

The James Lafferty Collection

Papers, 1969-1973

3.5 Linear Feet

Accession No. 626

The papers of James Lafferty were deposited with the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1974 by Mr. Lafferty and opened for research in 1990.

James Lafferty was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1938. He graduated from Detroit's Central High School in 1956, received a B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1960, and an LL.D. from Wayne State University Law School in 1963. After admission to the State Bar of Michigan in 1964, he served for three years as executive secretary of the National Lawyer's Guild, a progressive bar association. From 1967 to 1969 he held the position of Coordinator, Civil Division, Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services.

From 1969 to 1977, Mr. Lafferty was a partner in the Detroit law firm of Lafferty, Reosti, Jabara, Stickgold, James, Soble and Smith, which specialized in selective service/military law and civil rights. During these years the firm represented many of the leading groups and individuals working in various movements for social change and Mr. Lafferty became one of the nation's most prominent "draft attorneys."

Between the years of 1969 and 1973, Mr. Lafferty was active in the movement to end U.S. intervention in Vietnam. He served as chair of the Detroit Coalition to End the War Now! and was a founder and a national coordinator of the National Peace Action Coalition, the group that organized the largest demonstrations against the U.S. war in Vietnam. On behalf of this work he spoke and traveled nationally and abroad. He served as a part-time hearing referee for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission from 1972-1973.

In 1977, Mr. Lafferty established the law firm of Lafferty and Van Dyke in Birmingham, Michigan. In 1979 he organized the first branch of the American Civil Liberties Union in Oakland County, Michigan and served as chair of this branch until 1983. From 1979 to 1983 he also organized and chaired a pro-low cost housing group in Birmingham, Michigan.

Mr. Lafferty relocated to New York City in 1984, the same year he was an organizer of the Emergency National Council Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/the Caribbean. He served as one of its regional coordinators until 1991. During these years he also served on steering committees of various national efforts to end U.S. intervention in Central America/the Caribbean.

From 1985 to 1988, he taught at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Early in 1991, he became active in the movement to end U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf, serving on the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. Presently, he lives in New York City and is employed as the Associate Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights of the Seamen's Church Institute.

Related collections include the Detroit Coalition to End the War Now!, and the American Civil Liberties Union: Oakland County Branch.

Important subjects covered in the collection

- Detroit Coalition to End the War Now! (DCEWN)
- Labor
- Mid East Conflict
- National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC)
- ✓ Student Mobilization Committee

Important Correspondents

- ↓ Irving Bluestone
- Cleveland Area Peace Action Coalition (CAPAC)
- ✓ John Conyers
- Zolton Ferency
- ✓ Carl Haessler
- ✓ Emil Mazey
- NPAC
- Mel Ravitz
- ✓ Student Mobilization Committee
- Jackie Vaughn

Contents

6 Manuscript Boxes

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Correspondence, clippings, reports, newsletters, notes, and other general materials on a variety of topics, mostly relating to the peace and anti-war movement. This material covers the years 1969-1973.

Series II. Box 3

Mainly correspondence, both to and from, various groups across the country involved in the peace and anti-war movement. This series covers the years 1969-1973.

Series III. Boxes 4-5

Newsletters from various organizations, colleges, and universities. The content of the newsletters focuses primarily on the peace and anti-war movement. This series covers the years 1969-1973.

Series IV. Box 6

Correspondence, flyers, leaflets, agenda, reports, and notes pertaining to the National Peace Action Coalition. These files cover the years 1970-1973.

Series I
General Files
Boxes 1-2

This series contains correspondence, clippings, reports, newsletters, notes, and other general materials on a variety of topics. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically within each folder. This series covers the years 1969-1973.

Box 1. General Files

1. Air War Literature, 1971-72
2. Air War Literature; documentation package, [c. 1972]
3. Attacks on the anti-war movement, [1972]
4. Chronology of the anti-war movement, 1972
5. Clippings and reprints; ads, 1970-72
6. Clippings; bombings of North Vietnam and the dikes, 1972
7. Clippings; McGovern, including press releases, 1972
8. Clippings; general, 1972-73
9. Correspondence; city of Detroit and DCEWN, 1969-1973
10. Correspondence; DCEWN, 1970, 1972
11. Correspondence; Financial Matters, 1970-71
12. Correspondence; Lafferty's speaking engagements and interviews, 1969-73
13. Correspondence; NPAC, 1970-73
14. Correspondence; other anti-war relations, 1972
15. Correspondence; Representatives, 1972-73
16. DCEWN; financial matters, 1969-70
17. DCEWN; 15 Jun 1970 protest picket
18. DCEWN; labor involvement, 1971
19. DCEWN; Lafferty's notes, 1970-72
20. DCEWN; leaflets, brochures, 1969-72
21. DCEWN; mailings, 1969-72
22. DCEWN; meetings, 1969-72
23. DCEWN; newsletter, 1969
24. DCEWN; press coverage of NPAC, DCEWN in Detroit, 1969-73
25. DCEWN; press releases, 1970-73
26. DCEWN; structure and contacts, [1969-72]
27. Essays and plays; "Cleveland Anti-War Conference," 1969
28. Essays and plays; "The Committed at U of M," 1969
29. Essays and plays; "Dear Herbert," n.d.
30. Essays and plays; "Vietnam: A Play in Many Scenes," 1971
31. Gay rights demonstration plans, Jun 1973

Box 2. General Files

1. Labor; Emergency Election Conference, 1972
2. Labor for Peace Founding Convention, 23-24 Jun 1972

Box 2 (continued)

3. Labor Handbook; A Rich Man's War; a Poor Man's Fight, 1971
4. Labor involvement; debate, 1970
5. Labor involvement; UAW, DFT, meatcutters, 1970
6. Labor; newsletter, Social Services Union, Jun 1972
7. Mid East Conflict; Arab-American University Graduates, 1970, 1972-73
8. Mid East Conflict; lawsuit to obtain U.S. military intervention plans, 1971-72
9. Mid East Conflict; literature, clippings, correspondence, 1971-72
10. Mid East Conflict; reaction to Lafferty's article in Free Palestine, 1971-72
11. Mid East Conflict; Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine, 1972
12. Notes and drafts; Lafferty's Militant and Guardian articles, n.d.
13. Notes and drafts; legal citations and materials, 1969
14. Notes and drafts; reply to Harrington's article, 1973
15. Notes and drafts; speeches, Lafferty, 1969-71
16. Notes and drafts; speeches, Lafferty, 1972
17. Notes on the draft, 1969-70
18. Racism and the anti-war movement; "Ring Around the Capital," 1972
19. Student Mobilization Committee; GI Press Service, 1970
20. Student Mobilization Committee; high school bill of rights, n.d.
21. Student Mobilization Committee; leaflets, [1969-70]
22. Student Mobilization Committee; national mailings, Oct 1969-Apr 1970
23. Student Mobilization Committee; national mailings, May 1970-1972
24. Student Mobilization Committee; Student Mobilizer, 1970-1972
25. Veterans against the war, n.d.
26. Veterans Peace Offensive, 1 Dec 1969

Series II
Groups
Box 3

This series contains correspondence, both to and from, various groups involved in the peace and anti-war movement. The files are arranged alphabetically by group name, and chronologically within each folder. This series covers the years 1969 to 1973.

Box 3. Groups

1. American Friends Service Committee, 1972
2. Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace, 1970-71
3. Canadian peace groups, 1973
4. Chicago Peace Council, 1969-70
5. Chicago peace groups, 1969
6. Children's March for Survival, 25 Mar 1972
7. Citizens' Commission of Inquiry, 1970
8. Citizens for Legislation to Protect Michigan Men from Undeclared Wars, 1970
9. City Charter Revision Commission, 1973
10. Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, 1970, 1972
11. CALCAV, 5 Nov 1971
12. Coalition on National Priorities and Military Policy, Sep 1970
13. Committee for Democratic Election Laws, n.d.
14. Committee for Legal Research on the Draft, 1970
15. Committee for a New China Policy, 1970
16. Control, Conflict and Change, 1972
17. Detroit Area Draft and Military Counselors, [1972]
18. Detroit area peace and related groups, [1970], 1972
19. FTA, [c. 1969]
20. GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee; Ed Jurenas' case, May-Jun 1971
21. Harrisburg Defense Committee; "Pilgrimage Manual: Source Kit on Organizing" 1972
22. Harrisburg Defense Committee; press coverage and leaflets, 1972
23. Harrisburg Defense Committee and related groups; literature, n.d.
24. Human Rights Party Campaign, n.d.
25. "Japan Congress Against A and H Bombs," 21 Jul 1971 and 2-9 Aug, 1972
26. Kent Legal Defense Fund, 1970
27. Lobby of Americans, 1971
28. Michigan Committee Against Repression, 1970
29. Michigan Student Action Council, 1970
30. Movement Information Library Newsletter, Feb 1972
31. National Caucus of Labor Committees, 1971-72
32. National Coalition Against War, Racism and Repression, 1970-1971
33. National Council to Repeal the Draft; Michigan Chapter, [c. 1971]
34. National Lawyer Guild; military law office and Detroit chapter, 1973
35. National peace related groups, 1970, 1972-73
36. New American Movement, n.d.
37. New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 1969

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38. New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 18 Nov 1969-1970
39. New Party of Florida, 1970
40. Northwest Nonviolent Training and Action Center, n.d.
41. Northwest Women for Peace, 1973
42. Parents Against the Draft, 1971
43. Paris World Assembly for Peace in Indochina; memos, notes, NPAC, Feb 1972
44. Paris World Assembly for Peace in Indochina; statements and speeches, Feb 1972
45. People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, 1971-72
46. People's Peace Treaty and cooperating groups, 1971-72
47. Petition for Detroit elected Director of Peace Priorities, 1967
48. Press Relations Network, 1969
49. Socialist campaign and activities, 1970, 1972
50. Strategy Action Conference, 1970
51. Students for a Democratic Society, n.d.
52. Students for a Democratic Society; Fire, 1969
53. Vietnam Peace Parade, 1971-72
54. The War Control "Pill" Society, n.d.
55. Women Strike for Peace; Detroit chapter, 1969

Series III
Newsletters
Boxes 4-5

This series consists of newsletters from various organizations, colleges and universities, the content of which pertains to the peace and anti-war movement. The files are arranged alphabetically by title of the newsletter. They cover the years 1969-1973.

Box 4. Newsletters

1. Bulletin, Worker's League, 1970-71
2. Civil Liberties, ACLU, Jul 1972
3. Fifth Estate, 1969, 1971, 1973
4. Gay Liberator, Mar-Jun 1973
5. The Guardian, 1971-1972
6. Guild Practitioner, National Lawyers Guild, summer 1972
7. Helping Hand, 1972-73
8. Indochina Chronicle, 1972-73
9. Intercontinental Press, 1969-70, 1972
10. International Socialist Review, 1970-71, 1973
11. Lewis-McChord Free Press, Mar 1971

Box 5. Newsletters

1. Militant, 1970-73
2. The Phoenix, 1971
3. Quaker Service, fall 1972
4. St. Paul Pioneer Press, 22 Jun 1971
5. The South End, 10 Apr 1972
6. South Vietnam in Struggle, 15 Jul 1969
7. Thoi-Bao-Ga, Oct 1970
8. USLA Reporter, Mar-Jun 1972
9. The Vanguard, 5 Mar 1971
10. Vietnam Courier, 6 Oct 1969
11. Willamette Bridge, 4-10 Mar 1971
12. Young Socialist, May 1969
13. The Young Socialist Organizer, 10 Jun 1970

Series IV
National Peace Action Coalition
Box 6

This series contains correspondence, flyers, leaflets, agenda, reports and notes pertaining to the National Peace Action Coalition. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material, chronologically where necessary, and chronologically within each folder. This series covers the years 1970-1973.

Box 6. National Peace Action Coalition

1. Affiliates, 1971-72
2. Convention; first, agenda, 1970
3. Convention; first, mailings, 1970
4. Convention; first, proposals, 1970
5. Convention; second, agenda, 1970
6. Convention; second, mailings, 1970
7. Convention; second, proposals, 1970
8. Convention; third, preparations, 1971
9. Convention; fourth, agenda, 1971
10. Convention; fourth, preparations, 1971
11. Convention; fourth, proposals, 1971
12. Convention; fifth, agenda, 1972
13. Convention; fifth, preparations, 1972
14. Convention, fifth, proposals, 1972
15. Education Task Force mailings, 1972
16. Endorsers, 1971-1972
17. Factsheets, [c. 1971-72]
18. Financial reports, 1970-72
19. Ruth Gage-Colby testimonial dinner, 20 Jan 1972
20. GI's and veterans, 17 Jun 1972
21. Julius Hobson testimonial, 14 Nov 1972
22. House Internal Security Committee, May 1971
23. International correspondence, 1972
24. Lafferty's notes, 1970-72
25. Mailings; after the founding convention, summer 1970
26. Mailings; after 2nd convention-24 Apr 1971
27. Mailings; after 24 Apr 1971
28. Press coverage, 1970-72
29. Press releases, 1971-72
30. Relations; The Guardian, 14 May 1971
31. Relations; NCAWRR, PCPJ, and 22 Apr Coalition, 1971-72
32. Relations; Vietnam Veterans Against the War, 1971
33. Speakers and speeches, 1971-72
34. Steering Committee, 1970-72
35. Steering Committee's Coordinating Committee, 1971-72
36. Tour; Asia, 1971
37. Tour; Canada, 1972

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- 38. Tour; national, Lafferty and Gordon, 1971
- 39. Tour; west coast, 1971
- 40. Tour; west coast, Lafferty, 1971

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CAPAC, 1:13

Conyers, John, 1:15

Ferency, Zolton, 1:10

Haessler, Carl, 1:11

Mazey, Emil, 2:4

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Vaughn, Jackie, 1:15

James Lafferty Papers, Part 2

4 linear feet (4 SB)

1969-1991

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

Finding aid written by Jared Natzke on July 16, 2012.

Accession Number: UP000626

Creator: James Lafferty

Acquisition: Part two of the James Lafferty Papers were deposited at the Reuther Library by James Lafferty and his wife Bonnie Garvin in the early 1990s.

Language: Material mostly in English; some material in French and Spanish.

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: “James Lafferty Papers, Part 2, [Box #], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Detroit Coalition to End the War Now! Records

Publications such as *The Militant*, published by the Socialist Workers Party and *Fifth Estate* can be found in the library collection.

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 a biography of James Lafferty.

Part 2 of the James Lafferty Papers contain materials relating to his involvement in the National Peace Action Coalition and the Detroit Coalition to End the War Now!, which were very active in protesting against the Vietnam War in the early 1970s. There are also many clippings, antiwar publications, and radical publications from this time period. There are a large amount of materials from Lafferty's work with peace movements protesting U.S. military intervention in the Caribbean and Central America in the 1980s. Lafferty later became active in protesting the U.S. war in the Persian Gulf in 1990-91. There are materials from his work during that time as well.

Important Subjects:

Middle East peace process
National Peace Action Coalition (U.S.)
Operation Desert Shield, 1990-1991
Persian Gulf War, 1991
Peace movements
United States—Military relations—Grenada
United States—Military relations—Guatemala
United States—Military relations—El Salvador
United States—Military relations—Nicaragua
Vietnam War, 1961-1975—Protest movements

Important Names:

Gage-Colby, Ruth
Garvin, Bonnie
Gordon, Jerry

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 collections.

Folders in boxes 7-10 are listed by subheadings created by the donor and reflect their original arrangement.

Box numbering resumes from Part 1.

Box 7

Emergency National Conference Against Military Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean (1984)

1. Emergency National Conference Against U.S. Military Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean
2. Sept. 25, Oct. 23 Meeting, Washington DC
3. Correspondence about Central America/Caribbean Intervention
4. Organizing Notes, Contacts
5. Action Proposal
6. Rules for Debate on Action
7. Program, Agenda, etc. for Conference
8. Unity Discussions, 1984-1985
9. Calls, Literature, 1983-1984
10. Press Clippings
11. U.S. Intervention in the Caribbean/Central America

Campus Coalition: Debate and Conference (1986-1987)

12. Miscellaneous Notes, etc., 1986-1987
13. Press Release
14. Leaflets
15. Debate proposal
16. Fund Raising for Conference
17. Rules for Conference
18. Action Proposal
19. Registration Materials
20. Action Proposal
21. Workshops
22. Originals
23. JTL's Presentation to Panel
24. Correspondence and Conference Schedule
25. Correspondence, 1987

U.S. War in the Persian Gulf (1990-1991)

26. Organizational Materials and Notes
27. Correspondence
28. NYC Coalition
29. Misc. Position Statements

30. Misc. Notes
31. "Social Dem." Coalition
32. Leaflets, etc.
33. National Actions: Jan. 1990
34. Materials for National Conference

Campaign for Peace in the Middle East (Finances, unity efforts, political statements, etc., 1990-1991)

35. Steering Committee Mtg., 4/17/91
36. Evaluation of ENC Perspective in Mid-East Antiwar Effort, 1990
37. Media about Demonstrations, 1991
38. FIT Forum: 2/17/91
39. Leaflets
40. Correspondence, 1990
41. Correspondence, 1991
42. Finance Committee, 1991
43. Political Statement: Draft
44. Unity Efforts
45. Campaign Structure
46. Action Proposals
47. Contact Lists
48. James Lafferty, New School Teach-In, Feb. 8-9, 1991
49. Marxist School Seminar
50. Notes

Box 8

Emergency National Conference Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean/South Africa (1984-1985)

1. Correspondence, '84 to 5/14/85
2. Second Emergency Conf., 1985
3. Action Proposal
4. JTL's Presentation to Conf.
5. Proposal on Structure/2nd Conf.
6. 2nd ENC – Steering Comm.
7. Sense of Body Resolutions
8. Press
9. Peace With Justice Week
10. Cleveland Conference Caucus
11. Communications Comm. Meeting, 2/5/85
12. N.Y. Coalition Notes, etc
13. April 20th Leaflets
14. Articles/Research
15. Wash. D.C. Coalition Meetings
16. Material from Nat'l. Coalition

Emergency National Council Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean, File # 2 (1985-1986)

17. Correspondence: 5/15/85 to 12/31/85
18. ENC Newsletters
19. Miscellaneous
20. Notes of Conversations 1/85 to ...
21. Treasurer's Reports
22. Contacts, Phone #s (Misc)
23. Philadelphia Conf. (1986)

March 21st Demonstration on Contra and Aid to UNITA, ENC File #3 (1986)

24. March 21st Joint Demo.
25. Correspondence
26. Endorsers
27. Leaflets
28. Meeting Notes
29. Fund raising
30. Speakers
31. Logistics for Rally
32. Misc.

Third National Emergency Conference (Emergency National Council Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/the Caribbean) Los Angeles, CA.; January 24-26, 1986

33. Third Emergency Conference
34. Correspondence
35. Action Proposals
36. Conference Rules
37. Misc.
38. J.T.L.'s Speech
39. Steering Committee

ENC Steering Committee Meeting, June 7, 1986 (New York City) and Dec. 6, 1986 (Cleveland)

40. Steering Comm. Mtg.; 6/7/86
41. Steering Comm. Mtg.; 12/6/86
42. Correspondence
43. Reports
44. Misc. Documents, etc.

Other Folders

45. "Why Mass Action?"
46. New School Comm. Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, Ist N.Y. Area Campus Conf. Against War in C.A., March 20-21, 1987

Box 9

N.Y.C Emergency National Council Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean, File #1 (Dec., 1985 – Dec., 1987)

1. Correspondence: 12/85 – 12/31/86
2. Correspondence: 1/1/87 – 12/31/87
3. Agendas/Minutes of Meetings
4. Actions
5. Public Forum, NYC ENC, 12/13/85
6. Misc. Notes
7. Research, Articles, etc.
8. Detroit Organizing Effort
9. Finances
10. Mid-Atlantic (D.C.) Coalition
11. Correspondence, Mid-Atlantic Coalition

Emergency National Council Against U.S. Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean, File # 3 (1987)

12. Arias' Peace Plan Piece
13. Recent Mailings, Leaflets, etc.
14. Lawyers Ad Campaign
15. Guardian Article/Debate
16. Lessons of the Anti-V.N. War
17. April 25, 1987
18. April 25th Demo./ Notes
19. Report to St. Comm. Of 6/6/87
20. The ENC Role in the Next Period
21. Calls, Newsletters
22. Cleveland CA Educ. Conf. (11/12/88)
23. Feb. 2nd Demo

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24. Correspondence
25. Meetings and Actions, Winter 1990
26. Notes
27. Structure
28. Calls, etc.
29. Procedural rules
30. Labor Outreach for 3/24th
31. March 24th Fund Raising
32. Misc. Materials

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33. Correspondence: 1/1/86 – 12/31/86
34. Correspondence: 1/1/87 – 12/31/87
35. Correspondence: 1/1/88 – 12/31/88
36. N.Y. Coalition to Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador

37. Speech Delivered to DeBenedetti Memorial Conference (U. of Toledo) on U.S. Movement against Vietnam War, May 5, 1990

Box 10

1. Anti-war button
2. Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, 1971
3. Friends Service Committee, Peace Education Packet, 1972
4. Socialist Workers Party, 1970
5. NPAC and Labor for Peace Packets, 1971-72
6. Labor for Peace, 1972
7. Antiwar Publications and Flyers, 1971-72
8. Socialist Workers Party Publications, 1971
9. Young Socialist Alliance Publications
10. Committee to Free Angela Davis
11. James Lafferty speech, 4/16/75
12. Detroit Coalition to End the War Now, 1970-72
13. NPAC, 1970-1972
14. NPAC, 1971-1973
15. NPAC, 1971-1972
16. Project Air War
17. Memorials and Recognition Ceremonies, 1972
18. Learning by Defining Program
19. Paris World Assembly, 1972
20. Bonnie Garvin; Correspondence, 1971-1972
21. Bonnie Garvin; Notes
22. Bonnie Garvin; CIA Files, 1975
23. Detroit Police Red Squad, 1971-1975
24. U. of Detroit Student Publications, 1970
25. Anti-war and Radical Publications, 1971-1973
26. "Student Mobilizer," 1970-1971
27. Maceo's Case
28. Clippings, 1970-1972
29. Clippings, 1969-1972
30. Clippings, 1971-1974
31. Clippings, 1970-1975
32. Clippings, 1971-1972