

Al Bilik Papers
.25 linear feet (1 MB, 1 folder)
1961-1967 (bulk 1962-1964)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Maureen Simari on April 2, 2010. Edited by Deborah Rice on April 5, 2010. Updated by Deborah Rice on February 6, 2017.

Accession Number: LP001501

Creator: Al Bilik

Acquisition: The Al Bilik Papers were placed in the Walter P. Reuther Library's Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in March 1992.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Papers are 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.**

Notes: Citation style: "Al Bilik Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related Material: Four photographs were transferred to the Reuther's Audiovisual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder inventory provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Abstract

Al Bilik served on the District Council 51, Cincinnati, Ohio and was an active labor member within the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Sensitive to the relationship of the larger international union working with and depending on the strength of locals and councils, he helped American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union members Victor Gotbaum, Rob Hastings, Jerry Wurf, Joseph Ames, Norm Schut and Father Albert Blatz, form the Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR).

Formed in the early 1960's, COUR worked on AFSCME constitutional reforms to broaden the powers of the Secretary-Treasurer and International Executive Board, giving affiliated unions more authority in determining local policies and programs. COUR supported Jerry Wurf to become the new AFSCME President and opposed the candidacy of AFSCME President Arnold Zander in the international convention held May 1962 in Kansas City. At the 1964 Denver convention COUR campaigning eventually worked to oust Zander and establish Wurf as the new AFSCME President. Al Bilik later became the assistant to AFSCME President Jerry Wurf.

Al Bilik's papers contain correspondence from active COUR members, but does not contain correspondence written by Al Bilik.

Important Subjects:

Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR)
1964 AFSCME Convention

Important Correspondents:

Ames, Joseph
Gotbaum, Victor
Hastings, Robert H.
Upchurch, John
Wurf, Jerry
Zander, Arnold

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Box 1

1. Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR), 1961-1967 (1 of 3)
2. Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR), 1961-1967 (2 of 3)
3. Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR), 1961-1967 (3 of 3)

AV Folder

8x10 black & white photographic prints of COUR-AFSCME members, 1960s.

1. 3 people seated at table, Joseph Ames, far right smoking cigarette
2. 5 men seated at table, Robert Hastings, far right with glasses and cigarette
3. 2 women seated one man standing, Gordon Chapman, Secretary-Treasurer AFSCME
4. 1 man standing, individual not known, COUR-AFSCME event