



ArchivesSpace

Guide to the UAW Health and Safety Department Dr. Michael Silverstein Records LR002681

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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:	Silverstein, Michael, Dr.
Title:	UAW Health and Safety Department Dr. Michael Silverstein Records
ID:	LR002681
Date [inclusive]:	1976-1990
Physical Description:	5 Linear Feet (5 SB)
Physical Location:	4N-F-8-6
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	Throughout his time at the UAW Health and Safety Department, Dr. Michael Silverstein conducted worksite inspections to assist local unions in identifying and controlling workplace chemical and physical hazards and was active in the collective bargaining efforts for safety and health improvements. Silverstein was also integral in the development of many health and safety programs, which included training for local union representatives. In addition, Dr. Silverstein conducted scientific studies and published numerous articles on his findings relating to identifying the causes of cancer in the workplace among UAW members. During his tenure Silverstein helped the union locate and fix hundreds of health hazards, including: inorganic lead, metalworking fluids, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, silica, flame retardants, organic solvents, welding fumes, coke oven emissions, and reproductive toxins.

Citation Style

"UAW Health and Safety Department Dr. Michael Silverstein Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Recognizing the importance of occupational health and safety early in the Union's history, the UAW established the Health and Safety Division in the Social Security Department in February of 1948. In 1949, contract provisions developed by the Health and Safety Division enabled plant examinations and investigations when requested by plant health and safety committees. The 1973 contract was the first to introduce measures designed to protect the health and safety of UAW members; and provide the designation of professional staff members who were to sit on the union-company national health and safety committees, that planned and supervised the development of company-wide programs. By the 1980's, however, concerns over health and safety hazards in the workplace had grown to the point where the International Executive Board felt the need to establish an independent department. When it did so in December of 1981, the staff of the UAW Health and Safety Department was recognized as the largest group of its type employed by a North American labor union. The department's first director, Dr. Franklin Mirer, a toxicologist and industrial hygienist and assistant director of the Social Security Department, had been with the UAW since 1975. UAW Health and Safety Department staff continue to work in coordination with international representatives in national departments and regions and hundreds of full-time local union health and safety representatives to achieve effective health and safety collective bargaining language, to pressure legislators and government agencies to set and enforce safe standards for hazardous materials and conditions in the workplace, and to institute programs for in-plant health and safety education.

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Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence, collective bargaining contract negotiations, meeting minutes, articles and reports on various workplace cancers and illnesses. These records also include: plant inspections; epidemiological, accident and fatality reports; NIOSH Health Hazard Determination Evaluations and other industrial hygiene studies; as well as Legislation and other material documenting health and safety conditions in the automobile, agricultural implement, and related industries.

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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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

Acquisition

The papers of Dr. Michael Silverstein were deposited to the Walter P. Reuther Library on February 19, 2016.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Elizabeth Nicholson on March 17, 2016.

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.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

UAW Health and Safety Department Collection Records

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Controlled Access Headings

- Occupational physicians
- Occupational diseases United States
- Industrial safety Standards United States
- Occupational mortality
- Silverstein, Michael, Dr.
- International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America

Other Access Aids

Finding aid also available as a pdf file. <https://www.reuther.wayne.edu/files/LR002681.pdf>

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Box Number	File #	File Name
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Box 1

- 1 Correspondence, July 1976- May 1978
- 2 Correspondence, June 1978- Dec. 1978
- 3 Correspondence, Feb. 1979- July 1979
- 4 Correspondence, July 1979- Nov. 1979
- 5 Correspondence, Nov. 1979- May 1980
- 6 Correspondence, May 1980- Oct. 1980
- 7 Correspondence, Oct. 1980- April 1981
- 8 Correspondence, March 1981- Sept. 1981
- 9 Correspondence, Sept. 1981- March 1982
- 10 Correspondence, March 1982- July 1982
- 11 Correspondence, July 1982- Dec. 1982
- 12 Correspondence, Dec. 1982- March 1983

Box 2

- 1 Correspondence, March 1983- June 1983
- 2 Correspondence, June 1983- Nov. 1983
- 3 Correspondence, Nov. 1983- Aug. 1984
- 4 Correspondence, Aug. 1984- Feb. 1985
- 5 Correspondence, Feb. 1985- July 1985
- 6 Correspondence, July 1985- March 1986
- 7 Correspondence, March 1986- Oct. 1986
- 8 Correspondence, Oct. 1986- June 1987
- 9 Correspondence, July 1987- April 1988
- 10 Correspondence, April 1988- Nov. 1988
- 11 Correspondence, Nov. 1988- Aug. 1989

Box 3

- 1 Correspondence, Aug. 1989- March 1990
- 2 Articles, June 1979- Oct. 1980
- 3 Articles, Oct. 1980- Oct. 1983
- 4 Articles, Oct. 1983- Dec. 1984
- 5 Articles, Feb. 1985- June 1987
- 6 Articles, June 1987- March 1990
- 7 Cancer in the Workplace: Publication, May 1980- Sept. 1980
- 8 Cancer in the Workplace: Publication, Sept. 1980- Dec. 1980
- 9 Collective Bargaining, Dec. 1977- Dec. 1989
- 10 Ergonomics, June 1981- June 1985
- 11 Ergonomics, June 1985- Dec. 1989
- 12 Ford National Committee Meeting Minutes, Oct. 1983- Sept. 1989
- 13 Hypertension, Jan. 1978- Sept 1988

Box 4

- 1 Health Hazards, June 1977- July 1979
- 2 Health Hazards, July 1979- April 1980
- 3 Health Hazards, April 1980- Sept. 1980
- 4 Health Hazards, Sept. 1980- Feb. 1982
- 5 Health Hazards, Feb. 1982- June 1983
- 6 Health Hazards, June 1983- Feb. 1985
- 7 Health Hazards, March 1985- Oct. 1989

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- 8 Lung Function Testing, July 1976- Oct. 1985
- 9 Legislation, June 1977- Oct. 1981
- 10 Legislation, Nov. 1981- March 1986
- 11 Legislation, Aug. 1986- Nov. 1989
- 12 Medical Programs, July 1976- Dec. 1980
- 13 Medical Programs, Dec. 1980- Nov. 1989

Box 5

- 1 Plant Visit Inspections, July 1976- Oct. 1983
- 2 Plant Visit Inspections, Dec. 1984- May 1989
- 3 UAW Health & Safety Staff Meeting Minutes, Sept. 1977- Nov. 1989
- 4 UAW- GM Occupational Health Advisory Board, Dec. 1979- June 1989
- 5 Workplace Epidemiology, Aug. 1978- July 1981
- 6 Workplace Epidemiology, Aug. 1981- Jan. 1983
- 7 Workplace Epidemiology, Jan. 1983- Nov. 1983
- 8 Workplace Epidemiology, Jan. 1984- April 1989