

LILLIAN SHERWOOD COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1966
(Predominantly, 1950-57)

2 Linear Feet

Accession Number 360
L. C. Number

The papers of Lillian Sherwood were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in August of 1969 by Mrs. Lillian Sherwood and were opened for research in September of 1969.

Lillian Sherwood was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 20, 1913 and attended St. Mary's School, Catholic Central High School and the Grand Rapids Junior College before marrying David R. Sherwood in 1933. As a result of David Sherwood's role in the 1936 organizing of UAW Local 206 (Nash-Kelvinator), Lillian became a charter member of and helped to organize UAW Auxiliary Branch 61 in 1937.

The 1940s witnessed an expansion of the roles of Lillian and David Sherwood in all aspects of unionization. In 1940 David Sherwood became an international representative of the UAW and in 1946 Lillian helped to organize the Kent county (Michigan) CIO Council Auxiliary. In 1949 Lillian Sherwood became the president of the National CIO Women's Auxiliary and Secretary-Treasurer of the Michigan CIO Auxiliaries. These were posts she would hold until 1956.

In the 1950s Lillian continued her work with the CIO and the Congress of Women's Auxiliaries as a representative on the Michigan State CIO Community Services Board, editor of the monthly newsletter of the Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary, member of the Advisory Committee to the Civil Defense Administration, Member of the National Safety Council and the Women's Advisory Committee to the American Heritage Foundation, member of the President's Committee for Traffic Safety and a representative to the State Political Action Committee of the Michigan CIO Council where she ran legislative institutes for the education of union women on politics and the legislature in Michigan. On a more local level she was on the state and county boards of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and a member of the Kent County chapter of Civil Defense. In 1953 she became a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, a move that demonstrated her lifelong commitment to politics in Michigan and the Democratic party in particular. In 1956 Lillian ran for state representative on the democratic ticket and lost. When asked about her defeat, she ruefully pointed out that she had been a democratic contender in a heavily republican area.

The papers of Lillian Sherwood reflect her roles within the CIO and the Women's Auxiliary of the CIO as well as her commitment to politics and social programs in her native Michigan.

Important subjects covered in the collection:

Congress of Industrial Organizations
Congress of Women's Auxiliaries
Democratic Party
Michigan Politics
Political Action Committees
Union Education

Important Correspondents:

Philip A. Hart
Kathryn Nye
Nancy (Mrs. 6. Men nun) Williams

Contents

4 Manuscript Boxes

Series I. Box 1

Clippings, awards, correspondence, leaflets and pamphlets, bylaws, and general materials relating to Lillian Sherwood's involvement with the CWA and CIO.

Series II. Box 2

"National CWA Newsletter," 1950-1957

Series III. Box 3

Committee reports, proceedings, clippings, and bylaws relating to annual conventions of the National CWA-CIO and the AFL-CIO Auxiliaries.

Series IV. Box 4

"Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," conference minutes, bylaws and proceedings of conventions relating to the Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary.

- 4 -

Series I
Box 1

Series I deals with the personal papers of Lillian Sherwood relating to the Congress of Women's Auxiliaries, the Congress of Industrial Organizations and Sherwood's involvement in Michigan politics and social programs from 1938 through 1961. The files are alphabetical in order and contain newspaper clippings, awards, correspondence, leaflets, pamphlets and bylaws pertaining to the CWA, CIO and Michigan politics.

Box 1, Personal Papers

1. Award Certificates, 1950-1957
2. CWA-CIO Civic Activities; general clippings, 1951-1961
3. CWA-CIO Civic and Political Activities; clippings re Lillian Sherwood, 1948-57
4. CWA-CIO Organizational Activities; general clippings, 1954-56
5. CWA-CIO Political Activities; general clippings, 1950-57
6. Correspondence, 1952-66
7. Elections, State and National; clippings, 1956
8. Grand Rapids and Kent County Democratic Party Precinct Guides, 1961
9. Kent County Industrial Union Council Auxiliary; Bylaws & Gen., 1951-64
10. Leadership Training Certificates, FDR-CIO Labor Center, 1947-53
11. Lillian Sherwood's State Cong. Campaign; clippings & pamphlets, 1956
12. Michigan CIO Auxiliaries Leadership Conferences; clippings, 1955-56
13. National CWA-CIO Leadership Training Institute; program folder, 1955
14. National CWA-CIO Leaflets, 1954-55
15. National CWA-CIO pamphlets, n.d.
16. National CWA-CIO "Suggested Menus for Strike Kitchens," n.d.
17. "Union Auxiliary Women Advance," Jan. 1938

-5-

Series II
Box 2

Series II deals with the National Congress of Women's Auxiliaries Newsletters from the period 1949 through 1957. The files are alphabetical and chronological in and contain newspapers.

Box 2, "National CWA Newsletters"

1. "National CWA Newsletter," Nov 1 949-Jun 1950
2. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Dec 1950
3. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1951
4. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Dec 1951
5. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1952
6. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Oct, Dec 1952
7. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1953
8. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Oct, Dec 1953
9. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1954
10. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Nov 1954
11. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1955
12. "National CWA Newsletter," Sep-Nov 1955
13. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1956
14. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Nov 1956
15. "National CWA Newsletter," Jan-Jun 1957
16. "National CWA Newsletter," Jul-Nov 1957

- 6 -

Series III
Box 3

Series III deals with National CWA-CIO conventions as well as information pertaining to the AFL-CIO Auxiliary and it's first convention. The files are alphabetical and chronological in order.

Box 3, National CWA-CIO and AFL-CIO

1. AFL-CIO Auxiliary; 1st convention, clippings re, 1957
2. AFL-CIO Auxiliary; 1st convention, Lillian Sherwood Tribute, 10 Dec 1957
3. AFL-CIO Auxiliary; proceedings & general , 9-12 Dec 1 957
4. AFL-CIO Auxiliary; mailing lists, 1957
5. National CWA-CIO; 3rd annual convention, comm. reports, 1-4 Nov 1943
6. National CWA-CIO; 5th annual convention, official & comm. reports, 18-22 Nov 1946
7. National CWA-CIO; 8th annual convention, bylaws, Dec 1948
8. National CWA-CIO; 9th annual convention, bylaws & proceedings, 20-22 Nov 1950
9. National CWA-CIO; 10th annual convention, bylaws, proceedings & gen., 5-7 Nov 1951
10. National CWA-CIO; 11th annual convention, delegate packet & clippings, 1-3 Dec 1952
11. National CWA-CIO; 12th annual convention, delegate packet, bylaws & proceedings, 16-18 Nov 1953
12. National CWA-CIO; 13th annual convention, delegate packet, bylaws & clippings, 6-10 Dec 1954
13. National CWA-CIO; 14th annual convention, bylaws, proceedings & general, 1-3 Dec 1955
14. National CWA-CIO Convention Program & Philip Murray Memorial, 1952
15. National CWA-CIO & AFL Auxiliaries; clippings re merger, 1 956

- 7 -

Series IV
Box 4

Series IV deals with the Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary and the "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News" in the late 1940s and the early 1950s. The files are alphabetical in order.

Box 4, Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary

1. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jul-Dec 1947
2. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan, Apr, Nov, Dec 1948
3. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-Dec 1 949
4. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan -Dec 1950
5. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-Dec 1 951
6. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-Dec 1 952
7. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jun, Oct, Dec 1 953
8. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan, Feb, Apr-Jun, Aug-Oct 1954
9. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-May, Jun, Oct, Nov 1955
10. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-Jul 1956
11. "Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary News," Jan-Apr, Jun, Aug 1957
12. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; conference minutes, 26-27 May 1942
13. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 6th annual convention, programs, 21-23 Jun 1948
14. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 7th annual convention, bylaws & program 23-25 May 1949
15. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 8th annual convention, minutes, program & bylaws, 8-10 May 1950
16. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 9th annual convention, bylaws & proceedings, 4-6 Jun 1951
17. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 10th annual convention, bylaws, program & proceedings, 2-4 Jun 1952
18. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 11th annual convention, proceedings & clippings, 7- 10 Jun 1 954
19. Michigan CIO Women's Auxiliary; 12th annual convention, proceedings, bylaws & general, 11-14 Jun 1 956