

THE HAROLD A. CRANEFIELD COLLECTION

Papers, 1932-1966 (Predominantly,
1932-63)

2 linear feet

Accession Number 595

L.C. Number _____

The papers of Harold A. Cranefield were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in December of 1972 by his nephew, Paul F. Cranefield, and were opened for research in March of 1973.

Harold Cranefield was born in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 12, 1903. He earned his Ph.B. from the University of Wisconsin in 1926, and his law degree in 1929 from the same university. He became Assistant District Attorney of Racine, Wisconsin, upon his graduation, and a year later opened his own law office in Racine. By 1935 his practice was devoted almost entirely to representing the newly-organized labor unions.

With the passage of the Wagner Act, he was appointed Regional Attorney of the National Labor Relations Board in Chicago. In May of 1937, he was transferred to the Detroit Regional Office in the same capacity. In the period 1936-37, he was concurrently commissioned an Investigator for the La Follette Subcommittee on industrial espionage of labor organizations.

In December of 1948, he resigned from the N.L.R.B. to become Associate General Counsel of the United Auto Workers, becoming General Counsel in 1951. He resigned in 1963 to enter private practice again in the labor field. Mr. Cranefield died in November, 1969.

The papers of Mr. Cranefield reflect his activities with the N.L.R.B., the La Follette Subcommittee, the Legal Department of the United Auto Workers, and also his attitudes and work as a lawyer of liberal views in connection with unionization, civil and political liberties, labor law, and legal action against Communists.

Subjects covered in the collection are:

Unionization of the J.I. Case Company, Racine, 1934-35 Activities of the National Labor Relations Board
in connection with Ford and General Motors, 1937-48 Investigations of the La Follette Subcommittee
dealing with industrial espionage in the automobile industry, 1936-37
The Victor and Walter Reuther shootings, 1948

Among the correspondents are:

John S. Abt	Charles Fahy	Joseph L. Rauh, Jr.
Walter G. Bergman	J. Edgar Hoover	Walter Reuther
Heber Blankenhorn	David Jenkins	Dean Robb
Prank H. Bowen	Patrick Murphy Malin	Helen Sobell
Henry Hitt Crane	John D. Moore	Robert Wohlforth
George W. Crockett, Jr.	Wayne Morse	
	James C. Paradise	

Contents

4 manuscript boxes

Series I, Box 1. Law practice, Racine.

Correspondence, legal briefs, and clippings relating to Mr. Cranefield's private practice in Racine, Wisconsin, especially his representation of the strikers at the J.I. Case Company (employees here later forming U.A.W. Local 180).

Series II, Box 1. National Labor Relations Board.

Correspondence and files of Mr. Cranefield's office as Regional Attorney with the National Labor Relations Board in Chicago and Detroit. Included are files regarding unfair labor practice cases against Ford and General Motors, and some material on industrial espionage within Timkin Axle Company.

Series III, Boxes 1 and 2. La Follette Subcommittee.

Correspondence and office files detailing Mr. Cranefield's investigations of Pinkerton's Detroit Office, Chrysler Corporation, and General Motors for the La Follette Subcommittee.

Series IV, Box 2. Legal Department, United Auto Workers.

Office files and memoranda of Mr. Cranefield as General Counsel of the U.A.W. Documents here include police reports and union files relating to the shootings of Victor and Walter Reuther in 1948.

Series V, Box 2. Speeches, articles, speech notes.

This series contains articles, speeches, and notes for speeches on a variety of subjects, from the provisions and intent of the National Labor Relations Act, labor law, and foreign aid to Spain, to wartime price controls and union strike tactics.

Series VI, Boxes 3 and 4. Miscellanea.

Personal Correspondence, briefs, clippings, and a number of miscellaneous items relating to Mr. Cranefield's interest in the field of civil and political liberties, the court-martial of a

(Series VI, continued)

First World War conscientious objector, clemency appeals of persons imprisoned under the Smith Act, the National Lawyers Guild, the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, and the American Civil Liberties Union, among others.

Non-manuscript materials.

Some 59 photographs, the majority portraying early unionization attempts at Ford Motor Company, have been placed in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections.

Series I Box 1

Law practice, Racine.

Correspondence, legal briefs, and clippings relative to Mr. Cranefield's private law practice in Racine, 1932-35. Some materials deal with strikes at the J.I. Case Company. Mr. Cranefield was legal counsel for the strikers. Mr. Cranefield's defense of Samuel Herman show his early interest in political liberty. Material is arranged chronologically within the files.

Box 1.

1. General correspondence and legal briefs, 1932-35.
2. J. I. Case Company strike. Correspondence, 1934-35.
3. Clippings, 1934-35.

Series II Box

1

National Labor Relations Board,

Office files, telegrams, and correspondence of Mr. Cranefield's office as Regional Attorney of the National Labor Relations Board. This material includes separate files on Ford and General Motors cases before the Board in the 1940's and an investigation of espionage at Timkin Axle Company in 1941. Files on individual corporations follow the general file, and material is arranged chronologically within the files.

Box 1.

- 4-7. General Correspondence, 1935-48.
8. N.L.R.B. Decision against Ford, 1940
- 9-10. Ford cases. Correspondence and office files, 1940-42.
 11. General Motors cases. Correspondence and office files, 1945-48.
 12. General Motors Reply to U.A.W.-C.I.O. Brief regarding Wage Demands, November 7, 1945.
- 13-14. Timkin Axle Company Case. Correspondence and office files, 1941.

Box 1. (Continued)

15. Material on Prank H. Bowen, Regional Director, N.L.R.B., Detroit.
16. Clippings, 1937, 1939.
- 17-18. Letters on leaving N.L.R.B., December, 1948.

Series III Boxes
1-2

La Follette Subcommittee.

Office files and correspondence giving a good picture of the activities of the N.L.R.B. personnel in Detroit who were assigned to the Subcommittee as Investigators. Included are subpoenas issued on Pinkerton's and General Motors regarding anti-union spies. Material is arranged chronologically within each file.

Box 1.

19. General Correspondence, 1936-39.
20. Pinkerton's Detroit Office investigation,
Correspondence and office files, 1936-37.

Box 2.

1. Pinkerton's Detroit Office investigation,
Correspondence and office files, 1936-37.
2. Chrysler Corporation investigation,
Correspondence and office files, 1936-37.
- 3-5. General Motors investigation,
Correspondence and office files, 1936-37.

Series IV Box 2

Legal Department, U.A.W.

Material dealing with Mr. Cranefield's association with the U.A.W. as Associate General Counsel and General Counsel. Of particular interest, and most complete, are the files on the assassination attempts on Victor and Walter Reuther. Materials are arranged chronologically within the files, individual subject files following the general file.

Box 2.

6. General Correspondence and memorandum, 1954-60.
7. Reuther Brothers Shootings - Memoranda from
Heber Blankenhorn, 1950.
- 8-10. Reuther Brothers Shootings - Office files, 1951-52,
1954.
11. Briggs Manufacturing Co. case. Legal brief and records,
1956-57.

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12. Winstead, Ralph - Clippings on his death, 1957.
13. Retirement as General Counsel - Letters and telegrams, 1963.

Series V Boxes 2-
3

Speeches, articles, speech notes.

Speeches, speech notes, and articles. The majority and most informative are those dealing with the National Labor Relations Act, although Mr. Cranefield's remarks on a number of subjects are included. Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject matter.

Box 2.

14. Anti-trust laws - making unions subject to them, speech, May 4, 1956.
15. Blankenhorn, Heber - tribute to, undated.
16. Campaign speech for municipal judgeship of Racine County, Wisconsin, April 3, 1933.
17. J.I. Case Company strike - speech, May 10, 1935.
18. Civil and political liberties - speech to Stanley Nowak Testimonial Dinner, April 15, 1956.
19. Closed shops - opposition to proposed State law banning, undated.
20. Contract negotiations and contract bar rules, speech, July 31, 1958.
21. Foreign aid to Franco Spain - withdrawal of support for, speech, February 4, 1953.
22. Labor Law - "Legal Frontiers 1961," speech, Sept. 16, 1960.
23. Loyalty, Security, and Cross-Examination, speech, June 23, 1955.

Box 3.

1. National Labor Relations Act - progress in labor's right to organize, speech, January 25, 1940.
2. National Labor Relations Act - summary and evolution, speech, March 5, 1940.
3. National Labor Relations Act - provisions, speech, undated.
4. National Labor Relations Act - speech written for Adolph Germer against amendment, undated.
5. National Labor Relations Act - collective bargaining provisions, article, November 17, 1939.
6. National Labor Relations Board - activities of Detroit Regional Office, article, 1945.

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7. Picketing - legal provisions for, speech notes, February 8, 1951.
8. Price Control - observations on importance of, speech, February 1943.
9. Taft-Hartley Act - changes in labor relations law, speech notes, November 23, 1948.
10. Union strike tactics - speech notes, November 6, 1950.

Series VI Boxes 3-4

Miscellanea.

Personal correspondence, legal briefs, clippings, and miscellanea concerning Mr. Cranefield's activities with the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, and his interest in a number of political liberties cases. Included are letters to and from Walter Reuther in the George Crockett, Mine-Mill, and National Lawyers Guild files regarding those cases and Mr. Cranefield's U.A.W. office as General Counsel. Following the first two files of personal correspondence, materials are arranged alphabetically by subject matter.

Box 3.

- 11-12. Personal correspondence, 1936-64.
13. American Civil Liberties Union, correspondence, 1956.
14. Anti-War Proclamation and Petition, National Office, Socialist Party, Chicago, May 5, 1917.
15. Arbitration farce play, "One for you, and One for you," by Labor Relations Law Section, State Bar, undated.
16. Crockett, George, Jr. - Summary Contempt Citation, Investigation reports, 1949-50.
17. Crockett, George, Jr. - Disbarment proceedings, Correspondence and petition, 1952.
18. Detroit Committee of Fifty-Six - Petition to sever economic connections with Germany, 1939.
19. General Motors - U.A.W. Agreement, February 11, 1937.
20. General Motors - U.A.W.-C.I.O. Disputes - Report of National Citizen's Committee, December 6, 1945.
21. Green-Winston Clemency Appeals, 1958-59.
22. Grosser, Philip - Uncle Sam's Devil's Island (History of his imprisonment as a conscientious objector), undated.
- 22-39. Grosser, Philip - Transcript of court-martial, 1918.

(Series VI - Continued)

Box 4.

1. Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union - Correspondence regarding conspiracy charges, 1959-63.
2. National Labor Relations Act - Remarks on improving its administration, by Stuart Rothman, Sept. 20, 1962.
3. National Lawyers Guild - General Correspondence, 1949-55.
4. National Lawyers Guild - Publications, 1939-53.
5. Reuther, Walter - Brief, "Purchasing Power for Prosperity," November 17, 1945.
6. Reuther, Walter - Brief regarding corporation-union disputes, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor, February 21, 1947.
7. Sobell, Morton - Committee to Secure Justice, Correspondence 1958-60.
8. Sobell, Morton - Committee to Secure Justice, Letters appealing for aid, 1959-65.
9. Sobell, Morton - Committee to Secure Justice, Clippings, reprints, publications, 1958-67.
10. Sobell, Morton - Committee to Secure Justice Petition for Re-trial, 1966.
11. Thomas, R.J. - Radio speech on Homer Martin and union disputes, January 25, 1939.
12. Thomas, R.J. - Testimonial Dinner Program, Detroit, January 28, 1944.
13. Unfair labor practices - Brief concerning transfer of jurisdiction to Federal District Courts, 1961.
14. Union Devices for Practical Immunity - Nonentity and Pre-emption, Brief by Alfred Kamin, undated.
15. Wellman, Mrs. Peggy - Signers of plea for clemency in case of, undated.

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