

Title: Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Collection

Genre: Records

Dates: 1972-1995

Size: 11 linear feet

ID #: 1754

OCLC #:

The records of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in August and September of 2001 by President William Lucy and the CBTU Executive Council and were opened for research in March of 2002.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists was founded at a conference in Chicago on September 23-24, 1972 attended by more than 1,200 black union officials and rank-and-file members. The meeting was called by a steering committee of five black union leaders who hoped to galvanize outrage at the AFL-CIO Executive Council's neutrality in the 1972 presidential election into support for an independent organization which would give voice to the concerns of blacks and other minority constituencies in the labor movement — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy, United Auto Workers Vice President Nelson Jack Edwards, Washington Teachers' Union President William Simons, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen Vice President Charles Hayes and District 65 Distributive Workers President Cleveland Robinson. Robinson, A. Philip Randolph's successor as head of the Negro American Labor Council, pledged NALC's resources to the fledgling organization.

In 1973, at a constitutional conference in January and its first convention in May, both held in Washington, D.C., the CBTU formalized its structure (the steering committee was expanded to twenty) and created organizing committees for chapters in Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Columbus, Ohio. By 2001, CBTU counted more than fifty chapters, including one in Ontario, Canada. The organization committed itself to using political action and union organizing campaigns to increase black participation and influence in the labor movement and insure social and economic progress for working people and the poor.

CBTU has sponsored regional and national conferences and workshops around the issues of voter registration and education, women's rights, job training and occupational safety, environmental justice, health care for the disadvantaged and opposition to apartheid and NAFTA. It has cooperated with like-minded organizations to advocate for government policies supportive of minority workers and their communities and an end to racial oppression in southern Africa.

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The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Collection contains correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, convention material, speeches, publicity and other items documenting the national CBTU's and its chapters' lobbying activity for labor and civil rights issues, support for strikes, involvement in the anti-apartheid movement and sponsorship of projects to develop leadership and improve the quality of life within the African American community.

Important Subjects in the Collection:

Affirmative action programs
African American labor leaders
African Americans--Health and hygiene
African Americans--Politics and government
African Americans--Suffrage
African Americans--Training of
Africare
Apartheid
Charles A. Hayes
NAFTA
National Coalition on Black Voter Participation
South Africa
Trade-unions--African American membership
TransAfrica

Important Correspondents in the Collection:

Willie L. Baker, Jr.
Leonard L. Ball
James Bell
Wilburn (Wil) Duncan
Sherryl Gordon
Geraldine Johnson
Henry Lancaster
William Lucy
Lew Moye
Anita Patterson
Horace Sheffield
Irene D. Thomas

Transfers

A large number of photographs and some convention memorabilia received with the collection have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Department.

Contents**11 storage boxes****Series I, Executive Council, 1976-1995, Boxes 1-2:**

Minutes, financial statements, attendance rosters, correspondence, reports and other material distributed for discussion at CBTU executive council meetings. Files are arranged chronologically.

Series II, Convention, Conferences, 1973-1995, Boxes 2-4:

Programs, executive council reports, correspondence, elections material, position papers, resolutions, constitutions, bylaws, speeches, publicity and other material from the CBTU annual convention and other programs sponsored by the organization. Files are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Series III, Correspondence, Publications, Speeches, 1972-1995, Boxes 4-6:

Correspondence and memoranda of William Lucy and his assistants, Leonard Ball and Wil Duncan; articles, testimony and speeches by William Lucy; CBTU publications; and publicity about the organization and its president. CBTU's involvement in the anti-apartheid movement is well documented. Files are arranged alphabetically with correspondence first, followed by publications, publicity, speeches and testimony.

Series IV, Chapters, Regions, National Committees, 1975-1995, Boxes 6-10:

Correspondence, activity reports, meeting minutes, membership information and publicity for chapter-sponsored events. The series also contains the files of the CBTU National Women's Committee and the conference it sponsors at the annual convention. Chapter files are arranged alphabetically by state and then by city and are followed by regional and national committee files.

Series V, Organizations, 1981-1995, Boxes 10-11:

Correspondence, reports, reference material and promotional literature of organizations to which the CBTU belonged or whose projects it sponsored. Especially well documented is the work of TransAfrica, the principal black American lobby with Congress and the Administration for African and Caribbean affairs. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Series I
Executive Council, 1976-1995
Boxes 1-2

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- 5. Correspondence & memoranda; William Lucy, 1976-78
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- 18. Correspondence & memoranda; William Lucy—Henry Lancaster, 1989-90
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- 3. Correspondence & reports; U.S. government, 1980-95
- 4. Correspondence & reports; White House, 1979-95
- 5. Articles; William Lucy—"Labor's Role in Support of Full Employment," *the Urban League Review*, Summer 1986
- 6. Articles; William Lucy—"Links of Freedom," *TransAfrica Forum*, 1985
- 7. Articles; William Lucy—"Not NAFTA," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 1 Sep 1993
- 8. Articles; William Lucy—"The Price of NAFTA," *Third World Viewpoint*, 1994
- 9. CBTU membership brochures, 1986, 1992
- 10. CBTU newsletter, 1973, 1979, 1984, 1986, 1989-90, 1992
- 11. CBTU position papers, 1980-92
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17. Speeches; William Lucy—"Apartheid, The Legacies of," Forum of Black Trade Unionists (New York City), 7 Jan 1984
18. Speeches; William Lucy—Blacks and the Labor Movement, National Urban League Forum on (Washington, D.C.), 23 Jul 1985
19. Speeches; William Lucy— Black History Month Program, AFSCME Local 1422 (Coatesville, Pa.), 1 Feb 1989
20. Speeches; William Lucy— Black History Month, AFSCME/ Norristown (Pa.) Hospital Employees, 1 Feb 1990
21. Speeches; William Lucy—Black History Month, "Prevailing with Our Heritage," Feb 1988
22. Speeches; William Lucy—Black Issues Conference, New Jersey State APRI (Cherry Hill), 6 Sep 1986
23. Speeches; William Lucy—CBTU convention, 1976-77, 1979-80
24. Speeches; William Lucy—CBTU convention, 1983-84, 1987-89
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27. Speeches; William Lucy—CBTU South Florida Convention (Miami), 28 Oct 1995
28. Speeches; William Lucy—Health Care in the Black and Poor Community Regional Conference (Pittsburgh), 21 Nov 1992
29. Speeches; William Lucy—Health Security Express Rally (New Orleans), 28 Jul 1994
30. Speeches; William Lucy—(Houston), 29 Apr 1984
31. Speeches; William Lucy—Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO Conference (Atlanta), 27 May 1993
32. Speeches; William Lucy—Labor Issues and Policies for the 1990's and Beyond, African American Summit, 21 Apr 1989
33. Speeches; William Lucy—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Columbus CBTU Chapter Labor's Salute to, 16 Jan 1988
34. Speeches; William Lucy—Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast, Los Angeles SCLC, 15 Jan 1988
35. Speeches; William Lucy—Minority Labor Conference, Statewide (Austin, Tex.), 7 Oct 1995
36. Speeches; William Lucy—NAACP Convention Luncheon (Los Angeles), 10 Jul 1990
37. Speeches; William Lucy—NAFTA, NAACP Seminar on (Washington, D.C.), 8 Jun 1993

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38. Speeches; William Lucy— NAFTA/GATT, National Black Caucus of State Legislators Policy Briefing on (Memphis), 30 Nov 1994
39. Speeches; William Lucy—"Namibia's Liberation, Trade Unions and," Seminar on Efforts to Implement the UN Plan for the Independence of Namibia (Toronto), Sep 1988
40. Speeches; William Lucy—National Urban League Conference (Indianapolis), 26 Jul 1994
41. Speeches; William Lucy—Occupational Health and Safety, CBTU Conference on (Detroit), 30 Oct 1980
42. Speeches; William Lucy—Political Conference, CBTU Regional (Birmingham, Ala.), 18 Jan 1992
43. Speeches; William Lucy—SCLC Convention Breakfast (Jacksonville), 13 Aug 1986
44. Speeches; William Lucy—Women's Conference, CBTU (Los Angeles), 22 May 1992
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