

The UAW Local 45 Collection

Papers, 1939-1974

(Predominantly, 1944-1971)

28 1/4 linear feet

Accession Number 876

LC Number MS

The papers of UAW Local 45 were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April 1978 and were opened for research in June of 1983.

UAW Local 45 represents the workers at the Fisher Body Division #1 plant in Cleveland, Ohio, and the cafeteria workers at the same plant who are employed by the Fred Prophet Company. It was chartered in 1934 as AFL Federal Local 18614 and led two unsuccessful strikes in April of 1934 and May of 1935. After these defeats, the Local was reorganized and chartered as UAW Local 45 on 1 October 1935. The Local was active in both the 1936-1937 sitdown and the 1945-1946 strike against General Motors.

During the late 1940s and the 1950s Local 45 opposed Walter Reuther's leadership of the UAW and, in 1947, the recording secretary of the Local, John DeVito, ran for UAW president against Reuther. Throughout these years, Local 45 was active in the fight against the Taft-Hartley Law, and in support of political action by labor, civil rights, and unemployment compensation.

In September of 1948 Local 45 won an NLRB election which gave it the right to represent the workers at the Fisher Body Station Wagon plant in Euclid, Ohio. These workers remained in Local 45 until April of 1949 when they were granted their own charter from the UAW and became Local 1045.

The papers of UAW Local 45 reflect the daily functioning of the Local, including its negotiations with Fisher Body Corporation and the Prophet Company, and its organizing drive at the Euclid Station Wagon plant.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Blacks	Seniority
Civil Rights	Skilled Trades
Fair Employment Practices	Taft-Hartley Law
Health and Safety	Unemployment Compensation
Pension	UAW Factionalism, 1940s-1950s
Political Action	Workmen's Compensation

Among the important correspondents are:

Charles Beckman	Oliver Hardy
William Casstevens	Charles Kennedy
John DeVito	Emil Mazey
Leo Fenster	Patrick O'Malley
Bert Foster	Leonard Woodcock

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 9

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30 1/2 manuscript boxes
13 storage boxes

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Correspondence, election material, minutes, financial reports, agreements, and other items from the office files of UAW Local 45. Subjects of interest include UAW factionalism in the 1940s and the 1950s, civil rights and fair employment practices, pension plans, seniority problems, and unemployment and workmen's compensation.

Series II, Shop Committee and Plant Management Meetings, 1944-1969; Boxes 17-31: Minutes of the meetings between UAW Local 45's Shop Committee and the management of Fisher Body Cleveland Division #1 at which workers' grievances, company policies, and contract issues were discussed. Subjects dealt with in the minutes include job classification, seniority, foremen working, worker safety, wages, and production standards.

Series III, Grievances, 1944-1971; Boxes 32-44:

The grievances of UAW Local 45.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately one-half linear foot of photographs relating to the picnics of UAW Local 45 during the 1940s and the 1950s have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collections. Also, bound umpire decisions and numerous UAW convention proceedings, agreements, newspapers, and pamphlets--concerning unemployment compensation, worker safety, and pension plans--received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.

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Series I
General Office Files, 1939-974
Boxes 1-16

Correspondence, election material, minutes, financial reports, agreements, and other items from the office files of UAW Local 45 which document the daily functioning of the Local. Some of the subjects included in this series are UAW factionalism in the 1940s and the 1950s, the Taft-Hartley Law, civil rights and fair employment practices, pension plans, seniority problems, and unemployment and workmen's compensation. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or by type of material.

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Series II
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