The papers of Norman Smith were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in October of 1972 by Ms. Mildred Reeves and Mary Smith and were opened for research in February of 1973.

Norman Smith was born in Missouri in 1899. Early in his life, he was a farmer, preacher and odd-job man. In the early 1930's he was employed by General Motors Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1934 he led an unsuccessful attempt to organize workers of the Fisher Body and GMC plants of that city under the AFL. Beginning in 1936 he was instrumental in organizing the plants for the CIO. From 1936 to 1942 he worked as a union organizer, speaker and radio broadcaster in St. Louis, Memphis, Detroit and other cities. Smith enlisted in the Navy in 1942. After World War II, he worked in a steel mill in California, but continued as an official of the CIO until retirement in 1964. Smith died in 1972.

Subjects touched upon in this collection include:

Union organizing in St. Louis, Memphis and Detroit, 1936-1942 UAW
Factional issues, 1946
Contents

1 manuscript box

Folders 1-7
Correspondence 1935-1964. Mostly personal letters. The majority were written in 1946 to Smith in California from friends in St. Louis and Detroit, giving some views on factional problems within the UAW that year. A 1938 letter from Governor Gordon Browning of Tennessee refers to "lawlessness" in union organizing in Memphis. A 1943 letter from Max Michelson describes Smith's personal history and difficulties encountered during the war.

Folders 8-28
Radio broadcasts, speeches and press releases, 1936-1937


16. Broadcast over WJIM, Lansing, July 18, 1936 by Homer Martin.


27. Fragments of broadcasts or speeches by Smith, 1936-1937.


Folders 29-30
Miscellaneous


30. 1940 Diary with appointments marked from March to June.

Folders 31-32
Clippings, 1945-1946

Non-manuscript material