



WAYNE STATE  
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Walter P. Reuther Library

# Guide to the Bernard Firestone Papers LP001444

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Firestone, Bernard J.
<b>Title:</b>	Bernard Firestone Papers
<b>ID:</b>	LP001444
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1950-1989
<b>Physical Description:</b>	17 Linear Feet (17 SB)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Material entirely in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Bernard J. (Bernie) Firestone (1935-1989) served as secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers (ACTWU) Chicago and Central States Joint Board, and as vice-president of the Metro Detroit American Federation of Labor-Council of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). The papers of Mr. Firestone reflect his work as a labor activist and his involvement in community affairs.

### Citation Style

"Bernard Firestone Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## History

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Bernard J. (Bernie) Firestone (1935-1989) was secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union's Chicago and Central States Joint Board, the union's eight-state Midwest region, when he was killed by a disgruntled ACTWU retiree at his office in September 1989.

A Detroit native, he received undergraduate and law degrees from Wayne State University and was a member of ACTWU, which represents workers at tailor shops, laundries, dry cleaners and clothing

stores, for thirty years. A staunch labor activist, Firestone served as vice-president and on the Labor Crisis and Good Government Committees of the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO.

Firestone also served as a Central Michigan University trustee and was active in Democratic Party politics and community affairs generally, working with United Way, the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and numerous other civic organizations.

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## Scope and Content

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The papers of Bernard Firestone consist of correspondence, newsletters, minutes, publications, and other material relating to his work in the labor movement and his involvement in community activities.

Important subjects in the collection: ACTWU Collective Bargaining-Clothing Store Employees  
Democratic Party Politics Labor Mediation Metro Detroit AFL-CIO

Important correspondents in the collection: Ossie Davis David Hecker Jack Scheinkman Ed Scribner  
Tom Turner

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## Arrangement

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Folders are listed in the order they appear.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library.

## Access

Collection is open for research.

## Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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## Related Materials

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### Transfers

A few audio tapes of memorial tributes to Bernard Firestone have been placed in the Reuther Archives Audiovisual Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Labor movement
- AFL-CIO
- Textile Workers Union of America

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
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Appointment Books, 1982-1988	Box 1	Folder 1-7
Michigan Council for the Humanities, 1978-1986	Box 1	Folder 8
Labor Notes, 1989	Box 1	Folder 9
ACTWU Region 5, Community Directory and By-Laws, 1988	Box 1	Folder 10
ACTWU Region 5, Minutes, 1971-1975	Box 1	Folder 11-14
ACWA, correspondence, minutes, 1963	Box 2	Folder 1
Correspondence, 1964	Box 2	Folder 2-13
Firestone, tribute by Michigan Senate, 1973	Box 2	Folder 14
Correspondence, 1965-1979	Box 2	Folder 15
Correspondence, 1974 February-December	Box 2	Folder 16-26
Correspondence, 1977 April-1978	Box 2	Folder 27 -46
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Correspondence, 1986 January-June	Box 3	Folder 26-31
Correspondence, 1988 August-December	Box 3	Folder 32-36
University District Community Association Block Clubs, undated, 1972, 1974	Box 4	Folder 1-4
University District Community Association, newsletters, 1983-1988	Box 4	Folder 5-6
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