuscript #2 (partial), c. 1970
6. Essex Wire strike, 1977
7. International Socialist Organization; *Socialist Worker*, 1977
8. International Socialists; publications, 1970s
9. Left Communist International; *International Bulletin*, 1947-49
10. Left Communist International; *The Internationalist*, 1949-54
11. Public Review Board case, 1962-64
12. UAW dissident groups; flyers, newsletters, 1970s
13. UAW Local 15; "A History of the UAW and Local 15—Fleetwood Fisher Body—Events of 1936 and Earlier" by JWA, n.d.
14. UAW Local 15; "The History of the UAW Local 15, 1936-1958" by JWA, n.d.
15. UAW Local 15; "The Subversion of the UAW and Local 15" by JWA, n.d.
16. UAW-Ford contract, 1967
17. UAW-GM contract; "1964 Negotiations and the General Motors-UAW Contract" by JWA, n.d.
18. UAW-GM contract; UAW-GM Local Leadership Newsletter, 1964
19. Writings, misc., 1960s-1980s