

THE PAUL J. PARKER COLLECTION

Papers, 1939-1970
(Predominantly, 1950-1960)

1 linear foot

Accession Number 423

L.C. Number

The papers of Paul J. Parker were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in December of 1970 by Mr. Parker.

Paul J. Parker was born on October 6, 1909, in Flushing, Michigan. He attended Swartz Creek Agriculture High School. In March of 1928, Mr. Parker began work at Chevrolet Flint Manufacturing, the first of a forty-one year involvement with the Chevrolet Division of General Motors in the Flint area. He and Agnes Betty Keith were married in October, 1939.

Mr. Parker's activities as an auto worker included membership in UAW Local 659 where he served on the Political Action and Public Relations Committees of the UAW-CIO and as International Representative for the UAW-CIO from Region 1-C. He was a member of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council. Within the auto plants, Mr. Parker was both steward and chief steward for the union. He retired from General Motors in October, 1969.

Taking an active part in local and state Democratic Party functions, Mr. Parker served as chairman of the Genesee County Democratic Committee and was a delegate to many Democratic State Conventions and to the 1952 Democratic National Convention. He was chosen in 1956 to replace the late James J. Collins (Democrat) as First District Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives. He was re-elected in 1958. During his tenure as a legislator, Mr. Parker sponsored several bills favorable to labor.

Mr. Parker also was a member of the Genesee County Board of Supervisors, of the County Planning Commission, and of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the University of Michigan at Flint.

The papers in the Paul J. Parker Collection primarily reflect Mr. Parker's activities in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Contents

2 manuscript boxes

Series I, Box 1, General Correspondence, 1939-56, 1960-70

Inward and outward-moving correspondence of Mr. Parker reflecting his activities with UAW Local 659 and political committees, invitations, and thank-you notes. The correspondence from Mr. Parker's years in the Michigan House of Representatives (1956-60) is in Series II.

Series II, Boxes 1-2, Michigan House of Representatives, 1957-60

The papers of Mr. Parker as State Representative, which include in-coming and out-going correspondence, invitations, campaign activities, a case file, Michigan House Bills, press releases, and legislative committee materials.

Series III, Box 2, Citizens Advisory Committee to the University of Michigan at Flint, 1965-70

Correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, and fact sheets reflect Mr. Parker's membership.

Series IV, Box 2, Miscellaneous

Awards, biographical materials, clippings, membership cards, brochures, delegate lists, and speeches which are representative of various aspects of Mr. Parker's broader life.

Non-manuscript items in the form of photographs were removed and placed in the Library's Audio-Visual Collection.

Series 1
Box 1

The items include miscellaneous correspondence relating to the functioning of local union committees, Genesee County Democratic Committee, and other political committees. Invitations and thank-you notes are included. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and covers the period 1939-70. Excepted is the correspondence from 1957 to 1960, which is in Series II.

Box 1

1-24. Correspondence, undated, 1939-1970.

Series II
Boxes 1-2

The material reflects Mr. Parker's tenure in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1956 to 1960. The series consists of letters received from and letters sent to constituents and other correspondents; inter-office memos; invitations; telegrams; a campaign fund donation list; campaign posters; a case file regarding immigration; Michigan House Bills sponsored by Mr. Parker; press releases; and a bill, minutes, and reports from Mr. Parker's service on the Water Resources Committee. The items are arranged chronologically with heavy correspondence on specific issues in separate folders.

Box 1

25-28. Correspondence, January-February 1957 - May, 1957
29. " ; Telegrams 1957
30. " ; Re House Bill 90, undated
31-32. " ; Re House Bill 90 February-March 1957
33. " ; Re House Bill 90, Postcards, 1957

Box 2

1. Correspondence: Re State Tax Commission, January-April, 1957
2-5. Correspondence, 1958 - August, 1959
6. Campaign Fund Donations
7. Campaign Posters
8. Case File: Re Georgios D. Heos, 1957
9. Michigan House Bills
10. Press Releases, ca. 1958-60
11. Water Resources Committee, 1958

Series III
Box 2

The series contains items from Mr. Parker's position on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the University of Michigan at Flint. Correspondence, meeting minutes, fact sheets, reports, and Chancellor Selection Committee articles are included. The correspondence is arranged chronologically. The other items are together by subject in order by date.

Box 2

- 12-13. Citizens Advisory Committee: Correspondence, 1965-1970
- 14. Citizens Advisory Committee: Re Chancellor Selection
- 15. Citizens Advisory Committee: Minutes, 1967-70
- 16. " " " : Miscellaneous
- 17. " " " : Reports

Series IV
Box 2

The materials are arranged by type of manuscript and chronologically within each type. Included are commendations for public service, membership cards and certificates from numerous organizations, delegate lists for political conventions, and speeches given on behalf of political candidates. The few brochures are: a souvenir of a political convention; a public relations release of Estes Kefauver; and a historic preservation project advertisement. Items of biographical note were separated. The clippings reflective of Mr. Parker's activities were separated from those of a more general nature.

Box 2

- 18. Awards
- 19. Biographical Miscellaneous
- 20. Clippings: Biographical
- 21. " Miscellaneous
- 22. Member ships
- 23. Miscellaneous Brochures
- 24. " Delegate Lists
- 25. " Speeches