

THE FRANCIS R. "JACK" PALMER COLLECTION

Papers, 1933-1967
(Predominantly, 1944-1947)

1/2 manuscript box

Accession Number 861

L.C. Number MS

The papers of Francis R. "Jack" Palmer were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1977 by Mr. Palmer and were opened for research in March of 1986.

Francis R. Palmer was born in Highmore, South Dakota on March 1, 1908, the son of Frank and Nina Palmer. After high school, Mr. Palmer became a factory worker at General Motors in Flint, Michigan. He became a member of the Auto Worker's Union, AFL-CIO in 1933 and a member of UAW Local 659 in 1937. He became active in union Local 659, serving as chairman of it's Educational Committee and Vice-President and was elected president in 1947. While president of Local 659, Mr. Palmer organized what became known as the "Five Flint Presidents' Committee" (comprised of Chevrolet, Buick, A.C. Sparkplug, Fisher One and Fisher Two) which spearheaded a drive for the "Escalator Clause," a sliding-scale increase in labor negotiations.

The papers of Mr. Palmer relate primarily to his efforts to promote the escalator clause in labor negotiations, foster the founding of an independent labor political party, and repeal of the "no-strike" pledge of the unions during World War II.

Contents

Box 1

1. Chevrolet Employees Assn.; Works Council Bulletins, 11-13, My-Je 1934
2. Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO; campaign literature, pamphlets [n.d.]
3. Chevrolet Local 659; clippings, 1945, 1947-1948
4. Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO, Educational Committee; correspondence, 1947, 1967
5. Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO, Educational Committee; flyers, handbills, [n.d.]
6. Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO, Educational Committee; press releases, 1947-1948
7. Michigan Labor Party campaign clippings, pamphlets, 1944-1947
8. Palmer Francis R.; certificates, clippings, membership records, 1933, 1944

Non-manuscript material

A number of photographs and artifacts have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection and a number of copies of the UAW Local 659 paper, The Searchlight have been placed in The Archives Library.