

W. Ellison Chalmers Collection

Papers, 1925-1938

3.75 linear feet

Accession #166
OCLC #

The papers of W. Ellison Chalmers were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1965 by Mr. Chalmers. Additional papers were deposited in August of 1983.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, February 21, 1903, William Ellison Chalmers received a B.A. from Brown University in 1925 and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1933. While studying at the University of Wisconsin, he worked with John R. Commons lobbying for various bills in the state Legislature. Chalmers taught briefly at the University of Pittsburgh (1928-30). He received a Social Science Research Fellowship in 1933 and a Wertheim Fellowship the following year. While on the Wertheim Fellowship, he began writing his auto study manuscript and worked closely with the AFL in Detroit. Chalmers worked for the federal government from 1934 to 1947, serving as a delegate to the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 1935, after which he became a professor of economics at the University of Illinois.

Important subjects in the collection:

Auto study, 1933-1935
Worker education in the 1930's
Public vs. private ownership of utilities in Wisconsin
AFL in the auto industry
Auto Labor Board

Important correspondents in the collection:

Leonard Bright
John R. Commons
Francis Dillon
Robert W. Dunn
Senator Paul Douglas
William Green
Sidney Hillman
A. J. Muste
Selig Perlman
Frances Perkins
Norman Thomas

Contents

7.5 manuscript boxes

Series I, Auto Industry, 1930-1935, Boxes 1-2:

Includes AFL correspondence, press releases and reports; U.S. Auto Labor Board Code correspondence and reports; and miscellaneous reports relating to the auto industry. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series II, Correspondence, 1925-1938, Box 3

Series III, Workers Education and Class Notes, 1926-1933, Box 4:

Includes material from Bryn Mawr Summer School (1933); Pittsburgh Labor College (1928-29); University of Wisconsin Summer School (1931); YMCA Industrial Conference (1932) and notes from Commons, Kiekhoffer and Slichter as well as reports relating to the labor movement.

Series IV, Wisconsin State Government, 1930-1931, Boxes 5-6:

Series V, Reports and Miscellaneous, 1929-1935, Boxes 6-7:

Materials relating to labor-management relations, the ILO and the University of Wisconsin. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series VI, Collective Bargaining in the Automobile Industry, Box 8:

Selected chapters from Chalmers' manuscript. (Microfilm available in Littauer Library, Harvard University)

Box 1, Auto Industry

AFL; Correspondence, Dec 1933-Nov 1935
; Press Releases, Mar 1934-Apr 1935
; Reports, Apr 1934 (2 folders)
; Revisions of Auto Code by William Green, Jan 1935
; Thirty Hour Week Bill by William Green, Jan 1935
Analysis of Factory Employees' Age as Related to Industry Growth, Aug 1935
"Auto Industry Has Failed to Stabilize Employment," Sep 1935
Auto Industry and the NRA
Auto Industry and the Older Worker, 1935
Auto Industry Statistics
Federated Press Releases, 1930-1935
Financial Condition Auto Companies
Hiring Policies in the Automobile Industry - WPA Research Project, 1937
Interpretation of Wages in Auto Industry

Box 2, Auto Industry

Issues and Outline in Auto Industry, 1935
"Labor Market in the Auto Industry," 1937
Labor Management Relations Study in the Auto Industry
Negotiating with the Auto Employer
Notes on Auto Study, Sep 1934
"The Rising Tide of Time Payment in Auto Sales"
Status of the Auto Worker, Jan 1933
U.S. Auto Labor Board; Auto Code, Aug-Dec 1934
; Correspondence and Memorandums, 1934
; Legal Briefs, Jan 1935
; Reports, Dec 1934
U.S. Auto Labor Reports, 1934

Box 3, Correspondence

Correspondence	A-B (2 folders)	E-L (3 folders)
	C	M-N
	C - Chalmers family	M-N - A. J. Muste
	C - John R. Commons	P-V (4 folders)
	D	W-Y
	D - Robert W. Dunn	W-Y - Colston E. Warne

Box 4, Workers Education and Class Notes

Workers Education

Bryn Mawr Summer School, 1933 (3 folders)
Bryn Mawr Summer School; Curriculum Comm., Jun 1933
Bryn Mawr Summer School; Student Performance
Pittsburgh Labor College, 1928-29
Wisconsin, 1931 (2 folders)
Wisconsin; "The Labor Advocate," 1926
YMCA Industrial Conference, 1932

Class Notes

Commons - Econ 144, 1926
Foreign Labor Movements, 1927
Kiekhoffer - Econ 250, 1925
"Labor and the Government" (Twentieth Century Fund), n.d.
Labor - Class Discussions, 1927
Labor Problems - Econ 122, 1931
Labor Seminar, 1927
Readings on Capitalism and Socialism
Slichter, Econ 300
Study of Attitudes About Labor Unions, 1933-34

Box 5, Wisconsin State Government

Banking Commission; Small Loans, Nov 1930-Dec 1931 (2 folders)
 ; Small Loans - Legislative Bills, 1931
 ; Small Loans - Pamphlets, 1930
Bills Presented, Jan 1931-Jan 1932 (3 folders)
Governor's Budget Message, Jan 1931
Credit Unions; General, Feb-May 1931
 ; "Four Thousand Credit Union Loans," 1926
 ; Pamphlets, 1931
Insurance and Banking Committee, 1931 (2 folders)

Box 6, Wisconsin State Government and Reports and Miscellaneous

Wisconsin State Government

Public Power Commission, Dec 1930-May 1931 (3 folders)

Tax Commission, 1930

Unemployment; General, Nov 1930-Jul 1932 (2 folders)

; Public Policy Declaration

; Recommendations of Wisconsin Citizens Committee on Employment,
1931

; Explanation of the Provisions and Purpose of the Administration
Emergency Relief Bills, 1931

; Unemployment Reserve Legislation for Wisconsin and Present
Employment Conditions

Reports and Miscellaneous

Administration of Incentives

Annual Earnings for Workers

Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, 1930

Constitutional Participation in Management in the Chicago Clothing Market

Co-operatives, Wisconsin

Box 7, Reports and Miscellaneous

"Hours and Labor Conditions in the Iron and Steel Industry," 1929

Joint Production Research at the Naumkeag Mills, 1934

International Labor Organization, 1935

Liberal Club - University of Pittsburgh, 1929-30

Long Range Planning of Public Works

Miscellaneous Reports

Monotony and Fatigue

National Recovery Administration; Press Releases, 1933

National Survey of Potential Product Capacity

"Roosevelt As I Knew Him" by Harold L. Ickes

Seasonal Character of Building Construction

Social Science Research Council

South American Securities Corp.

University of Wisconsin, 1930

Weirton, West Virginia Steel Strike; NLB Hearing, 16 Oct 1933

"Women's Wages in Michigan Industries," Feb 1935

Box 8, Collective Bargaining in the Automobile Industry

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Chapter X	Untitled
Chapter XV	The Founding of the International Union of United Automobile Workers of America
Chapter XVI	The End of the Codes and the Beginning of the Labor Disputes Act
Chapter XVII	Conclusions
Appendices, excerpts	