

JAMES B. CAREY COLLECTION

Papers, 1936-1973 (Predominantly,
1950s-1960s)

7.5 linear feet

Accession Number 1474 L.
C. Number MS

The papers of James B. Carey were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by his brother, John R. Carey, in June of 1988 and opened for research in September of 1993.

James Barron Carey was born in Philadelphia in 1911 and got his first taste of the labor movement in the early thirties while organizing workers at the Philco plant where he worked to put himself through night school at the Drexel Institute. He was elected secretary-treasurer of the CIO in 1938 and formed a close relationship with presidents John L. Lewis and Philip Murray. During World War II he worked for the Office of Production Management in Washington and attended the postwar European conferences that resulted in the organization of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

A staunch anti-Communist, Mr. Carey assumed the presidency of the newly chartered International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (IUE) in 1949 after the allegedly Communist-controlled UE, which he had helped organize in 1935, was expelled from the CIO. He was appointed secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department after the merger of the two organizations in 1955. Defeated by Paul Jennings after a court-ordered ballot recount in 1965, he resigned from the IUE presidency and later joined the United Nations Association as its labor liaison officer. He died in 1973.

The papers of Mr. Carey focus on a few incidents in his professional life and shed little light on his personal affairs. A much more comprehensive collection of papers relating to Mr. Carey's long career in the labor movement can be found in the CIO Secretary-Treasurer's Office Collection.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

International Labor Movement	Labor in the Electrical Industry
IUE Factionalism	Philip Murray
IUE 1964 Presidential Election	United Electrical, Radio and
IUE Organizing	Machine Workers of America (UE)

Among the important correspondents are:

Lou Harris	George Meany
Al Hartnett	Westbrook Pegler
Paul Jennings	Stuart Symington
Joseph Lash	Milton Weihrauch

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 8.

Contents

15 manuscript boxes

Series I, Personal Files, 1936-1973, Boxes 1-3:

Correspondence and other material relating to family and personal matters and his professional life.

Series II, AFL-CIO, 1937-1971, Boxes 3-9:

Correspondence, clippings and other records from Mr. Carey's tenure as secretary-treasurer of the CIO and, later, the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department.

Series III, International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, 1949-1972, Boxes 9-15:

Correspondence, clippings, legal documents and other material concerning IUE affairs.

Series IV, United Nations Association, 1965-1972, Box 15:

Correspondence and reports dealing with labor's support of the work of the United Nations.

Non-manuscript Material:

Several photographs and items of memorabilia have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection. A number of books and pamphlets on labor-related topics received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.

Series I
Personal Files, 1936-1973
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, speeches, clippings, legal documents, daily schedules and other papers highlighting a few events in Mr. Carey's personal and professional life. Of particular interest are a few letters exchanged with friends Lou Harris and Joseph Lash during World War II on labor's role in the war. Included are correspondence and drafts of his Ladies' Home Journal debate with Westbrook Pegler, "Is Pegler Fair to Labor?," an incomplete transcript of an oral autobiography done at Columbia University in 1966, and the legal record of his battle with the IRS in the late sixties. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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Series II
AFL-CIO, 1937-1971
Boxes 3-9

Miscellaneous correspondence from Mr. Carey's years with the IUD and a few reports, clippings and articles reflecting his interest in international labor issues. Included in this series are four scrapbooks of obituaries collected after the November, 1952 death of CIO president Philip Murray. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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- 12. Correspondence and reports, 1943-55
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- 5. ; Jim Gildea correspondence, 1956-57
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- 16-18. Philip Murray Memorial Foundation, Mar 1953-1955

Box 5

Philip Murray obituaries scrapbook, 9-10 Nov 1952

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Philip Murray obituaries scrapbook, 10 Nov 1952

Philip Murray obituaries scrapbook, 10-11 Nov 1952

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Philip Murray obituaries scrapbook, 12 Nov - 11 Dec 1952

Box 9

- 1-4. Phone log, Dec 1944 - Jan 1948
- 5. World Federation of Trade Unions, 1945-49

Series III
International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, 1949-1972
Boxes 9-15

Correspondence, reports, clippings and legal records covering Mr. Carey's years as president of IUE. Particularly well-documented are his feud with Al Hartnett, culminating in the secretary-treasurer's ouster in 1963, and the contested 1964 presidential election, which led to his resignation five months later, after losing to Paul Jennings in a Labor Department-supervised recount. There is a small amount of material dealing with IUE contract negotiations and organizing in the electrical industry. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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- 9-12. W. Richard Carter v. Carey; Carey deposition, Apr 1964

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- 1-2. W. Richard Carter v. Carey; Carey deposition, Apr 1964
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- 4-7. Constitutional convention; president's report, 1964
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2. Westinghouse Conference Board meeting, 10-11 Dec 1962
3. Workers Education Local 189 agreement, 1963

Series IV
United Nations Association, 1965-1972 Box 15

Correspondence and reports principally documenting Mr. Carey's efforts to gain union financial backing for his work as the United Nations Association's director of Labor Participation, which position he held from the creation of the office in 1966 until its closing in 1972.

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