

THE CHARLES BROOKS COLLECTION

Papers, 1948-1977

(Predominantly, 1960-1968)

2 linear feet

Accession Number 979  
L.C. Number

The papers of Charles Brooks were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in February of 1980 by Edward Baillargeon, Financial Secretary of Local 444 and opened for research in June of 1983.

Born in 1916 in Windsor, Ontario, Charles Brooks began working in a factory at age 17 as a spray painter and obtained his first job with Chrysler in 1937. When Local 444 obtained its charter in 1957, Mr. Brooks was elected as its first president, eventually serving eleven consecutive terms. Local 444 represents over 13,000 hourly workers at the Chrysler facility in Windsor.

Active in community affairs, he founded the first industrial credit union in Canada and served as President of the Cooperative Dwellings Association. He also served as President of the Canadian Council of the UAW and was named Man of the Year by the United Community Services in 1974 for his efforts in the United Way campaign. Mr. Brooks died in January of 1977 when he was fatally shot while in his office by an irate member of the local over a job dispute.

The papers of Charles Brooks reflect not only his work with the UAW but also his participation in numerous civic and community activities.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Chrysler negotiations Foreign trade

Among the important correspondents are:

George Burt Pierre Trudeau

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 6

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Contents

4 manuscript boxes

Series I, Local 444, General Files and Correspondence, 1954-1977; Boxes 1-3: General office files and correspondence on the daily functioning of UAW Local 444.

Series II, Clippings, 1948-1976; Box 4:  
Clippings on labor and union topics.

Non-manuscript materials

Approximately 25 pamphlets and books on economic and labor issues as well as copies of the Local 444 News received with the collection were removed and are available in the Archives Library. Several photographs and election campaign buttons were turned over to the Audio-Visual Department of the Archives.

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Series I  
UAW Local 444, General Files and Correspondence, 1954-1977  
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, reports and office files relating to the daily functioning of UAW Local 444. The bulk of the material covers the period of 1960-1968. Included are the membership meeting minutes of the Local. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or name.

## Box 1

- 1-7. Agendas and meeting minutes, 1956-77
8. Anti-fluoridation campaign, 1956, 1961
- 9-14. Appeals, arbitrations and grievances, 1956-76
- 15-20. Auto tariffs and trade regulations, 1956-60, 1965-72
21. Brooks, Charles, biographical information and obituary, Jan 1977
22. Canadian House of Commons bill re: profit restraint, 1975
23. Canadian Labour Congress; pension plan, 1974  
; report re: civil rights, 1974

## Box 2

- 1-4. Chrysler arbitration transcripts, 1963
5. Chrysler Council bargaining convention, 1973
6. Chrysler statement on union representation, 1967
7. Chrysler-UAW pre-retirement planning program, 1972
- 8-13. Community fund, 1958-72
14. Contract proposals, (n.d.)
- 15-23. Correspondence, 1956-77

## Box 3

1. Election materials, 1960-66
2. Formation of Local 444, 1956-57
- 3-4. Gordon Report re: projections for the Canadian economy, 1957
5. Loading dock time study, 1958-59
6. Local 444 News, draft and comics, 1963
7. MacDonal, D.S., Minister of Finance, anti-inflation program, 1975
8. Memorandums and statements, (n.d.)
- 9-10. Non-contributory pension plan; draft, Jan 1968
11. ; sub-committee minutes, 1968
12. Ontario Federation of Labor; data re: Canadian economy, 1974
13. ; statement re: women, 1975
14. Procedural survey, 1958
15. Recreational and athletic activities, 1973

Box 3

16. Safety conditions in plants, 1965-66
17. UAW-Chrysler 1967 Agreement: a study by David Blake, 1968
18. UAW; policy brief to Ontario cabinet, Mar 1975
  
19. ; press releases, 1966-68
20. ; resolutions, 1961
21. ; statement on Canadian economy, 1975
22. ; Unemployment Insurance Commission seminar minutes, 1972

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Series II  
Clippings, 1948-1976  
Box 4

Clippings on a variety of labor and union-related topics. Included are the clippings from American as well as nadian newspapers. Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 4

1-16. Clippings, 1948-76

Index to Subjects and Correspondence

(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

\*Burt, George, 2:20, 22  
Civil rights, 1:24  
Foreign trade, 1:15-20  
Government, 1:22; 3:7,12-13, 18  
    See also Research and information services  
Negotiations,2:1-5, 14; 3:17  
Pensions, 1:23; 2:7; 3:9-11  
Recreation, 3:15  
Research and information services,3:3-5, 12-13  
    See also Government  
\*Trudeau, Pierre, 1:20  
Women, 3:13  
Working conditions, 3:16