The papers of M. A. "Bill" Williams were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1970 by Mr. Williams and were opened for research in June of 1971. Additional papers were added to the processed collection in June of 1986.

On December 19, 1936, Bill Williams was among the first workers at the Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Richmond, California to join AFL Federated Local 76 which represented workers in various industries along the Pacific Coast. During 1936 and 1937, there was jurisdictional rivalry between workers who wanted to remain in the AFL and those who wanted to join the CIO. In the Spring of 1937, the Richmond workers went on strike. Mr. Williams, who was the Chief Steward, and Frank Slaby, the Local 76 President, helped to organize Local 76 for the CIO. On November 18, 1937, the Ford workers in Richmond and Milpitas received their own charter as UAW Local 560. In 1941, the NLRB designated UAW Local 560 as the successor to Local 76 when finding Ford Motor Company guilty of unfair labor practices, ordering the company to collectively bargain with Local 560.

Mr. Williams was elected as the first Building Chairman of Local 560 and was a member of its negotiating committee. In 1946, Mr. Williams was appointed as International Representative for Region 6 of the UAW. He held this position until 1948 when he returned to Local 560 as Building Chairman, a post he held until about 1967.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- AFL-CIO Jurisdictional Disputes, 1936-1937
- CIO Organizing in California, 1937-1940
- Ford Motor Company, 1936-1956
- NLRB Case Against Ford Motor Company, 1938-1941
- UAW Local 76
- UAW Local 232
- UAW Local 298
- UAW Local 560
- UAW Local 966
- UAW Region 6
- UAW Region 11
Among the important correspondents are:

George Addes
Eugene Fry, Local 560 Recording Secretary
Richard T. Leonard
Vincent McKenna, Local 560 President
Lewis H. Michener
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Correspondence and other materials relating to CIO organizing campaigns in California among unions other than the UAW.

Series II, UAW Departments, 1937-1947, Box 1
Correspondence, clippings, executive board minutes and other materials relating to UAW departments and the UAW international headquarters. Included in this series is material concerning the 1947 UAW election campaign.

Series III, Region 6, 1939-1967, Boxes 1-5
Subseries A: Regional Headquarters, 1939-1947, Boxes 1-2
Correspondence and other materials relating to the headquarters of Region 6.
Subseries B: Local Union 76, 1936-1946, Box 2
Correspondence and other materials concerning the organizing activities of Mr. Williams and Frank Slaby at Ford Motor Company assembly plants in the Oakland, California area.
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Correspondence, minutes and other records concerning Mr. Williams' activities with Local 560 at the Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Richmond, California.
Subseries D: International Representative of Region 6, 1946-1948, Boxes 3-4
Correspondence, minutes and other records concerning Mr. Williams' activities as UAW Representative for Region 6.
Subseries E: Local Union 560, 1949-1967, Boxes 4-5
Correspondence, minutes and other materials relating to Mr. Williams' work with Local 560 between 1949 and 1967. Included in this subseries is the history of Local 560.

Non-manuscript material:
Five photographs relating to Local 560 have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection. Newspapers of Local 76 and Local 560 are available in the Archives library.
Series I
CIO Organizing Campaigns in California, 1937-1940
Box 1

Correspondence and other items concerning organizing campaigns by local unions in California affiliated with, or trying to affiliate with the CIO. Much of the materials relates to jurisdictional disputes between unions affiliated with the AFL. Also included in the series is material related to the Harry Bridges Defense Committee and the Tom Mooney Defense Committee. Files are arranged by subject.

Box 1

1. National Office; corres., Nov 1937 - Mar 1940
2. Cal. District Councils; corres., Dec 1937 - May 1940
3-7. CIO Affiliated Unions; corres., 1937-1941
8. American Newspaper Guild; corres., Dec 1937 - Feb 1940
9. Hotel & Apartment Service Employees; corres., Feb - Jul 1940
10. International Longshoremen's Union; corres., Jan 1938 - Apr 1940
11-12. International Longshoremen's Union; Harry Bridges Defense Committee, corres., Jul 1939 - Dec 1940
13. International Molders Union; Tom Mooney Defense Committee, corres., Jul 1938 - Feb 1939
15. State, County & Municipal Workers; corres., Nov 1937 - Nov 1940
16. United Rubber Workers; corres., Sept - Nov, 1938
Correspondence, minutes, election leaflets, newsletters, and other materials relating to the UAW departments and the UAW international headquarters from 1937 to 1947. Included in this series is material concerning the 1947 UAW election campaign.

Box 1

17-18. Education Dept.; Practical Problems in Trade Unionism, newsletters [c. 1940]

19. Education Dept.; Practical Problems in Trade Unionism, Corres. with Richard Deverall [c. 1940]

20-21. Election Campaign, 1947

22. Executive Board Meetings; minutes, Jan 12-23, 1938


25. Ford Motor Dept.; contract wage rate proposals, 1941-1942

26. Ford Motor Dept.; Council Meeting, minutes, May 1942

27. Ford Motor Dept.; Dallas, Tex. Assembly Plant, Organizing Campaign, clippings, 1937


29. Ford Motor Dept.; Sub-Councils, Cal. & Utah Meetings, minutes, 1942-1947

30. Secretary-Treasurer, Report, Nov 1941 - Feb 1942
Files relating to Mr. Williams' activity within Region 6.

The series is divided into the following five subseries:

Subseries A: Regional Headquarters, 1939-1947, Boxes 1-2

Correspondence, minutes, reports, organizing songs and other items relating to the headquarters of Region 6. The region was originally Region 11, and the first part of this subseries concerns Region 11. The remainder of the subseries is arranged alphabetically by department.

Subseries B: Local Union 76, 1936-1946, Box 2

Correspondence, minutes, organizing leaflets, notes, clippings, and other items concerning the organizing activities of Mr. Williams (1936-37) and Frank Slaby (1945-46) at Ford Motor Company assembly plants in the Oakland, California area. Records are arranged chronologically.

Subseries C: Local Union 560, 1937-1946, Boxes 3-4

Correspondence, minutes, financial and legal records, organizing leaflets, contract negotiation records, grievance case materials, notes, and clippings concerning Mr. Williams' activities on behalf of Local 560 at the Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Richmond, California. Subjects include the 1937-41 Ford organizing campaign, the NLRB case against Ford Motor Company to gain recognition of Local 560, and the jurisdictional dispute with AFL Local Union 22669. The first part of the subseries documents the Ford organizing campaign and contract negotiations. The remainder of the subseries concerns miscellaneous topics which are arranged alphabetically.

Subseries D: International Representative of Region 6, 1946-1948, Box 4

Correspondence, minutes, organizing leaflets, contract negotiation records and grievance case material reflecting Mr. Williams' activities as UAW International Representative for Region 6. The subseries includes material concerning UAW organizing of Ford Motor Company facilities in Washington, Idaho, and the Perry Motor Company in Utah. Files are arranged alphabetically.
Subseries E: Local Union 560, 1949-1967, Boxes 4-5

Correspondence, minutes, legal documents, and other materials relating to Mr. Williams' work with Local Union 560 between 1949 and 1967. Included in the subseries is the draft of the Local 560 history. Subjects included in the subseries are contract negotiations and strikes, the 1955 move of the Ford Motor Company assembly plant from Richmond to San Jose, California, and the dedication of the new union hall in Milpitas, California. The first part of the subseries is arranged chronologically, followed by Mr. Williams' personal union items and the draft of the Local 560 history.

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31. Region 11; Local 560, corres., Jan - Mar 1939
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Box 2
1-2. Office of Director; Michener, L. H., Local Unions, corres., Jul 1939 - Mar 1941
3-7. Office of Director; Michener, L. H., Local Union 560, corres., Apr 1939 - Apr 1941
8. Office of Director; O'Halloran-Allard Election Campaign, 1944

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16. Frank Slaby; Meeting with O'Halloran, Nov 1946

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Subseries E: Local Union 560, 1948-1967

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33. Contract Negotiations; Ford Motor Co. Assembly Factory, move from Richmond to San Jose, agreements, 1954-1956
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