

THE NEMMY SPARKS COLLECTION

Papers, 1942-1973
(Predominantly 1955-1973)

5 linear feet

Accession No. 617

The papers of Nemmy Sparks were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in September of 1973 by Mrs. Nemmy Sparks.

Nemmy Sparks was born Nehemiah Kishor on March 6, 1899. In 1918 he graduated as a chemist from the College of the City of New York, went to sea for two and a half years and in 1922 went to Siberia on the Kuzbas project.

Mr. Sparks joined the Communist Party in 1924 and worked in organizing the seamen on the waterfront in New York, as well as founding and editing the Marine Workers Voice. In 1932 he headed the Communist Party in New England, later becoming head of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania party, and on to succeed Gene Dennis in 1937 as head of the Wisconsin Communist Party. In 1945 he was elected chairman of the Southern California Communist Party. Mr. Sparks was assigned to national work in 1950, returning to California in 1957, as legislative director, and later becoming educational director.

Nemmy Sparks died May 9, 1973.

Mr. Sparks papers include his unpublished manuscripts; his autobiography Prelude and Epilog, Common Sense about Communism as well as The Nation and Revolution, which was published posthumously. His papers reflect the internal struggles of the Communist Party in the latter half of the 1950's as well as after the Czechoslovakian situation in 1968.

Pseudonyms used by Mr. Sparks were Richard Loring, John Nemmy and Neil Stanley.

Important subjects in this collection include:

National Secretariat discussions, 1956-1957
Communist Party programs, resolutions, bulletins and reports
Outlines of study of the history of the Communist Party
Outlines of study of Marxism-Leninism

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Other subjects include:

Cyber culture	Racism
Czechoslovakia	Seventieth Birthday Celebration
Economy	Translation
Iron Mountain	Twenty-six (resignations of 1958)
New Left	

Among the correspondents are:

James S. Allen
Mort and Esther Altman
Albert and Dorothy Rose Blumberg
Sig Eisnescher
Zora Cheever Gross
Harry Kweit
Louise and Rudi Lambert
Judith Lapidés (sister)
Hy Lumer
George and Eve Makai
Bara Moulding
Philip and Louise Reisman
Sarah Ruby and Janet
Harry W. Schacter
Dirk Struik
Myer C. Symonds

An index to the location of these letters will be found in Appendix I.

Contents
10 manuscript boxes

Series I, Box 1 Correspondence

Miscellaneous correspondence is arranged by date while continuing correspondence is alphabetically arranged.

Series II, Boxes 2-7 General File

This general file, which is alphabetically arranged, contains the subjects used by Mr. Sparks in his legislative and educational writings. Also included are discussion notes leading to the writing of Communist Party programs, resolutions, bulletins and reports. Material for class outlines, panels and debates are also found in this series. A letter from William Z. Foster discussing an article by I. Trachtenberg is found in 5-1.

Series III, Boxes 8-10 Manuscripts

The manuscripts in this series include articles, radio commentaries and collaboration on a Kuzbas article in addition to Mr. Sparks autobiography Prelude and Epilog; Common Sense about Communism and The Nation and Revolution. There is also extensive correspondence in regard to publishing the manuscripts and the above mentioned collaboration.

Non-manuscript material

Four large photographs and nine snapshots of Harry Kweit have been filed with The Archives Photographic Collection. The Critical History of CPUSA by Nemmy Sparks on tape have been filed with The Archives Collection of Magnetic Tapes. A further description of these tapes will be found in Appendix II.

Series I Box 1

Box 1 Correspondence

1. Correspondence, 1957-1959
2. Correspondence, 1964-1965 (using pseudonym Richard Loring)
3. , 1966
- 4-9. , 1968-1973
10. , Sarah Ruby and Janet, 1967
11. , Blumberg, Albert and Dorothy Rose
(Al, Doc, Rosie, DR), 1957-1958
12. , Blumberg, Al and Rosie, 1961-1964
- 13-15. , Blumberg, Al and Rosie, 1966-1973
- 16-17. , Gross, Zora Cheever, 1966-1967
18. , Gross, Zora Cheever, 1968-1969
Article-"Educator Probes Cause of State
College Crisis"
19. , Gross, Zora Cheever, 1970
Article-"A Shaw Islander Sends a Report
from Leningrad"
20. , Gross, Zora Cheever, 1971
Article on Harry Schacter
21. , Gross, Zora Cheever, 1972-1973
22. , Eisnescher, Sig, 1961-1969
23. , Kweit, Harry, 1942-1945
- 24-26. , Lambert, Louise and Rudi, 1962-1966
- 27-29. , Lambert, Louise and Rudi, 1966-1972
- 30-34. , Lapedes, Judith (sister), 1965-1971
35. , Moulding, Bara (Mrs. Wallis), July-November
1971
36. , Struik, Dirk, 1970-1971

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Series II
Boxes 2-7

Box 2 General File

1. Alienation: debate and class notes
2. Anti-Monopoly: notes, clippings, Fortune Directory
1956-1958
3. Birch, John and Anti-Communism: clippings
4. Bits and pieces—cut out: notes, clippings, portions of
a manuscript
5. Black (liberation): statements, reports, resolutions,
James Forman speech - November 23, 1967
6. Buckley, Marge: campaign literature
7. California: background history, clippings
8. : State Program, notes, text, article
9. Capitalism: clippings, text of introduction to debate,
correspondence—Jerome Kern, October 28, 1971
10. Class: Communist Party Organization, notes
11. : NLS, class outline, notes
12. : notes for Sig Eisnescher, correspondence, October 12,
1966
13. Clippings
14. Communist Party: Program, Anti-Monopoly program, letter to
Gene, October 29, 1957
15. : Program, summary report—Work in the White
Community, discussion bulletin, May 1968
16. : Program, draft program committee reports,
correspondence, anti-monopoly program
outline
17. : bulletins and reports—national and local
18. : Civil Liberties
19. : District Convention 1972, draft theses for
20th National Convention, five Party Affairs,
November 1971—January 1972
20. : District Convention 1972, papers, notes,
special supplement to Party Affairs on
Chicano liberation

Box 3 General File

1. Communist Party: Dorothy Healey—Radio, radio texts, notes,
clippings
2. : Election reports and policies, Southern
California District Council Reports 1958,
1960
3. : Election reports and policies, reports and
statements 1960, 1962, 1966, 1967; notes
4. : General Convention, reports on elections 1958,
1960; report on function of Political Affairs

Box 3 (continued)

5. Communist Party: General Convention, resolutions, reports, 1960, 1965, 1969; Southern California District Convention, District Board Report 1966; Al Richmond-copy of letter of resignation as editor of Peoples World
6. : General Convention, resolutions on labor, youth, political action, Hungary 1957, notes
7. : history, lecture notes on the history of CPUSA by William Weinstone and by Jack Stachel, tape outline, notes (see tapes under non manuscript material)
8. : Municipal Program-General Pamphlet - A Municipal Program for Los Angeles, 1959-1961, notes for 1967 Municipal Program for Los Angeles, additional notes
9. : Municipal Program-general, notes, articles
10. : Municipal Program, clippings
11. : Municipal Program, 1959, notes on draft program, clippings
12. : Program 1957, Dorothy Ray Healey-Speech, "The American Road to Socialism" debate, Alexander Bittelman-"The Welfare State and the American Road to Socialism"; Program reports, proposals, outlines, correspondents, James S. Allen, December 15, 1958
13. : Program, 1957, initial drafts of sections dealing with class partnership, political action, guiding elements, class alliances
14. : Program, 1957, study guide-Program of the Communist Party 1955, Declaration of Aims and Tasks, America's National Purpose and Goal
15. : Program, 1968, pamphlet-New Program of the Communist Party USA

Box 4 General File

1. Communist Party: Program, 1968, Northern California District Convention, program, program discussion, notes
2. : Special Convention, 1968, Gus Hall report, "Political Framework and Some Over-all Guidelines for Electoral Policy"; discussion bulletin, resolutions on labor, finances, political action, party building; statements and reports on party building, electoral politics

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3. Communist Party: Special Convention, 1969, draft of the main document of the International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties; Southern California District Committee Meeting; Southern California District Policy, 1966
4. : Special Convention, 1969, resolution on Chicano and Indian liberation; Luigi Longo-report to the 12th Convention of Italian Communist Party
5. Current: notes for debate and discussion, 1970-1971
6. Current on nationalism and classes, notes, questions from students on Gus Hall Oregon tour
7. Cyber culture: brochures, articles, notes; correspondence with Alice Mary Hilton in 1-2
8. Czechoslovakia: Communist Party USA-draft main political resolution, January 1969-pamphlet; Action Programme of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; article, open letter
9. : Dorothy Healey article, report, resolution; resolution on party building-B. Dobbs
10. : Reports-Jack Woddis, Communist Party of Great Britain; Gus Hall, speech at District Convention, April 5, 1969; report on Hungary to the District Convention, 1957; article-James Boggs "The New Left and the American Revolution"
11. : struggle for Black liberation-proposed changes in the Draft Program; resolution on aspects of party internal life
12. Davis, Angela: John Abt: on the Defense of Angela Davis, speech November 22, 1970; notes, clippings, articles
13. Debates, 1968, text, notes, clippings
14. Debates-Text-Capitalism vs. Socialism, notes
15. Defense-civil liberty, pamphlets, clippings--juries, Smith Act; correspondence, Harriet Gold ring, January 17, 1955
16. Dictatorship of the Proletariat: notes, discussions; report to the National Board, January 17, 1957, on an article in the Peking Peoples Daily
17. District School: course outline
18. : forums, education, outlines, notes, discussion, questions for discussion
19. Economy: notes, clippings
20. : 1955-1956, letter from Celeste to Herb, January 18, 1956; notes, discussions, clippings, report
21. : 1955-1956, discussion notes, clippings
22. : 1955-1956, economic policy, discussion notes, article, correspondence, Hy Lumer, December 21, 1955 with copy of "Preliminary Report Looking Toward an Economic Estimate"

Box 5 General File

1. Economy: 1955-1956, clippings, brochure, excerpt from political economy article-"The Basic Laws and Special Features of Economic Crises" by I. Trachtenberg; letter from William Z. Foster discussing the article, August 26, 1955; an additional excerpt from Problems in Economics
2. : 1955-1956, correspondence, Celeste (Strack), February 10, 1956, March 15, 1956 with excerpt from Economic Outlook, correspondence, H.L. (Hy Lumer); notes, clippings letter to the editor; article-Ted Allen-continuing discussion on Celeste Strack and Mary Norris article
3. : 1955-1956, notes, clippings, articles, economic notes, December 1955, October and November 1956.
4. : including theoretical and consultation notes, discussion notes; draft outline for pamphlet The U.S. Trade and Foreign Aid Program; article "Pravda on Keynesism"
5. Education: clippings, notes, pamphlet - "Some Problems in Minority-Group Education in the Los Angeles Public Schools"
6. Election: 1958, report, resolution, clippings
7. : city, 1961, clippings, discussion notes
8. : 1970-1972, notes, clippings
9. Election Results-coalition, discussion notes, clippings, resolution and statement on political action
10. English Project: outline, notes for brochure on corrective English in business/industry
11. Epoch: discussion notes, notes, program discussion, proposed resolution on policy of independence, Southern California District Policy, 1966, excerpts
12. Fiftieth Anniversary: questions for club discussion with notes, clippings, "Krushchov on Stalin at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU", October 27, 1961
13. Federation of American Scientists: FAS, statement of principles, correspondence, Zora Cheever Gross
14. Food Strike Facts: District Education Commission-organizing support for strike
15. General Climate: notes, clippings, speech-W.H. Ferry "Myths, Cliches and Stereotypes"
16. General Foreign Policy: text-"The Right to Dissent in LA", clippings, 1959
17. House Un-American Activities Committee: brochures, statements, clippings, speech-James Roosevelt, "The Dragon Slayers", April 25, 1960
18. Hydrogen Bomb: testing, etc., brochures, clippings
19. Indians: notes, clippings
20. Iron Mountain: book review, correspondence, Betty Gannett, June 3, 1968, review text, notes for class
21. : book review, outline and notes for classes, clippings, "The Fortune Cookie" (N.S. own writing)

Box 5 (continued)

22. Labor: brochures, articles, statement, discussion notes
23. Latin America: discussion notes on Debray-Hobsbawm
24. Legislature: 1959-1960, brochure, articles

Box 6 General File

1. Lenin: bibliography, outline, notes, clippings
2. Marcuse and Hamerquist: notes, clippings
3. Mexican: resolutions, reports, clippings; Mexican-American Unity Conference, summary of discussion group findings, January 6, 1968
4. : District Draft Resolution, clippings, notes; Paul Bullock, statement "Negro and Mexican American Experiences in the Labor Market in Los Angeles: A Comparison"
5. Miscellaneous: notes
6. : clippings, election analysis, 1964, "The California Elections"
7. : notes, discussion notes, clippings, pamphlets-
National Economic Problems, What's Wrong with Welfare in California, From Protest to Politics: The Future of the Civil Rights Movement
8. Nationalism and National: clippings, articles
9. National Question: notes, clippings, excerpts from Stalins speech at the 19th Congress of the CPSU
10. National Secretariat: discussion, 1956-1957, five notebooks, discussions
11. Negro: general, notes, clippings
12. New Left: articles on Frantz Fanon, Regis Debray, and Internationalism: New Left Style; article-Michael Myerson, "How the Young Left Sees It", (see also 5-23 for notes on Debray)
13. Notes: discussion notes, notes, Senate address by George McGovern, April 25, 1967
14. Notes for Articles, Speeches, Political Letters, etc.: Letters to Gil, September 12, 1965, October 1, 1965, "Conversation Before Moses" (N.S. own writing), clippings
15. Notes-Election: 1964, discussion notes, clipping, results of Primary, June; election report outline, November
16. Notes of discussions: anti monopoly sub committee questions, December 12, 1957
17. Panels, etc.: DC's (Democratic Centralism), letter to Don Hamerquist from National Committee CPUSA accepting his resignation from the committee, February 28, 1969; resolutions, discussion notes
18. Party Perspectives: notes, clippings
19. Peoples Capitalism: clippings
20. Police: Birch, etc., clippings, article

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Box 6 (continued)

21. Politics: 1968, notes, brochures, clippings, resolutions, March 22-24
22. Poverty: (guaranteed annual income), clippings
23. Printing-International Typographical Union: notes, letters requesting interviews

Box 7 General File

1. Racism-National: notes, brochure, New Left School-class outline, bibliography
2. : clippings
3. Reviews: clippings
4. Science: clippings, article
5. Science Pamphlets Project: six articles from Political Affairs, notes
6. Seminars: notes, clippings, articles
7. Seventieth Birthday Celebration: program, speech text, telegrams, notes, congratulations, cards, invitation list
8. Smog: clippings
9. Socialism: notes, articles, clippings
10. Space: notes, clippings
11. Taxes: clippings, notes, brochure
12. Transit: clippings
13. Translation: correspondence, Martin Chancey, March 1, 1962; Minerva Pious, October 18, 1961, August 4, 1961; Frances Coleman, August 28, 1961, September 20, 1961; Albert and Rosie Blumberg, September 11, 1961; Bill Mandel, September 11, 1961
14. 26 etc. Twenty-six: statement of the Northern California California District Committee on the Recent Resignations; letter to Al Blumberg, March 27, 1958 on the resignations
15. Unsorted: The Middle Eastern Question; National Conference on Negro (sic) Affairs, Roscoe Proctor reporting, October 15, 1967; John Gates, text, November 24, 1957; Stokely Carmichael text, July 31-August 10, 1967; Don Hamerquist, Discussion Paper on Strategy, draft copy, November, 1967; Correspondence-Fred and Mary Blair, January 1, 1968, includes two articles- "Says Commie Aid to McCarthy Unimportant" and "A Political Myth Debunked," August, 1954
16. Value Theory-Was Marx Scientific?: notes, correspondence, Gray Pryer, May 28, 1969
17. Vietnam: brochures, clippings, notes, article, letter to New York Times, James P. Warburg, December 31, 1966
18. Water-Proposition XV: California water development, proposed policy statement, brochures, clipping
19. Watts-Negro and Ghetto: Paul Bullock, McCone Commission Reports, notes
20. : clippings
21. Zoning, Housing, Port, Urban Redevelopment: clippings

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Series III
Boxes 8-10

Box 8 Manuscripts-Articles, Commentaries, Sections of Books

1. An Introduction to the Science of Marxism, study text, outline
2. Articles: correspondence-Hy (Lumer), February 11, 1959; article by Neil Stanley (N.S. pseudonym), notes
3. Kuzbas: source material outline, correspondence-Mellie Calvert, 1971-1972; Ruth E. Kennell, July, 1972-March 1973; David Laibman, September, 1971-December, 1971; Jack Woddis, February 1, 1972
4. : notes, clippings, text-"Lenin and the Americans at Kuzbas"
5. Radio Commentaries: text and notes
6. : 1968, correspondence-Andy Getz, August 14, 1968; William Winter, October 7, 1968; commentaries
7. : 1969, correspondence-Christopher Koch, January 31, 1969, also listeners; commentaries
8. Sections of Books
9. --Materials in Limbo, manuscripts, books

Box 9 Manuscripts-Articles, Commentaries, Sections of Books

1. Common Sense About Communism: statement about John Gates, notes, correspondence-Angus Cameron, 1960; G.G., September 5 (?); Gus Hall March 22, 1961; Annette Rubinstein, March 26, 1962
2. : text
- 3-5. The Nation and Revolution: text
6. : book administration; correspondence-mainly on trying to publish the book- James Allen, October, 1970; Ray Bentley, May 20, 1970; Deborah Johansen, May 6, 1970; Toby Greene for John Simon, April 23, 1970; Gus Hall, May 1971; Harry Magdoff, November 10, 1971; Michael Myerson, June 1970; Fred Wieck, November 16, 1970
7. : outline, notes
8. : rough draft
9. : rough draft

Box 10 Manuscripts-Books

- 1-3. Autobiography-Prelude
- 4-6. -Epilog

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APPENDIX I

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Additional telegrams, cards and notes are found in 7-7

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APPENDIX II
Tapes

Note: These have been filed with the Archives collection of magnetic tapes.

Critical History of CPUSA by Nemmy Sparks

Part I

Reel #1 Sides 1-2

Part II

Reel #2 Side 1 Inaudible or blank
Side 2 Developments (foreign policy, etc.)
leading up to WW II

Part III

Reel #3 Both sides inaudible or blank

Part IV

Reel #4 Side 2 only War Years, CPA, Browder's Revisionism,
etc.