

THE M. A. "BILL" WILLIAMS COLLECTION

Papers, 1936-1967
(Predominantly, 1937-1958)

2.25 linear feet

Accession Number 435
L.C. Number: MS

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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4.5 manuscript boxes

Series I, CIO Organizing Campaign in California, 1937-1940, Box 1
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.

Subseries C: Local Union 560, 1937-1946, Boxes 3-4
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
14. International Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers; corres., Jan 1938 - Nov 1940
15. State, County & Municipal Workers; corres., Nov 1937 - Nov 1940
16. United Rubber Workers; corres., Sept - Nov, 1938

SeriesII
UAW Departments, 1937-1947
Box 1

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
- 23-24. Ford Motor Dept.; corres., 1942-1947
- 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
- 28. Ford Motor Dept.; Sub-Councils, Organization, by-laws, [c. 1942]
- 29. Ford Motor Dept.; Sub-Councils, Cal. & Utah Meetings, minutes, 1942-1947
- 30. Secretary-Treasurer, Report, Nov 1941 - Feb 1942

Series III
UAW Region 6, 1939-1967
Boxes 1-5

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.

Subseries A: Regional Headquarters, 1939-1947

Box 1

- 31. Region 11; Local 560, corres., Jan - Mar 1939
- 32-33. Ford Motor Co. Organizing Campaigns; 1939-1944

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

Subseries B: Local Union 76, 1936-1946

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- 9-10. M. A. Williams; organizing activity, [c. 1936-1937]
- 11-15. Frank Slaby; corres., 1945, n.d.
- 16. Frank Slaby; Meeting with O'Halloran, Nov 1946

Subseries C: Local Union 560, July 1937 - May 1946

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- 17-25. Organizing Campaign; membership corres., 1937-1940
- 26-30. Organizing Campaign; leaflets, lists, notes & clippings, [1937-1940]
- 31-32. Organizing Campaign; NLRB case, doc. [1937-1940]

Box 3

- 1. Organizing Campaign; NLRB case, decisions, Feb & Apr 1941
- 2-4. Organizing Campaign; Conflict with AFL Federal Local 22669, leaflets, notes & lists, Apr - Jul 1941
- 5-8. Contract Negotiations; wage rate mat. [c. 1941]
- 9. Contract Negotiations; Skilled Trades, Nov 1942 - Feb 1943
- 10-23. Labor-Management Contract Implementation Meetings, Jul 1941 - Dec 1946
- 24-29. Grievance Cases; 1942-1945

Box 3, cont'd.

30. Grievance Cases; Appeal Board Meetings, minutes, Mar 1945
31. Executive Board Meetings; minutes, Apr 1944 - Feb 1945
- 32-33. Membership Meetings; minutes, 1944-1945

Box 4

1. Army-Navy Production Award Ceremony, 1943
2. Davis Auto Exchange, Contra Costa County, agreement proposal, 1946
3. Election Registration Book, 1942-1943
- 4-5. Financial Records, 1941-1942
6. Fry, Eugene; Election Campaign, n.d.
- 7-8. Williams, M. A.; Building Chairman, corres., Nov 1941 - Nov 1944
9. Williams, M.A.; dues & membership cards, 1941-1947

Subseries D: UAW Representative, May 1946 - March 1948

Box 4

10. California CIO Council, corres. 1947-1948
11. Education Committee Meetings; minutes & notices [c. 1947-1948]
- 12-13. Local Union 232; Ford Motor Company factories, Seattle & Spokane, Wash. - organizing activity, Jul 1946 - Dec 1947
14. Local Union 298; Ford Motor Company assembly factory, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - organizing activity, 1946-1948
15. Local Union 560; Election Campaign, Unity Party, leaflets, 1947
16. Local Union 560; corres., 1947-1948
- 17-18. Local Union 560; Grievance Appeal Board Cases, decisions, minutes & notices, Apr-Jul 1947
19. Local Union 560; Labor-Management Contract Implementation Meetings, minutes, Feb - Aug 1947
- 20-22. Local Union 966; Petty Motor Co., Salt Lake City, Utah, organizing campaign & contract negotiations, Oct 1947 - Mar 1948
23. Williams, M. A.; UAW Representative card, May 1946 & Reports to Regional Office, Jan 1947 - Mar 1948

Subseries E: Local Union 560, 1948-1967

Box 4

24. Benefits Appeal Case; Cal. Unemployment Board, 1949
25. Benefits Appeal Case; U.S. Veterans Administration, 1949
- 26-28. Labor Management Contract Implementation Meetings, Jul 1948 - Mar 1950
29. Election Campaigns, 1951
30. Grievance Cases, 1950-1954
31. Contract Negotiations, agreements, 1951-1954
32. Audit Report, Mar 1954

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33. Contract Negotiations; Ford Motor Co. Assembly Factory, move from Richmond to San Jose, agreements, 1954-1956
34. Building Corporation; New Union Center, dedication ceremony, Milpitas, Nov 1957
- 35-37. Contract Negotiations, 1957 - Sep 1958
38. Strike, Sep-Dec 1958
39. Strike, 1961
40. Election Campaign, 1965
41. Williams, M. A.; certificates, membership cards, corres., 1949; 1958-1959; 1967

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1. History of Local Union; Brendon Sexton, letter with doc, Feb 1958
- 2-8. History of Local Union, 1937-1958; draft [c. 1958]

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