

Douglas A. Fraser Papers
5 linear feet
1976-2008 (bulk 1983-1992)

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

Finding aid written by Jeanette Olson on March 15, 2009.

Accession Number: 2062

Creator: Douglas A. Fraser

Acquisition: The Douglas A. Fraser Papers were placed in the care of the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs on January 14, 2009.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Papers are open for research.

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Notes: Citation style: "Douglas A. Fraser Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related Material: College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs Records
Douglas A. Fraser Center for Workplace Issues Records
Irving Bluestone: UAW New Directions Movement Records
UAW International Executive Oral Histories
UAW Office of the President: Douglas Fraser Records
UAW Office of the President: Owen Bieber Records
UAW Region 1 Records
UAW Local 277 Records

History

Douglas A. Fraser is best known for his presidency of the United Auto Workers and his work on the Chrysler Board of Directors. Early in his life, Doug developed a commitment to public service which was fostered by his work with the UAW and continued into his retirement. Upon his retirement in 1983 from the UAW Doug Fraser continued his life of public service in the role of Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University.

Doug Fraser was born December 18, 1916, in Glasgow, Scotland. The Fraser family traveled to America and settled in Detroit in 1922, when Doug was 6 years old. At age 18, Doug graduated from Chadsey High School and began his career with the Chrysler Corporation. Working at the Chrysler DeSoto Plant Doug became a member of UAW Local 277. Through hard work and dedication Doug was elected president of Local 277 in 1943 at the age of 27. In 1947 Doug joined the UAW staff working with the Chrysler Department. Doug's intelligence and talent were quickly identified by Walter Reuther, and in 1951 he became Reuther's Administrative Assistant to the President. In 1970 Doug was elected to the position of International Vice President of the UAW. Following the retirement of Leonard Woodcock in May of 1977 Doug was elected President of the United Autoworkers, a position he held until his retirement in 1983.

In recognition of Doug's extensive career and public service, Wayne State University conferred upon him the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters on May 31, 1978.

During his presidency Doug was instrumental in working with Chrysler to obtain a federal loan to save the company from bankruptcy. In 1981 Doug reunited the UAW with the AFL-CIO after a 13 year absence. Representing the union through negotiations Doug secured the "30 and out" retirement agreement, substantial gains in healthcare, safety programs, and incremental pension increases for current and future retirees. In 1980 Doug was elected the first union member of the Chrysler Board of Directors, a position he held until 1984 when he was succeeded by UAW President Owen Bieber.

Following his retirement from the UAW in 1983, Doug Fraser began his academic career as visiting professor and labor scholar. Accepting a position as Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University Doug engaged workers, students, corporate professionals, and educators in a forum of exploration surrounding labor and urban issues.

Extending his influence beyond Detroit, Doug received the Jerry Wurf Fellowship at the John F. Kennedy School in 1983. Through this fellowship Doug contributed his experience and intellect in the form of lectures and workshops to the students and faculty of Harvard University. He also brought his experience to New York, serving as Labor Leader in residence at Columbia University for three years. In April of 1992, Doug became the 11th occupant of the Wayne Morse Chair of Law & Politics at the University of Oregon. Within Michigan he also maintained a visiting professor relationship with the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

In recognition of Doug's accomplishments Wayne State University opened the Douglas A. Fraser Center for Workplace Issues, known as the Fraser Center, in 1997. The Fraser Center was

developed to create a forum of workers, students, and corporate professionals to discuss relevant issues within the workplace.

During his career in academia Doug continued his commitment to public service holding multiple appointments on committees and councils. Locally Doug served on the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the Economic Club of Detroit, New Detroit, and the United Foundation of Detroit. Doug co-chaired with Lee Iacocca the Michigan Governor's Commission on Jobs & Economic Development. Doug also worked to establish the Business Enterprise Trust with the University of Michigan Business School and the Kellogg School at Northwestern. Although the trust never achieved the desired potential, thirty awards over six years were conferred for education in business.

Nationally, Doug was a lifetime member of the NAACP, a member of the board of trustees for the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, and served on the executive committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. He also held three Presidential appointments on the Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the President's Advisory Committee to Japan, and the National Commission on Public Service. Doug also chaired the Health Security Action Council with Peter Pestillo of Ford Motor Company.

In tandem with his professorial duties and committee work Doug maintained a close relationship with members of the UAW. He presented at conferences and workshops, attended retirement dinners, and local union meetings. Doug also developed an extensive resume of public appearances and publications. He addressed Senate and House Committees concerned with healthcare, labor law, and human rights. Doug's writings and interviews appeared in both scholarly and popular media publications with topics ranging from union issues to national concerns.

Scope and Content:

This collection was created by Doug Fraser during his tenure as Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University. The collection includes some material collected during Fraser's presidency of the UAW. The majority of the collection is material collected during Fraser's tenure at WSU ending in his death in 2008. The collection demonstrates the personal relationships Doug maintained and developed in his role as a university professor. The collection includes interviews, speeches, presentations, and publications Doug engaged in during his time at WSU. The collection also demonstrates the multiple roles Doug held on national and local councils and committees.

Important Subjects:

- Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies
- Business Enterprise Trust
- College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs
- Council for National Health Issues
- Detroit Economic Club
- Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- Edward L. Cushman Endowment Fund
- Governor's Committee for the 21st Century

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
Human Rights
Japan
Labor Law
Latin America
NAFTA
Nat Weinberg Award
New Directions Movement
Race Relations Council of Metro Detroit
Sam Fishman Memorial Fund
South Africa
Walter and May Reuther Memorial Fund
Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Committee

Important Names:

David Adamany
Owen Bieber
Irving Bluestone
Sam Fishman
Sheldon Friedman
Ronald Gettelfinger
Melvin Glasser
Rev. Msgr. George G. Higgins
Lee Iacocca
Mildred Jeffery
Lane Kirkland
Ernie Lofton
Philip Mason
Peter Pestillo
Victor Reuther
Jacob Sheinkman
Sue Mary Smock
Don Stillman
Stephen Yokich
Leonard Woodcock

Series I: Correspondence, 1983-2006 (bulk, 1983-1996)

Series I consists of personal and professional correspondence collected by Doug Fraser during his tenure as Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University. The personal correspondence illuminates the relationships Doug developed and maintained during his presidency at the UAW and his tenure at WSU. The professional correspondence demonstrates Doug's role as Professor of Labor Studies, as well as, the various committees and councils Doug served on outside of the university. Subjects covered in the correspondence include: presentations, degrees/awards, scholarship funds, politics, and the economy in Michigan. The correspondence includes: memos, letters, cards, news clippings, and publications.

Subseries A: General Correspondence

Subseries A consist of general correspondence written to Doug Fraser from various individuals within his professional life. The correspondence demonstrates Doug's continued involvement with the UAW, with both the leadership of the union and on the local level. The correspondence also demonstrates Doug's continued role in the labor movement overall, corresponding with the individuals in the AFL-CIO and other labor leaders. The correspondence also reflects professional relationships Doug developed within the Wayne State University community, reflecting Doug's emerging career in academia as a visiting professor and scholar. Index to Subseries A follows container listing.

Subseries B: Personal Correspondence

Subseries B contain the personal correspondence between Doug Fraser and his close friends and relatives. This group of correspondence was organized in a binder in alphabetical order by Doug Fraser's administrative assistant (original order was maintained). This correspondence reflects Doug's personality and commitment to his friends and family. The majority of correspondence consists of handwritten notes, often addressing individuals by their first name or by a nickname, demonstrating the level of intimacy Doug held with these correspondents.

Series II: Subject Files, 1983-2008 (bulk, 1983-1996)

Series II consists of subject files created and maintained by Doug Fraser during his tenure at Wayne State. The coursework portion of the series reflects Doug's role as educator in University community. The coursework includes course descriptions, publications for the course packs, and handwritten notes for lectures. This series also demonstrates Doug's continued public service commitment, showing his engagement with various committees and councils. This series demonstrates his work on the Business Enterprise Trust Committee, the Committee for National Health Insurance, and the Race-Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit. This series also demonstrates Doug's continued personal exploration in the field of economics, politics, and international affairs. The documents in this series include: handwritten notes, memos, correspondence, publications, and draft reports.

Series III: Presentations and Publications, 1976-1998 (1983-1991)

Series III consists of presentations and publications collected by Doug Fraser during his tenure at WSU. This series includes interviews with or publications about Doug Fraser, as well as, presentations and publications authored by Doug Fraser. Following his retirement from the UAW Doug Fraser was periodically interviewed by various individuals, from graduate students to professional talk show hosts. These interviews resulted in publications appearing in both scholarly and popular media venues. The presentations and publications authored by Doug Fraser include published and unpublished writings, statements to the US House and Senate, and presentations at UAW conferences. The published writings of Doug Fraser range from local news articles to scholarly journal articles and book chapters. The documents in this series include: drafts, published works, speech notes, and formal resolutions.

Subseries A: Interviews and Publications, 1978-1998

Subseries A consists of interviews and publications about Doug Fraser that appear in various publications such as the Christian Science Monitor and the Automotive Intelligence Report. The subjects covered in the interviews are current politics, the auto industry, and Doug's public service endeavors. Student essays and thesis written about Doug Fraser are also contained within this series.

Subseries B: Doug Fraser Public Speeches and Publications, 1976-1994

Subseries B consists of public speeches and publications created and maintained by Doug Fraser during his tenure at WSU. The presentations in this subseries include: statements and remarks to Senate and House committees, speeches to UAW conferences and local unions, as well as, statements to various local and national organizations. The publications within this series consist of articles and book chapters authored by Doug Fraser. The subjects contained in these presentations and publications include Healthcare, Labor Relations, Employment and Job Security.

Subseries C: Patrick J. Wright Interviews, 1981-1983

Subseries C is composed of personal interviews with Douglas Fraser conducted by Patrick J. Wright. Wright is the author of *On a Clear Day You Can See General Motors*, an expose on mismanagement in the auto industry. Wright, a journalist for Business Week Magazine, covered the auto industry for over 13 years. Wright also published for *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*. During the time period of the interviews Doug was engaged in the Chrysler federal loan, serving on the Chrysler Board of Directors, and working to ensure a smooth transition for the leadership of the UAW. These interviews provide insight into the topics above, as well as, Doug's early life, his experiences with Walter Reuther, and his experience with the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters. Throughout the interviews Doug and Pat discuss the "proposal" alluding to a possible book to be published from the interviews. The book proposal Doug and Pat discussed has not result in a publication.

Series IV: Audio Visual Materials

Series IV contains audio visual materials collected by Doug Fraser during his tenure at Wayne State University. Items within this series consist of 3 Dimensional awards, audio tapes, video tapes, and broadcast quality video recordings.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series- Series I (Box 1-2), Series II (Box 2), Series III (Box 3-4), and Series IV (Box 5).

Series I is further divided into two Subseries- Subseries A (Box 1) and Subseries B (Box 1).

Series III is further divided into three Subseries- Subseries A (Box 3), Subseries B (Box 3), and Subseries C (Box 3 & 4).

The chronological arrangement for Series I was maintained and folder titles determined by month. Index for Series I Subseries A follows box listing. Series II is arranged in alphabetical order by original folder title. Series III is arranged in alphabetical order by title of presentation. Index for Series III Subseries C follows box listing.

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60. October 1990
61. November 1990
62. December 1990
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64. February 1991
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68. September- October 1991
69. November 1991
70. December 1991
71. January- February 1992
72. March- May 1992
73. June- August 1992
74. September- December 1992
75. January- April 1993

76. May- December 1993

Series I

Subseries A continued

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1. January- May 1994
2. June- December 1994
3. January- March 1995
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5. January- May 1996
6. June- December 1996
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30. Coursework: Corporate Boards, 1991-1996
31. Coursework: Fraser's Calendars, 1990-2003
32. Coursework: LBS 470 Fall 1991
33. Coursework: LBS 470 Fall 1994
34. Coursework: LBS 470 Fall 1995
35. Coursework: Organizing, 1985-1996
36. Coursework: Politics, 1994- 1995

37. Coursework: Race- Sex Discrimination, 1981-1994
38. Coursework: Social Issues, 1995
39. Economy, 1983- 1985
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42. Harvard: Dively Award, 1985
43. Healthcare: Correspondence, 1988-1991
44. Healthcare: Health Security Partnership Draft Bill, 1993
45. Healthcare: Publications/Research, 1988-1994
46. Healthcare: Russo Bill: HR 1300, 1991-1992
47. Hyatt- Clark, 1983-1985
48. Japan, 1981-1991
49. Josephson Center for the Advancement of Professional Ethics, n/d
50. Labor@Wayne, n/d
51. Maintaining Non-Union Status, 1994-1997
52. Mayor's Committee for the 21st Century, 1991-1993
53. Metropolitan Transit Development Committee, 11-1988

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7. Russia-Poland visit, 1991
8. Training: American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), 1987-1989
9. Training: Work in America Institute 2000, 1986-1987
10. Training: Publications, 1987- 1988
11. UAW Region I: UAW Member response to Stephen Yockich, 1998
12. University of Michigan: DeRoy Honors Professor, 2000
13. Urban, Labor, & Metropolitan Affairs, 1983- 2008
14. U.S. Department of Labor, 1985- 1993
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17. American Legion Magazine: Interview Transcript, n/d
18. Automotive Intelligence Report: Focus: UAW's Doug Fraser, 10-1994
19. Christian Science Monitor Special Report: Agenda for the 21st Century, n/d
20. Detroit College of Law Honorary Degree, 1996
21. Ford Corporate History Project: Interview Transcript, 31-8-1988
22. Interview: Straight Talk with a Union Leader, n/d
23. Jefferson- Jackson Day Dinner: Tribute to Doug, 1983
24. Master's Essay: Racial Divisions within the Labor Movement and the Progressive Alliance, 5-12-1998

25. Meet the Press: Guest Douglas A. Fraser, 1-10-1978
26. New York State: Office of Employee Relations News, 12-1986
27. Personnel Administrator: Douglas Fraser: A Unique Perspective, 9-1987
28. Pollock, Andy: How Doug Fraser sold out the Autoworkers, n/d
29. Reader's Digest: The Labor Leader Everyone Respects, 6-1980
30. Reuther Library: Fraser Center for Workplace Issues, 1997
31. Saturday Review: Douglas Fraser: Labor's Courtly Rebel, 14-4-1979
32. Thompson, Heather: Detroit Wildcat 1973, 1985

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33. A Challenge to the United States: Job Creation and Employment Security, n/d
34. A Labor Director Looks at the Board: Teamwork chp 5, n/d
35. American Public Health Association: Opening Address, 29-9-1986
36. Article on Trade, 11-5-1985
37. Conference Panel Transcript, n/d
38. Conference Presentation: Autoworkers in a world of Overcapacity, 14-5-1987
39. Conference Presentation: Doug Fraser and Brother Gardner, n/d
40. Cornell University: Remarks to NY State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Sp. 1987
41. Dunlop Commission Report: Future of Worker- Management Relations, 1993
42. Economic Club of Detroit: Two Publications, 10-5-1989 & 29-1-1979
43. Executive Dialogue Symposium: Midwest Economic Opportunities in the Next Decade, 14-10-1986
44. Executive Dialogue Symposium: Corporate Restructuring: It's Effect on American Business, 7-12-1987
45. House Committee on Education and Labor Relations: Statement on Labor Law Reform, 27-7-1977
46. Is the Labor Movement on the Right Course?, 1989
47. Jobs in the 1980's, 1-11-1984
48. LA Times: Unions, 27-10-1985
49. Michigan Magazine: Everyone's Special Interest, 18-7-1984
50. Mondale Policy Forum: The Challenge to Social Justice in a Global Economy, 4-2-1993
51. NABET-CWA: Conference Address, 9-6-1994
52. National Academy of Arbitrators: New Trends in Collective Bargaining, 2-6-1989
53. New England Journal of Public Policy: The Presidential Primary- A faulty process, n/d
54. Remarks about Walter Reuther: How Would Walter Reuther Manage the 1990 Auto Negotiations, n/d
55. Restructuring the Workplace: A Union Perspective, n/d
56. Senate Committee on Human Relations: Labor Law Reform, n/d
57. Speech notes: Enforce the National Labor Relations Act, 1981
58. The Challenge of Competitiveness: A Labor View, n/d
59. The Labor Lawyer: Workforce 2000, 1991
60. UAW CAP Conference: Keynote Address, 13-1-1980
61. UAW Skilled Trades Conference: Keynote Address on New Technology, 13-12-1977
62. UAW Skilled Trades Conference: Remarks, 17-2-1976
63. US House of Reps.: Statement on Health Insurance for the Unemployed, 24-2-1983
64. Women's National Democratic Symposium: The Phoenix of Healthcare, 7-11-1985

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65. Reopening Negotiations, 27-1-1981

66. UAW Internal Politics, 25-2-1981
67. State of the Auto Industry, 28-2-1981
68. Ford/ Chrysler Merger, 7-3-1981
69. AFL-CIO Reaffiliation & History, 30-4-1981
70. Doug's Remarks on Politicians, 5-5-1981
71. Japan, 5-5-1981
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73. Reopen Ford Negotiations, 11-7-1981
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15. Securing the Chrysler Loan Vote, 2-11-1982
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22. General Motors & Toyota, 5-5-1983
23. UAW History, 27-7-1983
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