

THE ALBERT K. WILLIAMS COLLECTION

Papers, 1933-1956  
(Predominantly 1935-1951)

8.5 linear feet 1  
scrapbook

Accession Number 1033  
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Albert Kempton Williams were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in February of 1981 by Mr. Williams' daughter, Karen B. Zyczynski, and were opened for research in October of 1983.

Albert Kempton Williams was born in Glennarm Township, Illinois on May 26, 1906. He served in the U.S. Army Cavalry from 1926 to 1929, attended the University of Chicago, and he attended the Wisconsin School for Workers in Industry during the summer of 1935. In the fall of the same year, he attended Brookwood Labor College. He maintained an interest in labor education throughout his life. In approximately 1936, Williams became involved with the CIO and from that year until 1951 he was a CIO organizer. He worked primarily in Michigan but was also active in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In 1948, he worked for G. Mernnen Williams in the gubernatorial election and was appointed chairman of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, but the Senate failed to approve the appointment.

Throughout his career with the CIO, Williams called himself Kempton A. Williams and may also have used an alias. He was hired and let go several times by the CIO and in 1951 left the labor movement. He died on November 26, 1980.

Williams was married in December of 1935. His wife, Salome, was also involved in the labor movement and acted as his secretary until approximately 1947 when they were separated.

The collection reflects Williams' work with the CIO and many changes which occurred in that union from 1936 to 1950. The collection also reflects Williams' activities as a student at Brookwood Labor College.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Ancon Canal Zone government workers, 1948-1949
- CIO Leadership, 1940
- Dow Chemical Strike, 1939-1941
- Government Worker Organizing
- Labor Education
- Utility Worker Organizing

Among the important correspondents are:

George Addes	Walter Reuther
Philip Murray	Maurice Sugar
Sophia Reuther	Norman Thomas
Victor Reuther	R. J. Thomas

An index to subjects and correspondence will be found on p. 14

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17 manuscript boxes 1  
oversized box

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Series II, CIO Organizing Activities, 1933-1951; Boxes 1-13:  
Subseries A: Locals and Affiliates, 1936-1950; Boxes 1-11,  
Accounts, agreements, constitutions, correspondence, mileage reports,  
newsletters, reports, and other material related to organization and  
affiliation with the CIO, in the public service, and in the  
automobile, garment, mining, and utility industries. Subseries B:  
CIO General Organizational Papers, 1933-1950; Boxes 11-13 Address  
lists, bulletins, correspondence, handbills and other material  
pertaining to regional and local matters.

Series III, Labor Education, 1932, 1934-1951; Boxes 14-16:  
School notes, plays and labor publications from Brookwood and  
Wisconsin School for Workers in Industry. Also included are  
government and labor publications, poetry and annotated publications,  
all of which reflect Williams' continued interest in labor education.  
Some of the material is undated.

Series IV, Clippings, 1935-1950; Boxes 16-18:  
Clippings concerning such subjects as Ancon Canal Zone government  
workers; the Dow strike of 1939; CIO leadership, 1940; Michigan  
Unemployment Compensation Commission chairmanship, 1948-1950; Civil  
Service organization; and the Neisner strike of 1943.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately 40 photographs relating to the F.D.R.-CIO  
Labor Center, United Government Workers of America,  
Kempton A. Williams, United Mine Workers' Local 12075 and  
the Dow Chemical Strike, have been placed in the Archives  
Audio Visual Collections. A gavel, a delegate's badge for  
the 1950 Michigan State CIO Council, and ribbons for the  
Amalgamated Utility Workers have also been placed in the  
Audio Visual Collections. Numerous books, leaflets,  
newspapers and pamphlets received with this collection are  
available in the Archives Library.

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Series I  
Kempton A. Williams 1920, 1935-1953  
Box 1

Correspondence, memorabilia and other material of a personal nature. The correspondence, which comprises the bulk of the series, deals primarily with Williams' job in the CIO and with labor education. General correspondence files precede all others and are in chronological order. All other files are arranged alphabetically by subject or by type of material.

Box 1

- 1-6. General correspondence, 1935-53
7. American Red Cross; Correspondence, donor card, 1951
8. Arithmetic notes, 1920
9. Latin America, Committee on Cultural Relations with; Correspondence, 1939
10. Letterheads denoting various positions held by Kempton Williams, n.d.
11. Memorabilia; Cards, commencement program, receipts, varied dates
12. Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission (MUCC) Chairmanship; Correspondence re: appointment, 1948-49
13. Selective Service Administration; Correspondence re: draft, 1940-1944.
14. Williams, G. Mernnen; Gubernatorial campaign material, 1948-1949, 1951

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Series II CIO Organizing  
Activities 1933-1951 Boxes 1-12

Files relating to Williams' activities within the CIO.

This series is divided into the following subseries:

Subseries A: Locals and affiliates, 1936-1950, Boxes 1-11

Accounts, agreements, constitutions, correspondence, mileage reports, financial statements, and other material related to the job of organizing for the CIO. This subseries is dominated by papers concerning Williams' work in organizing the government employees of Michigan in the United Government Workers of America (UGWA). There is also material dealing with the United Mine Workers in their strike against Dow Chemical Co. in 1941 and with the Utility Workers Organizing Committee from 1938 to 1940. There is a limited portion of correspondence from a government worker and a newspaper editor in Ancon Canal Zone, Panama, in 1948. The material is arranged alphabetically by subject or affiliate name.

Subseries B: CIO General Organizational Papers, 1933-1950, Boxes 11-13

Address lists, bulletins, correspondence, financial statements, handbills, and other material, primarily of a regional or a local nature, relating to the various positions held by Williams within the CIO. There are extensive lists of members and contacts in Michigan and a few in Ancon, Canal Zone. Other correspondence between Williams and the regional offices in Michigan and Pennsylvania concerns CIO policy and decisions, the files are arranged alphabetically by type of material or by subject.

Subseries A: Locals and Affiliates, 1936-1950

Box 1

15. American Federation of Hosiery Workers; Constitution, by-laws 1936.
16. Joint Board Dressmakers' Union; Dress Agreement Digest, n.d.
17. International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU); Flyer, publication, 1938
18. ILGWU"; Constitution, by-laws, 1939
19. Illinois Women's Auxiliary Progressive Miners of America; First annual report, 1933

Box 2

1. Paper Workers Organizing Committee (PWOC); General correspondence, 1945
2. Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC); Charter applications, circulars, 1937-39

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3. SWOC, Steuben, John; Copy of indictment, Oct. 1937
- 4-7. UAW; General correspondence, 1937-1939, 1949, 1950
8. UAW, Baker Perkins Co.; Circulars, 1937
9. UAW, International General Motors agreement, 1939, 1940
- 10-11. UAW, Local 42; Correspondence, reports, 1950-1952, 1956
12. UAW, Local 206; Agreement, 6 Dec 1939
13. UAW Local 306; Fact Sheet re; agreement, n.d.
14. UAW; NLRB correspondence, enclosures, 1937
15. UAW, Reuther, Walter; Typescript of interview, 20 Mar 1951
16. United Gas, Coke and Chemical workers of america (UGCCWA) Dow, Ludington and Midland plants; General correspondence, 1943.
17. UGCCWA, Dow, Marysville plant; Agreement, correspondence, 1943, 1944
18. UGCCWA, Harris, Walter, director; correspondence, 1940, 1943-1944
19. UGCCWA, Local 155, Gelatin Products; Agreements, 1943
20. ; NLRB election and hearing, Jan-May 1943

Box 3

1. UGCCWA, Local 155, Gelatin Products; NLRB hearing Nov 1943-Jan 1944
2. ; NLRB proceedings and report, 1943
3. ; Employee lists and pay schedules, c.1943
- 4-5. UGCCWA, Local 176, Parke Davis; Correspondence, NLRB election material Jan 1943-Jan 1944
6. UGCCWA, Martin, Cecil, secretary-treasurer; Correspondence, 1943-1944
7. UGCCWA, Organizational Fund, Jul 1943-Apr 1944
8. UGCCWA; Organizers' Weekly reports, 10 Apr 1943-8 Apr 1944
9. UGCCWA, Wagner, Martin, president; Correspondence, 1942-1944
10. United Government Workers of America (UGWA), Accounts; Phone and salary statements, Jan 1948-Oct 1949
11. UGWA, AFL split; Notes re: Arnold Zander, pamphlets, 1948
12. UGWA, Ancon Canal Zone; Correspondence, Mar 1948-May 1949
- 13-14. UGWA; Correspondence and reports, 1946-1949

Box 4

- 1-2. UGWA; Correspondence, 1950
- 3-6. ; Correspondence and financial material, 1948-1950
7. UGWA, Detroit and State Property Manager; Correspondence, job description, 1948
8. UGWA; Dues cards, 1950
9. UGWA, Governing Board Annual Meeting; notice cards, reports, Dec 1949
10. UGWA, Fire Fighters, Ann Arbor; Correspondence, Mar-Jun 1950
11. UGwk, Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee (GCEOC), CIO; Affiliate applications, newsletters, Mar 1950-51

- 12-15. UGWA, Local 150, Ionia State Hospital; Correspondence, Newsletters, 1947, 1948, 1949-1950
- 16-18. UGWA, Local 151, Ypsilanti State Hospital; Correspondence, Newsletters, 1949-1950

Box 5

- 1. UGWA, Local 152, Mount Pleasant State Home and Training School; Circulars, correspondence, Jan-Jun 1950
- 2. UGWA, Local 191, MUCC; Articles on Michigan State Civil service, c. 1950
  
- 3-6. ; Correspondence, newsletters, 1947-1950
- 7. UGWA, Local 191, Bothwell, Charles; Correspondence, resume, 1949
- 8. UGWA, Local 191, Busha, Eugene; Correspondence and reports re: suspension, 1949
- 9. UGWA, Local 191, Employment and Claims Branch manager; Correspondence, 1947-1949
- 10. UGWA, Local 191; Journal containing minutes and member lists, 1947
- 11. UGWA, Local 191, Kalamazoo and Battle Creek; Correspondence, grievances, 1947-1948

Box 6

- 1. UGWA, Local 191; Retirement plan acts, bills, correspondence, 1947-1949
- 2. UGWA, Local 191 and 593; Correspondence, newsletter, reports, 1946-1950
- 3. ; Handbook, rulebook, training guide, 1945-1947
  
- 4-7. UGWA, Local 200 (UPW 372); Correspondence, petition, 1947-1950
- 8. UGWA, Local 201; Constitution, chart, lists, c. 1949
- 9. ; Correspondence, 1948-1949
- 10. UGWA, Local 216; Correspondence, statements, 1947-1950
- 11-12. UGWA, Local 300; Circulars, clippings, correspondence, pamphlets, 1950
- 13-14. UGWA, Local 383; Correspondence, 1947-1949

Box 7

- 1-4. UGWA, Local 593; Correspondence, newsletters, reports, 1946-1950
- 5. UGWA, Markle, Harry, MUCC director; Article, Correspondence, 1942, 1949-50
- 6. UGWA, Michigan Civil Service Commission; Compensation schedule, 1947
- 7. ; Revised pay schedules, 1948-1949

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- 8-9. UGWA, Michigan Department of corrections; correspondence, schedules, 1947-1950
- 10. UGWA, Michigan Department of Labor and Industry; Address lists, correspondence, 1947-1948
- 11. UGWA., Michigan Department of Mental Health; Correspondence, 1950
- 12-13. UGWA, Michigan, Governor's Office; Correspondence, 1946-1950
- 14. UGWA, Peer, Murton; Correspondence, 1949
- 15. UGWA; Resume of the activities, functions and needs of UGWA, 1949
- 16. UGWA, Supervisors' Review; Scattered issues, 1949-50
- 17. UGWA, U.G.W.A. News; Scattered issues 1949-1950
- 18. ; Circulars, correpondents, statements re: publication, 1949-1950
- 19. UGWA, UPW Michigan State Locals; Clippings, correspondence, lists, reports, Mar-Sep 1947

Box 8

- 1-3. UGWA, UPW Michigan State Locals; Clippings, correspondence, lists, reports, Oct 1947-1949
- 4-5. UGWA, UPW National Caucus; Bulletins, correspondence, reports, resolutions, 1947
- 6-8. ; Correspondence, newsletter, reports, 1948-1950
- 9. United Mine Workers of america (UMWA), Dow map theft; Charge, 1941
- 10. UMWA; Handbills, c. 1940
- 11. UMWA, Local 1497; Correspondence, handbills, n.d.
- 12-13. UMWA, Local 12075, Expenditures; Invoices, receipts, Mar-Jul 1941
- 14. ; Accounts, correspondence, lists, Mar-Jul 1941

Box 9

- 1. UMWA, Local 12075, Strike; NLRB decision, 25 Jul 1939
- 2. ; Settlement checks, 1941
- 3-4. ; Agreements, correspondence, decisions, notices 1937-41
- 5. UMWA, Local 12470; Strike 1932; Aribitration, 1943
- 6. UMWA; Plan of miscellaneous chemical plant, n.d.
- 7. United Retail and Wholesale Employees of America (UR&WEA), Neisner Strike; Agreements, clippings, correspondence, 1940-1941
- 8. UR&WEA, United Distribution Workers; Correspondence, 1949
- 9. United Tool and Instrument Workers (UT&IW); Agreement, 1940
- 10-11. Utility Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC); Agreements, contracts, correspondence, statements, 1937-1939
- 12. UWOC, Amalgamated Utility Employees; Ephemera, n.d.
- 13. UWOC, Bochinski, Mrs. E.; Circular and complaint, 1940
- 14. UWOC, Consolidated Edison Employees; Radio address by John Collins, 1940
- 15-17. UWOC, Consumers Power Co.; Agreements, correspondence, wage reports, 1937-1938



18. UWOC, Consumers Power, Jackson Michigan; Agreement, bulletins leaflets, c. 1940
19. UWOC, Consumers Power, R.L. Polk & Co.; Correspondence, employee lists, 1937
20. UWOC; Contact letters, Michigan, 1939, 1940

Box 10

- 1-9. UWOC; Correspondence, general, 1939-1946
10. UWOC, Detroit Edison; Correspondence, 1942
11. UWOC, Local 117, Springdale, PA; By-laws, clippings, 1939
12. UWOC, Local 118, Youngstown Ohio; Agreement, correspondence, 1940
13. UWOC, Local 216; Newsletter, n.d.
14. UWOC, Michigan Joint Council; Correspondence, minutes, NLRB matter, petition, 1940
15. UWOC, Ohio Edison; Circular, 1940
- 16-17. UWOC; Organizing letters and circulars, n.d., 1937-1940
18. UWOC, Pennsylvania and Ohio; Correspondence, notes, pamphlets, 1940-1941

Box 11

1. UWOC, Pennsylvania Memberships; Addresses, notes, n.d.
2. UWOC, United Electric and Radio Workers of America (UE&RWA); CIO newsletter and pamphlet, n.d., 1937
3. UWOC, UE&RWA, Consumers Power, Michigan; Correspondence, 1937-1938
4. ; Correspondence, NLRB orders re: utility companies, 1939-1940
5. UWOC, UE&RWA, Duquesne and West Penn.; Correspondence re organization problems, 1939-1940
6. UWOC, UE&RWA, Duquesne Light Case; Clippings, constitution, telegrams, 1939-1940
7. ; Legal documents, 1937
- 8-10. ; Legal documents, 1939
11. ; Letters, reports, statements, 1939-1940
12. ; NLRB correspondence, documents, 1939-1940
13. UWOC, UE&RWA, Tower, John; Correspondence re: Duquesne Light Co., 1940

Subseries B: CIO General Organizational Papers, 1933-1950

Box 11

14. Address cards, mileage notes, 1949
15. , Ancon Canal Zone
- 16-17. , Detroit area locals
- 18-19. , general

Box 12

- 1-2. Address Cards, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Vassar, Alma, Adrian
3. , Local 593
4. , Locals with no members
- 5-6. , MUCC branch offices
7. , Outside area locals
8. , State Locals
9. , Upper Penninsula
10. American Labor League; Clippings, constitution, pledge, 1937
11. American Patriots, Zanesville Ohio; Circular re: CIO, n.d.
12. Charter applications; Applications, correspondence, memoranda, 1937
13. CIO legal bulletin, 15 Aug 1939
- 14-15. Correspondence, general, 1937
- 16-21. , 1938-Apr 1941

Box 13

- 1-5. Correspondence and memoranda, general, May 1941-1946
6. Designing Engineers, Society of; Correspondence, 1941
7. Handbills and notices, c. 1940
8. Mail to be answered; varied correspondence and memoranda, 1946
9. Michigan CIO Council, Detroit; Circulars, correspondence, 1950-1951
10. Michigan CIO Council, 12th Annual Convention; Convention kit, 1950
11. Mount Clemens Pottery Co., Court Case; Agreement, brief, clippings, 1942-1945
- 12-13. Murray, Milton; Correspondence, 1949-1950
14. Plywood Products Corporation; Broadside re: sit-down strike, 1937
15. Region III Pennsylvania Field Offices; Address lists, bulletins, reports, c. 1939
16. Scholle, August; Correspondence, 1940, 1945, 1950
17. Securities and Exchange Commission; Annual report, applications, correspondence, 1941
18. Stolberg Articles; Correspondence, statements, clippings, 1938
- 19-20. ; clippings, excerpts, 1938

Series III  
Labor Education, 1932, 1934-1951  
Boxes 14-16

School notes, plays, labor and government publications and poetry, primarily generated during Williams' attendance at Brookwood Labor College. There is also material from the UAW Education Department, the Illinois Workers Alliance, the Wisconsin School for Workers in Industry, and various associations involved with the labor movement. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or by type of material.

## Box 14

1. American Labor Education Service Inc.; Correspondence from Lucile Kohn, 1943
2. Brookwood; Assignments of K. A. Williams, 1935-1936
- 3-6. ; Classnotes and assignments of K. A. Williams, 1935-1936
7. ; Correspondence received during K. A. Williams' school term, 1935-1936
8. ; The Line, The Lines; Student newspapers, 1936
- 9-13. Brookwood, "K.A.W. 848"; Handouts with notes 1935-1936
14. Brookwood; Miscellaneous leaflets, newsletters, pamphlets, report c. 1935-1936
15. ; Plays and skits, c. 1935-1936
16. ; Programs, ephemera, 1935-1936
17. ; Brookwood Review, The, Vol. XIV nos. 2 & 3, 1936
18. ; Brookwood Who's Who, n.d.

## Box 15

- 1-2. Brookwood; Typescript course plans, 1935-1936
3. ; Typescript handouts including class list, 1935-1936
4. CIO Department of Research and Education, The Truth About the CIO, Pub. No. 130 c. Feb 1946
5. Continental Congress for Economic Reconstruction; Fact sheet, 1933
6. Illinois Workers Alliance; Bibliographies, outlines, programs, 1935
7. ; Branch charters, correspondence, 1934-1935
8. IWW, With Drops of Blood; Leaflet, n.d.
- 9-10. Michigan bills and appropriations, annotated 1951
11. Michigan, University of, Workers Education Services; Correspondence, statement, 1948
12. NLRB; Pamphlet, research memorandum, clippings, 1939-1940
13. Poetry, n.d.
14. Socialism; The Case for Socialism by Fred Henderson, n.d.
15. ; Socialist Party of America, elementary study course, n.d.

16. Society for the Prevention of WW III; Printed matter, 1947-1948
- 17-18. UAW Education Department; Local officers information kit, n.d.

Box 16

1. UAW Education Department; Pocket guide, 1966
2. U.S. Department of Labor, Visual Information, USGPO, 1941
3. Wisconsin School for Workers in Industry; Correspondence, leaflets, notes, yearbook, 1935
4. ; Student letters in type-script and booklet form, 1935
5. Workers Education; Miscellaneous publications

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Series IV  
Clippings, 1935-1950  
Boxes 16-18

Clippings concerning such subjects as Ancon Canal Zone government workers; the Dow strike of 1939; CIO leadership, 1940; Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission chairmanship, 1948-1950; Civil Service organization in Michigan; and the Neisner strike of 1943. There is also a scrapbook containing clippings concerning the UAW, 1937; and public school certificates.

Box 16

- 6-10. Ancon Canal Zone, 1948
11. Ancon Canal Zone, 1949
- 12-14. CIO general topics, 1937, 1940, 1948-1950
- 15-17. CIO general topics, arranged by K.A. Williams, 1935-1950

Box 17

1. MUCC chairmanship appointments by governor G. Mernnen Williams, 1948-1950
2. Murray, Philip, Nov 1940
3. NLRB, 1940
4. Presidential Election 1940; Telegram, clippings re: CIO endorsement
5. UAW Ford Motor Co., 1940
6. UGWA, general topics, 1947-1950
7. UGWA, Local 191, 1950
- 8-11. UMWA, Local 12075, Dow Strike, 1939
12. UWOC, Various locals, general topics, 1939-1940

Box 18 (oversized)

Scrapbook; Clippings re: UAW, public school certificates, 1937

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\*Herstein, Lillian, 1:1  
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