

UAW LOCAL 154 COLLECTION

Papers, 1933-1963
(Predominantly, 1933-1960)

7 linear feet
1 scrapbook

Accession Number 128
L.C. Number

The papers of UAW Local 154 Detroit, were placed in the Wayne State University Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1963 by officials of the UAW and were opened for research in March 1979•

UAW Local 154 was formed in 1936 to reoesent the workers of the Hudson Motor Car Company, Detroit. The officials and rank and file of Local 154 belonged to UAW Local 18312, affiliated with AFL, until July 1934. The local broke away from the AFL and for two years belonged to the Associated Automobile Workers of America. In July 1936 the local was reconstituted and designated UAW Local 154.

UAW Local 154 represented Hudson Motor Car Company workers until 1955 when the company was merged with Nash-Kelvinator, forming American Motors Corporation. The entire manufacturing operation of Hudson Motor Car Company was moved to Kenosha and Milwaukee, Wisconsin after the merger and Local 154 represented workers of the Special Products Division of American Motors where some of the laid off Hudson employees found work. After 1955 the membership in Local 154 dropped rapidly and in its later years the local was chiefly representative of retirees of the defunct Hudson Motor Car Company. Local 154 ceased activities in 1963.

The years 1933 through 1935 are particularly well covered in the correspondence series and the complete minute books from 1936 to 1957 provide important insights into the growth, development, and decline of Local 154.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

The averted Hudson Strike of 1934
Dissatisfaction with and withdrawal from AFL
National Labor Relations Board decisions regarding
Hudson workers

Merger of Hudson and Nash-Kelvinator
Lay-off and transfer of workers to Wisconsin

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters is on last page of this guide)

Arthur E. Greer (Pres., Local 154)
William Green (Pres., AFL)
Franklin D. Roosevelt (telegram)
Arthur H. Vandenburg

Contents

10 manuscript boxes
4 ledger boxes
1 scrap book

Series I, Boxes 1-5

Minute books and unbound minutes relating to Local 154 and earlier unions at Hudson Motor Car Company. The unbound minutes include those of the Curtailment Committee and Entertainment and Recreation Committee.

Series II, Box 6

Unbound minutes of other organizations including the AFL (1934 and the Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council (1938-1943).

Series III, Boxes 7-9

Correspondence and documents of UAW Local 154. The material from the 1930's is especially rich in regard to the labor movement within the automotive industry. Papers after 1950 are largely routine and administrative in nature.

Series IV, Box 10

Financial records and reports of UAW Local 154. The greatest part of the series is a run of audit reports from 1939 to 1955.

Series V, Boxes 11-14

Papers related to retirement. Includes minutes of the Hudson Motor Car Company Retirement Board, routine correspondence related to retirement and pensions, and completed payment authorization forms pertaining to individuals.

The Scrap Book consists of eight pages of news clippings dating from the 1940's and 1950's on topics of interest to automotive labor union members.

Series I
Boxes 1-5

Minute books and unbound minutes of UAW Local 154 and organizations within the local. The first four boxes contain bound journals of minutes; the fifth box contains unbound minutes separated by organization. The unbound minutes of the two unions which immediately preceded Local 154 at Hudson Motor Car Co. are included in the fifth box and are valuable in conjunction with the correspondence from this period in their reflection of labor difficulties and disputes with the AFL in 1934.

Ledger Box 1

- a. Minute book of the General Assembly;
July 26, 1936 to February 24, 1939
- b. Minute book of the General Assembly;
March 10, 1939 to October 17, 1941

Ledger Box 2

- a. Minute book of the General Assembly;
October 24, 1941 to December 22, 1944
- b. Minute book of the General Assembly;
January 26, 1945 to October 28, 1949

Ledger Box 3

- a. Minute book of the General Assembly;
November 18, 1949 to June 21, 1957
- b. Attendance record, Chief Shop Stewards;
1945 to 1950

Ledger Box 4

- a. Minute book of Hudson Unit, Local 154;
December 19, 1943 to June 14, 1946
- b. Minute book of the Westinghouse Unit, Local 154;
December 13, 1943 to March 15, 1946

Box 5

- 1-3. UAW Local 18312 Minutes; December 1933 to December 1934
- 4-5. Associated Automobile Workers of America, Local 2 Minutes; January 1935 "to May 1935
6. Local 154 Minutes; 1945 to 1947
7. Local 154 Curtailment Committee Minutes; 1940
- 8-11. Local 154 Entertainment and Recreation Committee (ERC) Minutes and Documents; 1944 to 1953

Series II
Box 6

Unbound minutes of labor organizations with whom Local 154 had relations. These minutes are in typescript or mimeographed form. The minutes of the Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council are fairly complete for the years 1938, 1939 and 1940; the other years have large gaps.

Box 6

1. American Federation of Labor Minutes; February to June 1934
2. American Federation of Labor Convention Minutes; June 23 and 24, 1934
3. National Labor Board Minutes; March 1934
- 4-10. Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council Minutes; 1938 to 1943

Series III
Boxes 7-9

Correspondence and documents related to Local 154. Contains incoming and outgoing letters, memoranda, and documents arranged in chronological order. Indexes to important correspondents and important subjects are on the last page of this guide.

Box 7

- 1-10. Correspondence; July 1933 to 1-10 June 1934

Box 8

- 1-11. Correspondence; 11-30 June 1934 to 1957

BOX 9

- 1-4. Correspondence; 1958 to 1963
5. Reference Documents: Agreements and Constitutions
6. Reference Documents: Legislative bills
7. Reference Documents: Wayne Co. (Mich.) AFL-CIO
8. Reference Documents: Michigan AFL-CIO
9. Reference Documents: UAW Administrative Letters
10. Reference Documents: Employee Insurance Claims

Series IV
Box 10

Financial records and reports of Local 154, The bulk of this series is composed of semi-annual audit reports which are nearly complete for the period 1939 to 1955.

Box 10

- 1-2. Records of the Financial Secretary; 1933 and 1934
- 3-24. Local 154 Audit Reports; 1939 to 1955
25. Financial reference documents; 1955-1960

Series V
Boxes 11-14

Records relating to retirement matters of Hudson Motor Car Company workers. Consists of unbound minutes and correspondence of the Hudson Motor Car Company Retirement Board and completed retirement payment authorizations. The series also includes routine Local 154 retirement and pension correspondence and reference documents.

Box 11

- 1-7. Hudson Motor Car Co. Retirement Board Correspondence; 1950-1955
8. American Motors Special Products Division Retirement Board Correspondence; 1956

Box 12

- 1-6. Hudson Motor Car Co. Retirement Board Minutes;
1950 to 1955
- 7. American Motors Special Products Division Retirement
Board Minutes; 1956 and 1958
- 8-9. Retirement Authorizations; 1950 and 1951
- 10-11. Retirement Authorizations; 1956

Box 13

- 1-6. Retirement Authorizations; 1957 to 1959
- 7-9. Amended Retirement Authorizations; 1956 to 1958
- 10-13. Final Retirement Benefits Authorizations; 1956
to 1959

Box 14

- 1-8. Local 154 Retirement/Pension Correspondence;
1950 to 1957
- 9. Local 154 Retirement/Pension Reference Documents;
1950 to 1960
- 10. Local 154 Retired Worker's Committee Documents; 1959

Printed Materials Removed From Collection

Agreement Between the Special Products Division of American-Motors Corporation and UAW-CIO Local 154, November 7, 1958

Bloodbanking (brochure), AFL-CIO Pub. #112

Consumer Beware, A Guide to Installment Buying, AFL-CIO Pub. #47

Disaster Service (brochure), AFL-CIO Pub. #49

Fluoridation for Your Community (brochure), AFL-CIO Pub. #83

Forand Bill (86th Congress, 1st Sess., H.R. 4700), What Does it Mean to You (brochure)

Local Union Older and Retired Workers Committees Guid

Michigan AFL-CIO (brochure)

Report, Board of International Trustees and International Secretary, UAW, January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955

Report, Board of International Trustees and International Secretary, UAW, January 1, 1956 to June 30, 1956

Reoort, Board of International Trustees and International Secretary, UAW, January 1, 1958 to June 30, 1958

Report, Board ,of International Trustees and International Secretary, UAW, January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958

Report, Michigan State AFL-CIO: Statement of Affairs for Year Ended December 31, 1958

(First Annual) Report of the Public Review Board to the Members of the UAW, 1957-1958

(Seventh Annual) Report of the UAW Public Review Board of UAW, 1963-1964

Senior Citizens Almanac, Older and Retired Workers Department, UAW, AFL-CIO

Index to Correspondence

Correspondents

Green, William, 8-4, 8-8

Greer, Arthur E., numerous letters by Greer are found throughout the correspondence files of the '1930's while he was president of Local 154.

Roosevelt, Franklin D., President, 7-6 (telegram)

Vandenburg, Arthur H., 7-10 (views on labor and "Wagner Act)

Important Subjects

American Federation of Labor, Dissatisfaction and Break With,
7-10, 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4

Associated Automobile Workers of America, Affiliation With,
8-4, 8-5, 8-6 (see also AAWA Minutes, 5-4 and 5-5)

Automobile Labor Board, Decisions By,
7-9, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8

Averted Hudson Strike (1934),
7-5, 7-6, 7-7

Grievances and Complaints,
7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 7-7, 7-8, 8-1, 8-10

Hudson Motor Car Co., Bargaining Meetings With
7-7, 7-8, 8-8, 8-11

National Labor Board,
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Nazis (German), Appeal Against,
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Wagner Act,
7-7, 7-10