

# SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) HISTORICAL COLLECTION

## Records, 1905-1996

### 4.5 Linear Feet

Accession Number 1924

The records of the SEIU Historical Collection, Part 1 were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in September 1997 and were opened for research in June 2006. Part 2 of the collection was accessioned in September 1997 and was opened for research in August 2006

The Service Employees International Union has been in continuous existence since 1921, although its roots extend back to 1902. Originally chartered by the AFL, it became a member of the AFL-CIO when those two organizations merged in 1955. In 2005, SEIU disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO to lead a coalition of other unions to form the Change to Win Federation.

In its early years, SEIU primarily organized janitors and window washers. In addition to these, it eventually organized a range of other service workers, including doormen, elevator operators, nonacademic school employees, healthcare workers and public employees as well as service workers based in bowling alleys, stadiums and cemeteries, to mention just a few. Originally called the *Building* Service Employees International Union, the organization changed its name in 1968 to reflect a membership increasingly based in areas other than buildings.

The SEIU Historical Collection comprises a variety of records documenting the union's history. Some of these records include an original unedited draft of what would become the union's official history entitled, *A Need for Valor* and the original essays that the union contracted John Jentz to write about the union's early history. Other such histories and some of the primary sources used to write them are found within the collection as well. Except for Andy Stern, who had not yet begun his tenure as international president when these records were collected, there are also files on each international president, the years in which they served as well as files on other important figures in SEIU history. Records addressing jurisdictional issues, federal government decisions, organizing campaigns, and a particular local union investigation are also located in this collection. Record types include correspondences, memos, reports, biographical material, obituaries, speeches, banquet and souvenir programs, arbitration decisions, meeting minutes, agreements, clippings, press releases, reports, and transcript of meeting concerning investigation of Local 32E.

## **Important Correspondents**

Asher, Les  
Bambrick, James  
Benenson, Aaron  
Butler, Walter  
Chapman, Gordon W.  
Collins, Walter  
Cooper, William  
David, Paul  
Despres, Leon M.  
Fairchild, George  
Gompers, Samuel  
Green, William  
Hardy, Charles  
Hardy, George  
Hearn, Albert

Horan, Jerry  
Levey, Charles  
McFetridge, William  
McGrath, Matthew L., Jr.  
Meany, George  
Murray, Milton  
Quesse, William  
Scalise, George  
Schnizler, William  
Sullivan, David  
Sweeney, John  
Ward, William V.  
Weinlein, Anthony  
Young, Thomas  
Zander, Arnold

## **Important Subjects in the Collection**

Labor disputes  
Labor laws and legislation  
Labor movement  
Labor movement leaders  
Labor movement – Religious aspects  
Labor union democracy  
Labor unions – Corrupt practices  
Labor unions – Discipline  
Labor unions – Elections  
Labor unions – Jurisdictional disputes

Labor unions – Law and legislation  
Labor unions – Officials and employees  
Labor unions – Organizing  
Labor unions – Press coverage  
Labor unions – Public relations  
Labor unions – Rules and practice  
Strikes and lockouts  
Unfair labor practices  
Wages – Law and legislation

## Contents

### 9 Manuscript Boxes

#### Part 1

##### **Series I, SEIU Presidents and their Tenure of Service, 1910-1996, Boxes 1-3**

This series contains correspondence, clippings, meeting minutes, statistical reports, biographical material, obituaries, speeches, and assorted other material regarding SEIU presidents and key moments about the years in which they served. The series is arranged chronologically according to the terms served by the presidents beginning with William Quesse and ending with John Sweeney. However, the first folder contains material regarding those efforts leading up to 1921 when SEIU became firmly established.

##### **Series II, Selected Historical SEIU Figures, 1926-1996, Boxes 3-4**

This series contains correspondence, memos, clippings, press releases, speeches, bios, obituaries, and banquet and souvenir event programs, amongst other material regarding SEIU figures that the union considered important. Except for the first folder, which contains records on miscellaneous leaders, the other folders are arranged alphabetically.

##### **Series III, SEIU Historical Accounts and Sources, etc., 1937-1996, Boxes 4-5**

This series contains articles, clippings, correspondence, memos, notebooks, published and unpublished academic papers by James Bambrick, John Jentz, Grace Palladino, students and others. Citations and bibliographies are also contained in the series. Two of the folders contain the original draft version of SEIU's official history, *A Need for Valor: The Roots of the Service Employees International Union, 1902-1992*. The series is arranged alphabetically.

##### **Series IV, Historical Subject Files, 1934-1970s, Box 6**

This series primarily contains photocopies of documents on various aspects of SEIU history, primarily of the 1930s through 1940s. The documents appear to have been specifically used by SEIU staff members (or those they contracted) to write about SEIU history. The series is arranged alphabetically.

#### Part 2

##### **Series V, Key Records, 1905-1971, Boxes 7-9**

Records addressing jurisdictional issues, federal government decisions, organizing campaigns, and local union investigations are located in this series. More specifically, the series comprise memos, correspondences, jurisdictional and other agreements, arbitration decisions, meeting minutes, clippings, press releases, reports, and transcript of meeting concerning investigation of Local 32E

For a listing of other SEIU-related resources at the Archives as well as a selected bibliography, review relevant pages of the Archives' website at <http://www.reuther.wayne.edu>

## **Part 1**

### **Series I SEIU Presidents and Their Tenure of Service, 1910-1996 Boxes 1-3**

#### **Box #1**

- 1-2. Pre-1921 Records Re: BSEIU and/or Locals; wage scales, memos, list of AFL-chartered unions, meeting minutes, AFL charter application, etc., 1910-1978
3. William Qesse Years; telegrams, articles, photos of Qesse Mausoleum, 1921-1951
4. William Qesse Years; receipts and expenses, 1922-1923
5. William Qesse Years – Organization of Women Workers; corr., questionnaire results, statistical reports, meeting minutes as well as corr., including several from Samuel Gompers, 1923-1924
6. William Qesse Bio Material; clippings, memos, corr., 1924-1979
7. Oscar Nelson; articles and obits., 1935-1943
- 8-9. Jerry Horan Years; corr., article, agmt, organizer's manual, constitution, 1926-1977
10. Jerry Horan Bio Material; souvenir dinner program, photo, clippings, corr., 1935-1980
- 11-15. George Scalise Years; corr., clippings, BSEIU appeal, report/stmt., lists of people and unions, 1937-1954
16. George Scalise Bio Material; clippings, flyer, corr., photo, 1940-1955

#### **Box #2**

1. William McFetridge Years; clippings, list of chartered and revoked locals, membership and death ben. stats., legislative dept. rpt, rpt of relevant technology issues, corr., resolutions, Marina City brochure, gen. brochure, 1940-1960
2. William McFedtrige Years; clippings, 1960-1962
- 3-4. William McFetridge Bio Material; clippings, bio sketches, speeches, testimonials, banquet programs, 1945-1969
5. William McFetridge; speeches and columns, 1948-1960
6. David Sullivan Years; clippings, blank charter, 1960-1971
- 7-9. David Sullivan Bio Material; clippings, congressional record entry, report on Vietnam trip, bio sketch, souvenir journal for testimonial dinner, speech, 1943-1976
- 10-11. David Sullivan; speeches and columns, 1961-1962
- 12-13. George Hardy Years; corr., clippings, speeches, bio, California State Senate memorial resolution, 1940-1990

#### **Box #3**

1. John Sweeney; clippings, press release, corr., 1984-1996  
(see box 3, folder 23 for material regarding Andrew Stern pre-presidency years)

**Series II**  
**Selected Historical SEIU Figures, 1926-1996**  
**Box 3-4**

**Box #3**

2. SEIU Leaders, Miscellaneous; corr., clippings, obits, bios, speech, 1926-1988
3. Allers, John; clipping (see pp. 52-53), 1966
4. Bednarczyk, Betty; article, press release, 1955-1996
5. Burke, Tom; clippings, 1940-1960
6. Cooper, William; clippings, record of proceedings, poem, obit, funeral info., 1941-1955
7. Cordtz, Richard; clippings, press release, 1950-1996
8. David, Paul; clippings, IEB proceedings, picture, 1941
9. Donahue, Thomas; speeches, clippings, congressional record entry, press release, bio/vitae, banquet program, statement at congressional hearing, resume, 1963-1995
10. Fairchild, George; bios, clippings, memos, 1955-1991
11. Fairchild, George; speeches, 1954-1978
12. Harckham, Arthur; press release, testimonial dinner program, bios, clippings, obits, corr., 1966-1988
13. Hardy, Charles; clippings, 1943-1948
14. Hare, Arthur; press release, 1964
15. Hearn, Albert; clippings, 1963
16. Levey, Charles; corr., clippings, brochures, bulletins, bios, 1937-1986
17. Liebes, Richard; clipping, 1947
18. McKinney, Frank; clipping/obit, 1990
19. Murphy, Joseph; obit, 1995
20. Murray, Milton; corr., reports, memos, 1960-1981
21. Ottley, Peter; clippings, obits, funeral program, 1965-1990
22. Perry, Albert; clippings, bulletins, programs, memos, corr., 1935-1977
23. Stern, Andrew; clippings, press release, 1995-1996
24. Weinlein, Anthony; clippings, 1951-1967
25. Weinlein, Anthony; speeches, 1957-1978
26. Weinlein, Anthony; material regarding passing, 1979-1980

**Box #4**

- 1-2. Young, Tom; membership book, union card, Local 32B incorporation records, corr./memos, clippings, Local 32B history, 1934-1978

**Series III**  
**SEIU Historical Accounts and Sources, etc., 1937-1996**  
**Boxes 4-5**

**Box #4**

- 3-4. *A Need for Valor* (original manuscript), pp. 1-274 w/ cover letter, 1983
- 5-6. Bambrick, James – *The Building Service Story*, pp. 1-88+, ca. 1948
7. Canadian History regarding SEIU: *To Build a Union*, Hearn corr. regarding book, 1988
8. Citations on Service Workers, n.d.
9. Darrow, Clarence; memo, bio notes, 1957
10. History – SEIU History thru 1937
- 11-13. Jentz, John – Orig. Essays on Early SEIU History; “Labor and Politics from the Basement Up: The Chicago Flat Janitors Enter the Public Arena, 1917 to 1921”; “Unskilled Workers in the AFL: William F. Quesse and the Organization of the Chicago Flat Janitors’ Union, 1902-1917”; “Labor and the Law Chicago Style: The Prosecution of the Flat Janitors’ Union and Public Order in the Roaring Twenties,” 1996
- 14-15. Marina City; corr., memos, clippings, chronology of project, press release, notes, construction cost analysis, 1959-1964

**Box #5**

- 1-5 Marina City; clippings, statement of David Sullivan and brochure, 1964-1967
6. McFetridge, William and 1964 SEIU Convention; clippings, 1964
7. Notebook Listing Audits, Organizers, Representatives and Officers, ca. 1945-1962
- 8-11. Publicity—Clippings, wage rates, 1962-1968
12. Publicity – Negro American Labor Council Convention Souvenir Journal, 1965
13. SEIU General Histories; clippings, articles, historical sketches, 1948-1991
14. SEIU History – Clippings, etc. for 1984 Convention, 1961-1984

**Box #6**

- 1-2. Unpublished Academic Papers regarding SEIU, 1948-1962

**Series IV**  
**Historical Subject Files, 1934-1970s**  
**Box 6**

**Box #6**

3. African Americans; report, n.d.
4. American Federation of Labor; corr., 1937-1946
5. Ball Parks; corr., memos, 1935-1947
6. California; clippings, corr., proposition 12, 1939-1944
7. Canada; corr., 1941-1944
8. Charters, list of, 1940-1945
9. Congress of Industrial Organizations; corr., 1937-1941
10. Death Benefits; corr., 1944-1946
11. Finances; corr., 1941
12. Hardy, Charles and George; corr., news bulletin, note cards, 1935-1942
13. Hospitals; corr., resolution, bulletin, 1942-1944
14. Internal Struggles -- Misc. Locals; corr., 1934-1945
15. Jurisdictional Fights; corr., 1937-1940
16. Local 32J; corr./memos, 1945-1947
17. New Jersey Window Washers -- Racketeering; corr./memos, 1942-1945
18. New York Locals; reports, 1941-1944
19. New York Times Index and Bibliography regarding SEIU and related subjects, 1940-1947
20. New York Window Cleaners Local 2; corr., meeting minutes, strike notice, 1934-1936
21. Organizing Arrangements -- Misc. Locals; corr., 1938-1942
22. Organizing -- South; corr., 1941-1944
23. Philadelphia; memos, corr., 1935-1936
24. Professionalization; executive board material, corr., 1942-1943
25. Public Relations -- Broadcasting; corr., radio script, 1944
26. Racketeers; corr., 1937-1942
27. Real Estate; corr., superintendents guide, 1935-1942
28. Scalise, George -- corr., Local 32B semi annual report, clipping, trial transcript, meeting minutes, 1934-1945
29. Secondary Sources, 1936 and 1958
30. SEIU Information; corr., clippings, 1944-1945
31. Strike Manual, ca. 1970s
32. Strikes, 1939-1947
33. Teamsters; corr., 1939-1941
34. Technological Changes; contract provisions, articles, n.d.
35. Unionism -- Ideology; corr., memos, 1938-1945
36. Wage and Hour Law, 1943
37. Window Cleaners; corr., 1941
38. Women; corr., 1943
39. World War II; corr., memos, clippings, 1941-1944

## **Part 2**

### **Series I Key Records, 1905-1971 Boxes 7-9**

#### **Box 7**

1. AFL-CIO Compilation of SEIU Jurisdictional Record; correspondence, no-raiding agreement, minutes, convention resolutions, charter request, meeting minutes, 1905-1956
- 2-3. Arbitration Decisions/Awards, 1946-1952
4. Federal Gov't. Decisions Affecting SEIU: Fair Labor Standards Act; Bureau of National Affairs Bulletin, correspondences, memos, U.S. Supreme Court Petition for Writ of Certiorari, 1944-1948
- 5-9. Federal Gov't. Decisions Affecting SEIU--NLRA; NLRB decisions and orders, decisions and direction of elections, memos, correspondences, press releases, briefs, AFL-CIO Determination re: Water Tower Inn, Chicago, 1943-1968
10. Federal Gov't. Decisions Affecting SEIU – Opinions by SEIU Attorneys on the Decisions, etc.; memo, correspondences, article, 1958-1960
- 11-12. Federal Gov't. Decisions Affecting SEIU – Taft-Hartley Act et al.; NLRB Decision and Orders, press release, memos, 1948-1952
- 13-15. Federal Gov't. Decisions Affecting SEIU: War Labor Bd of WWII; press releases, wage stabilization general orders and interpretations, National War Labor Board (NWLB) report and recommendation, monthly report, NWLB rules of organization and procedure, clippings, NWLB administrative regulation, NWLB panel report, 1942-1945

#### **Box 8**

1. Policy Statements -- Includes Information on Jurisdictional Questions w/ Other Unions; reports, memos, correspondences, AFL-CIO No-Raiding Agreement, fact sheet re: SEIU membership over AFSCME, 1936-1960
2. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Airline Stewards and Stewardesses; minutes re: international charter, 1951
- 3-5. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. AFSCME; charter request, correspondences, memos, jurisdictional agreements, list of locals, clippings, certification of representation, Bureau of National Affairs Labor Report, memorandum of understanding, AFSCME position statement, 1960-1968
6. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canada -- National Union of Public Service Employees and National Union of Public Employees; correspondences, memorandum of understanding, jurisdictional agreement, 1957
7. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canada, The Trades & Labor Congress; memorandum of understanding, 1954
8. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Canadian Union of Public Employees; organizational outline, correspondence, proposal for jurisdiction, questionnaire, 1957-1971



**Box 8 cont'd**

9. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Hotel and Restaurant Workers; minutes, jurisdictional agreements, clippings, correspondences, 1937-1957
10. SEIU Jurisdiction vs. Operating Engineers; agreement, convention resolution, 1925-1926
11. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-69, Oct 30, 1940
- 12-15. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-249, Nov 12, 1940
- 16-17. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 250-370, Nov 13, 1940

**Box 9**

- 1-2. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 371-532, Nov 13, 1940
- 3-6. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 533-788, Nov 16, 1940
- 7-10. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 790-1046, Nov 16, 1940
- 11-14. SEIU Local 32E: Transcript of Meeting – Investigating SEIU Local 32E, pp. 1-285, Nov 26, 1940
15. SEIU Organizational Activity Comments from Officers; correspondences, 1946
16. SEIU Organizational Activities w/ Colleges and Universities; correspondences, list of organized and unorganized colleges and universities, 1946
17. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Hospitals; surveys of NYC hospitals, study of registered nurses, correspondences, resolution, 1947 and 1964
18. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Nurses in Wisconsin; correspondences, clippings, queries, 1946
19. SEIU Organizational Activity w/ Race Tracks; correspondences, racing dates, 1952

### SEIU Historical Records, Part 3

.5 linear feet (1 MB)

1938-1996, bulk 1939-1995

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

Finding aid written by Alexandra A. A. Orchard on December 6, 2013

**Accession Number:** LR001924

**Creator:** Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

**Acquisition:** The SEIU Historical Records, Part II were deposited by SEIU on July 10, 1998. The Reuther Library serves as the official repository for SEIU.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “SEIU Historical Records, Part 3, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** The note file used by Jentz to write three essays on the history of SEIU along with the software used to create the note file are available as electronic files (see folder 10-17 Historic Research Project, 1977-1996).

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

See Part 1 for materials documenting SEIU presidents, historical figures, historical accounts, and subject files, and see Part 2 for key records. Part 3 consists of two series, Series VI: Court Cases, primarily documenting court cases, in particular a 1939 court case involving Charles Hardy and eventual SEIU President George Hardy. This series also contains materials including correspondence, publications and flyers. The second series in Part 3, Series VII: Historic Research Projects, contains materials from various historic research and oral history projects undertaken by SEIU. Subject matter includes former SEIU presidents William Quesse and George Scalise.

**Important Subjects:**

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

**Important Names:**

Hardy, Charles  
Hardy, George, 1911-  
Scalise, George  
Quesse, William

**Arrangement**

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
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**PART 3**

**Series VI: Court Cases**

**Box 10**

10	1	Correspondence, 1939
10	2	Court Case, Local 87 Award, 1939 April 19
10	3	Court Case, BSEIU Affidavit, 1939
10	4	Court Case, Locals 9, 14, 117, 87, 44, and 250, 1939 December
10	5	S.F. No. 16,392, Petitioners' Brief, 1940
10	6	S.F. No. 16,392, Respondents' Brief, 1940
10	7	Constitution and Bylaws, California State District Council
10	8	Sample Agreements, 1938-1939
10	9	Charles Hardy, Election Ribbon, 1940
10	10	George Hardy, Election Certificate, 1964
10	11	Notes
10	12	Labor Institute Summer Session, 1939 June-July
10	13	Amendment, Local 9
10	14	Flyers
10	15	Publications, 1940-1963
10	16	Clippings, Hardy Case, 1930-1940

**Series VII: Historic Research Projects**

**Box 10**

10	17	Historic Research Project, 1977-1996
10	18	Oral History Project, In-House Planning, 1977 Scalise History Project, Correspondence and Research
10	19	Materials, 1983-1996
10	20	Quesse, Background Documents and Resports, 1995
10	21	Quesse, Correspondence and Articles, 1995-1996
10	22	Quesse, Biography and History, 1995
10	23	Quesse, Pardon Letters, 1995
10	24	Quesse, Photographs, 1995