

## **Helen Schiff Collection**

**Papers, 1940-1967**

**.5 linear feet  
1 manuscript box**

Accession #1172  
OCLC #

The papers of Helen Schiff were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1970 by Helen Schiff and were opened for research in May of 1984.

In 1940 the Socialist Workers Party split into majority and minority factions over the Hitler-Stalin Pact. The majority faction followed Leon Trotsky's unconditional defense of the Soviet Union's policies; the minority condemned the Hitler-Stalin Pact as an unjustifiable alliance. These differences led the minority faction to leave the Party and to form the Workers Party.

In 1957 young members of the Socialist Workers Party joined with left-wing members of the independent Young Socialist League, who were in opposition to their organization's proposed merger with the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation, and members of the Labor Youth League, youth section of the Communist Party-USA, to form the Young Socialist Supporters and to publish *Young Socialist*. In April 1960 the Supporters held a convention and reorganized themselves into the Young Socialist Alliance, youth section of the Socialist Workers Party. In 1965 Young Socialists (Canada) was founded as the youth section of the League for Socialist Action, a fraternal organization of the SWP.

The Helen Schiff Collection consists of materials documenting the 1940 split in the Socialist Workers Party and the founding of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Young Socialists (Canada) in the early 1960's. In addition, it contains miscellaneous reports, bulletins, and newsletters of the Socialist Workers Party and the Fourth International.

### **Important subjects covered in this collection are:**

Fascism  
Radical youth  
SWP factionalism  
SWP in Michigan

### **Among the important correspondents are:**

Martin Abern  
Farrell Dobbs

Albert Goldman

**Box 1**

- 1-2. Bulletins, Fourth International, 1940, 1957
3. Bulletins, Internationalist Socialist Youth, 1949
- 4-6. Bulletins, Young Socialist Alliance, 1960-62
- 7-9. Bulletins, Young Socialist League, 1957
10. Bulletins, Young Socialists (Canada), 1965-67
11. Convention Resolution, Apr 1940
12. Correspondence, Jan-Mar 1940
- 13-14. Michigan Militant, 1959-61
15. Report on the Los Angeles Anti-Fascist Campaign, 1945
16. Theses on International Economic and Political Perspectives, 1955

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(Correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)**

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