



ArchivesSpace

Ralph Orr Papers LP002615

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Orr, Ralph
Title:	Ralph Orr Papers
ID:	LP002615
Date [inclusive]:	1968-1983
Physical Description:	2.26 Linear Feet (3 MB, 5 cassettes, 1 photograph)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Ralph Orr was the labor writer for the Detroit Free Press, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. Two of his primary focuses over the years were the UAW and the Teamsters, particularly the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa, for which he became the journalistic voice of authority. The materials in Ralph Orr Papers are primarily Orr's research materials on Hoffa and his disappearance, including interview transcripts, notes, clippings, and correspondence as well as drafts of Orr's articles. The collection also contains 5 audio cassettes, three of which feature Orr on the radio program, "Spotlight on the News."

Citation Style

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

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Historical Note

Born in Portland, Oregon in 1922, Ralph Orr's family moved to Michigan where he was raised in Three Rivers. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1942 with a journalism degree and enlisted in the Merchant Marine. After the War, he married Margaret Arnett, and they moved to New York, where Orr became part-owner and editor of the Dansville Breeze Newspaper. Then they moved to Detroit, where Orr established himself as the labor writer for the Detroit Free Press, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. Two of his primary focuses over the years were the UAW and the Teamsters,

particularly the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa, for which he became the journalistic voice of authority. Orr passed away in 2011 at the age of 91.

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Scope and Content

Series 1: Hoffa Research, 1968-1983 Orr's research materials on Hoffa and his disappearance include interview transcripts, notes, clippings, and correspondence. Of particular note are letters to Orr from Hoffa's "self styled adopted son" Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien and labor icon Myra Wolfgang. This series also contains some drafts of Orr's articles.

Series 2: Audiovisual, 1975-1981 The Audiovisual Series includes a photo of Hoffa's son by Free Press Photographer Tony Spina as well as five audio cassettes, three of which feature Orr on the radio program, "Spotlight on the News."

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Arrangement

Arranged in 3 series – Series 1 (Boxes 1-3), Series 2 (transferred to Audiovisual Department) Folders are arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

The Ralph Orr Papers were donated by Steve Orr on February 12, 2015.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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Related Materials

Transfers

One photograph and five audio cassettes were transferred to the Reuther's Audiovisual Department.

Related Materials

Jimmy Hoffa FBI Files, Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union Local 24 Records, Thomas Bernick Papers, and Tony Spina Oral History

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Controlled Access Headings

- Detroit Free Press Co.
- Hoffa, James P.
- Hoffa, James R. (James Riddle), 1913-
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Hoffa Research

Title/Description	Instances	
Hoffa Research, 1968	Box 1	Folder 1
Hoffa Research, 1969	Box 1	Folder 2
Hoffa Research, 1970	Box 1	Folder 3
Hoffa Research, 1971	Box 1	Folder 4
Hoffa Research, 1972	Box 1	Folder 5
Hoffa Appeal, 1974	Box 1	Folder 6
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1974-1975 (1 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 7
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1974-1975 (2 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 8
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1974-1975 (3 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 9
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1975 (1 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 10
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1975 (2 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 11
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1975 (3 of 3)	Box 1	Folder 12
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1976 (1 of 2)	Box 2	Folder 1
Hoffa Research Scrapbook, 1976 (2 of 2)	Box 2	Folder 2
Hoffa Research, 1976 July	Box 2	Folder 3
Hoffa Research, 1976 November-December	Box 2	Folder 4
Hoffa Research, 1978 January-February	Box 2	Folder 5
Hoffa Research, 1978 March (1 of 2)	Box 2	Folder 6
Hoffa Research, 1978 March (2 of 2)	Box 2	Folder 7
Hoffa Research, 1978 April-May	Box 2	Folder 8
Hoffa Research, 1978 June	Box 2	Folder 9
Hoffa Research, 1978 July	Box 2	Folder 10
Hoffa Research, 1978 August	Box 2	Folder 11
Hoffa Research, 1978 September	Box 2	Folder 12
Hoffa Research, 1978 October	Box 3	Folder 1
Hoffa Research, 1978 November-December	Box 3	Folder 2
Hoffa Research, 1979 January	Box 3	Folder 3

Hoffa Research, 1979 February	Box 3	Folder 4
Hoffa Research, 1979 March-April	Box 3	Folder 5
Hoffa Research, 1979 May-June	Box 3	Folder 6
Hoffa Research, 1979 August-October	Box 3	Folder 7
Hoffa Research, 1979 November-December	Box 3	Folder 8
Hoffa Research, 1980 January-August	Box 3	Folder 9
Hoffa Research, 1980 September-October	Box 3	Folder 10
Hoffa Research, 1981-1982	Box 3	Folder 11
Hoffa Research, 1983	Box 3	Folder 12
Hoffa Research, Parole	Box 3	Folder 13
Hoffa Research, Biographical	Box 3	Folder 14
Briguglio, Gabriel	Box 3	Folder 15

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Series 2: Audiovisual

Title/Description	Instances
Photograph, James P. Hoffa, 1975 August	Item 1
Cassette, Spotlight on the News, 1978 April 30	Item 2
Cassette, Spotlight on the News, Doug Fraser, 1980 February 3	Item 3
Cassette, Spotlight, 1981 May 26	Item 4
Cassette, Hoffa, [undated]	Item 5
Cassette, [untitled], [undated]	Item 6

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