

**Virgil Collins Collection**  
**Papers, 1945-1972**  
**(Predominantly, 1945-1948)**

**.5 linear feet**

Accession #199  
OCLC #

The papers of Virgil Collins were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1966. Additional papers were placed in the Archives in 1972, 1984, and 1986. The collection was reprocessed and opened for research in October of 1986.

Virgil Collins joined the UAW in 1937. He was employed at the General Motors South Gate, California plant from 1945 until 1976 and was a member and officer of Local 216.

Mr. Collins was elected shop committeeman of Local 216 in 1947. In December of that year, the Local 216 membership voted to require all officers to sign non-Communist affidavits or be recalled from office. Mr. Collins was among a group of officers that the local put on trial in July of 1948 for refusing to sign the affidavit.

In 1957, Mr. Collins was elected financial secretary-treasurer of Local 216, a position that he held until 1976. He also served as editor of the Local 216 newspaper, *The Assembler*, from 1957 to 1976. As chairman of the Auto-Aero Unity Team, Mr. Collins was a leader of the movement to remove Region 6 director Paul Schrade from office in 1972. Mr. Collins retired in 1976, but continued to work for the UAW, assisting with insurance and legislative activities.

The papers of Mr. Collins reflect his work with Local 216 and the 1948 trial concerning non-Communist affidavits.

**Important subjects covered in the collection are:**

General Motors strike, 1945-46  
Paul Schrade  
Trade-unions and communism  
UAW Local 216  
UAW Region 6 directorship election, 1972

**Important correspondents in the collection:**

Louis Ciccone  
Paul Schrade

**Non-manuscript material:**

Issues of the UAW Local 216 *Assembler* have been placed in the Archives Library.

**Related collections:**

UAW Local 216  
UAW Region 6  
Paul Schrade oral history

**Contents**

**1 manuscript box**

**Series I, UAW Local 216, 1945-1968, Box 1:**

Trial proceedings, charges, articles and other material relating to UAW Local 216 officers and members. Particularly well-documented is the trial of Local 216 officers in 1948.

**Series II, UAW Region 6, 1971-1972, Box 1:**

Correspondence, leaflets, newsletters, and other material concerning the 1972 election of the Region 6 Director. Also included are articles concerning factory workers from 1971-1972.

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**Series I**  
**UAW Local 216, 1945-1968**  
**Box 1**

Trial proceedings, charges, articles and other material concerning UAW Local 216 from 1945 to 1968. Most of the materials document the trial of Local 216 officers, including Mr. Collins, on various charges arising out of their refusal to sign non-Communist affidavits in 1948. Other items include the cases against Local 216 members for failing to picket during the 1945-46 strike against General Motors. Also contained in the series is a transcript of a trial from 1964. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 1**

1. Duncan, James; trial transcript, 1964
- 2-10. Picketing cases #1-99, 1945-1946
- 11-14. Trial of officers; transcript, 1948
15. Strike vote; leaflets, 1968

**Series II**  
**UAW Region 6, 1971-1972**  
**Box 1**

Correspondence, leaflets, newsletters and other material concerning the 1972 election of the Region 6 director. Additional materials relate to early retirement and the 1972 presidential election. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Box 1**

16. Auto-Aero Unity Team; correspondence, 1972
17. Early retirement; article, correspondence, 1971
18. Nixon campaign; *Congressional Record* reprint, 1972
19. Region 6 director; biographies, 1972
20. Schrade, Paul; correspondence, 1972