

THE WILLIAM PALMER COLLECTION

Papers, 1932-1941  
(Predominantly, 1933-1937)

7 linear feet

Accession Number 693

The papers of William Palmer were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in November of 1975 by Mr. William Palmer and were opened for research in June, 1976.

William Palmer was born in Sycamore, Illinois on January 6, 1907. His family moved to Flint, Michigan the next year. Mr. Palmer graduated from Flint Central High School and attended Flint Junior College, Trinity College in Toronto, Northwestern University, and Carnegie Institute.

Prior to entering politics Mr. Palmer held various jobs. He worked two years as a production clerk for E.I. DuPont, Inc. of Flint. He was also employed by the Felt and Taunt Company of Chicago, and worked as a theatre manager in Wilkins burgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Palmer enjoyed a long association with the Flint Public Library and in 1932 listed his occupation as librarian.

In November, 1932, Mr. Palmer was elected State Senator, representing Michigan's Thirteenth District. He was subsequently re-elected in 1934 and 1936. Mr. Palmer served on the Conservation, Judiciary, Education, Taxation, Insurance and Transportation Committees. In 1934 he was named Secretary of the Genesee County Democratic Party. During the 1936 legislative recess he traveled to the Far East and upon his return worked at the Flint Fisher Body Plant. Mr. Palmer was elected President Pro Tem of the Senate in 1937, and resigned from the Senate on November 15, 1937.

The papers of Mr. Palmer reflect his work as a member of the State Legislature.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Economic problems caused by the Depression, 1933-1937  
Education, 1933-1937  
Flint Bus Strike, 1937  
Industrial relations and labor legislation, 1933-1937  
State government and political affairs, 1933-1937  
Transportation and shipping, 1933-1937

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15 manuscripts boxes

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- Series III, Correspondence for 1935, Boxes 5-8  
Correspondence and clippings related to legislative and political matters.
- Series IV, Correspondence for 1936, Box 8  
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- Series V, Correspondence for 1937, Boxes 8-15  
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- Series VI, Correspondence after 1937, Box 15  
Personal correspondence of Mr. Palmer related to private Affairs and the War Production Board.

Series I

Boxes 1-4

Correspondence for 1933

Correspondence, clippings, other materials dealing with various legislative, political, and personal affairs. The files are arranged alphabetically by general topic and cover the period from November of 1932 to December of 1933.

Box 1

1. Business, Dairy Industry
2. Fair Trade Bill, SB19
3. Farming Legislation
4. Licensing Laws
5. Rebuilt Batteries, HB185
6. Economics, Banking Laws
7. Bankruptcy Act, HB273
8. Bankruptcy Fees
9. Credit Interest Laws
- 10-11. Garnishment Moratorium, HB146  
and HB99; Opponents
12. Garnishment Moratorium, HB146 and HB99;  
Supporters
13. Hospital Collection Law, HB135
14. Lien Laws
15. Mortgage Moratorium, HB267
- 16-17. Small Loan Act, HB111
18. Education, Agricultural Extension Work
19. Colleges and Universities
20. Finances
21. Miscellaneous Correspondence
22. Miscellaneous Legislation

Box 2

1. Government, Century of Progress Commission
2. Conservation
3. Conservation, Billboards, HB10
- 4-6. Conservation Department Reorganization
7. Foreign Affairs
8. Horse Racing
9. Judicial Affairs
10. Public Utilities
11. Senate Committee Selections
12. Senate Organization
13. Senate Pay Vouchers
14. Senate Special Session
15. Services to Constituents

16. State Commission of Inquiry into  
Local Government
17. Health, Dental Profession Bill, HB170
18. Mental Health
19. Optometry Bill, SB140
20. Optometry Bills, HB441, HB457, SB144
21. Osteopathic Bills, HB389, HB474, HB530
22. Insurance, Automobiles, HB20
23. Licensing, HB362, HB684
24. Miscellaneous Correspondence
25. Safety Responsibility Bill, HB399

Box 3

1. Labor, Anti-Injunction Bill, HB415
2. Unemployment Compensation, SB167
3. Women's Work Law
4. Newspapers, Detroit Free Press
5. Detroit News
6. Detroit Times
7. Flint Daily Journal
8. Lansing State Journal
9. Loose Clippings
10. Michigan State Digest
11. Miscellaneous Grand Rapids
12. Miscellaneous Michigan
13. Out of State
14. Personal Correspondence
15. Political, Meetings
16. Miscellaneous
17. Party Affairs
18. Patronage
19. Vote by Conscience
20. Social, Housing Laws
21. Liquor Control
22. Liquor Control, 21st Amendment
23. Miscellaneous Legislation
24. Old Age Pensions
25. Prison Paroles and Administration
26. Sunday Blue Law Repeal, SB13
27. Veterans Affairs
28. Taxation, Chain Store Tax, HB128
29. Delinquent Real Estate Taxes, HB658
30. Gasoline Tax
31. Income Tax
32. Miscellaneous Taxes
33. Property Tax

Box 4

1. Retail Sales Tax, HB184
2. Transportation, Common Carrier Act, HB364,  
Opponents
3. Common Carrier Act, HB364,  
Supporters
4. Highway Construction
5. Railroads
6. Trucking Regulations, HB289,  
HB411, HB612
7. Woodward Ave., Detroit, Traffic  
Regulation

Series II  
Boxes 4-5  
Correspondence for 1934

Correspondence, clippings, and other materials dealing with various legislative, political, and personal affairs. The files are arranged alphabetically by general topic and cover the period from January to December, 1934.

Box 4

8. Business, Dairy Industry
9. Fair Trade Laws
10. Farming Legislation
11. Miscellaneous
12. Wholesale Produce License, PA202
13. Economics, Banking Laws
14. Small Loan Act, HB111
15. Education, Colleges and Universities
16. County Unit Plan
17. Finances
18. Michigan School for the Deaf
19. Miscellaneous
20. Government, Conservation
21. Foreign Affairs
22. Horse Racing
23. Judicial Affairs
24. Public Utilities
25. Public Works Program
26. Senate Affairs
27. Senate Pay Vouchers
28. Senate Special Session
29. Services to Constituents
30. Tourist Bureau
31. Health, Osteopathic Regulations
32. Tuberculosis Hospital
33. Labor, Minimum Wage Bill, HB26
34. Newspapers, Michigan
35. New York
36. Personal, Memberships
37. Miscellaneous
38. Private Correspondence

Box 5

1. Political, Meetings and Caucuses
2. Miscellaneous
3. National Women's Party
4. Patronage
5. Patronage, Director of Welfare
6. State and Local Elections
7. United States Senate Elections
8. Social, Liquor Control
9. Old Age Pensions
10. Prisons
11. Slum Clearance, HB17
12. Taxation, Automobile Weight Tax
13. Delinquent Tax Moratorium
14. Miscellaneous
15. Sales Tax
16. Tax Bonds, PA133
17. Transportation, Highway Construction
18. Regulations

Series III  
Boxes 5-8  
Correspondence for 1935

Correspondence, clippings, and other materials dealing with various legislative, political, and personal affairs. The files are arranged alphabetically by general topic and cover the period from January to June, 1935.

Box 5

19. Business, Automobile Business Regulations
20. Barber Bill, HB145
21. Dairy Industry
22. Electrical Wiring Regulations, HB296
23. Fair Trade Laws
24. Farming Legislation
25. Licensing
26. Mattress Bill, SB327
27. Miscellaneous
28. Miscellaneous, HB285
29. Oil Control Bills, HB503, SB384
30. State National Relief Administration Bill, HB234
31. Economics, Anti-Add On Bill, HB30
32. Anti-Garnishment Bill, HB14
33. Automobile Finance Bill, HB60
34. Banking Laws
35. Home Owner Loan Corporation

Box 6

1. Installment Credit Bills
2. Mortgage Moratorium
3. Small Loan Bill, HB62
4. Education, Colleges and Universities
5. County School Commissions, HB95
6. Ferndale Redistricting, HB308
7. Finances, HB42
8. Finances, HB185
9. Michigan School For the Deaf
10. Miscellaneous
11. Teacher Certification, HB288
12. Government, Appointment of Road Commissioners, HB228
13. Conservation, Hunting and Fishing
14. Conservation, Miscellaneous
15. Foreign Affairs and Travel
16. Horse Racing
17. Judicial, Appointment of Judges



18. Judicial, Integrated Bar
19. Judicial, Miscellaneous
20. Judicial, Probate Fees, HB469
21. Public Utilities
22. Senate Affairs
23. Services, Bill Requests
24. Services, Miscellaneous
25. State and Local
26. Health, Miscellaneous
27. Optometric Bill, HB294
28. Insurance, Accident Insurance, HB381

Box 7

1. Labor, Anti-Injunction Bill, HB124
2. Minimum Wage Bill, HB54
3. Painter's License Bill, HB224
4. Prison Labor Bill, HB65
5. Unemployment Compensation
6. Newspaper clippings
7. Personal, Clubs
8. Correspondence
9. Meetings
10. Miscellaneous
11. Subscriptions
12. Political, County Affairs
13. County Democratic Commission Finances
14. Patronage, Agricultural Census
15. Patronage, Federal Employment
16. Patronage, Miscellaneous Employment
17. Patronage, State Employment
18. Patronage, State Highway Department
19. State and Local Elections
20. Social, Alienation of Affections Law
21. Anti-Communist Bills, HB144, HB287
22. Liquor Control
23. Old Age Pension, HB84
24. Walkathon Bill, SB209

Box 8

1. Taxation, Income Tax, HB433, Opponents
2. Income Tax, HB433, Supporters
3. Margarine Tax, SB87
4. Miscellaneous
5. Sales Taxes, HB78, HB186
6. Sales Tax, HB78, Telegrams
- 7-8. Tax Cancellation Bill, HB256
9. Tax Custodian Bill, HB129

- 10. Transportation, Drain Construction, HB202, HB321
- 11. Highway Construction
- 12. Railroads
- 13. Sidewalk Construction
- 14. Traffic and Motor Vehicle Regulations
- 15. Truck Regulations, HB55, HB340
- 16-18. Truck Regulation, HB204

Series IV  
Box 8  
Correspondence for 1936

Correspondence covering Mr. Palmer's activities during the 1936  
Senate recess.

Box 8

- 19. Miscellaneous Correspondence

Series V  
Boxes 8-15  
Correspondence for 1937

Correspondence and other materials dealing with various legislative, political and personal affairs. Several files contain material related to the Flint strikes of 1937. The files are arranged alphabetically by general topic and cover the period from January to December 1937.

Box 8

20. Business, Chain Stores
21. Conditional Sales, HB180
22. Copyrighted Music, SB331
23. Cosmetology
24. Dairy Industry, HB542

Box 9

1. Embalming Law
2. Engineering, SB175
- 3-4. Fair Trade Bill, HB32
- 5-6. Fair Trade Bill, SB214
- 7-9. Fair Trade Bill, SB252
10. Fair Trade Bill, SB252, Telegrams
11. Farming Legislation
12. Mason Contractor's License, SB278
13. Miscellaneous
14. Steam Engineering Regulations, SB152
15. Theatre Regulations
16. Economics, Add-On Contracts, HB40
17. Banking Laws
18. Hospital Collection Bill, SB60

Box 10

1. Mortgage Regulations
2. Mortgage and Land Moratoriums, HB25, HB46
3. Small Loan Acts, SB27, SB92
4. Education, College and University Finances
5. Election of Directors, HB424
6. Finances, SB142, SB247
- 7-9. Library Aid, HB125, HB125, HB126
10. Michigan State College
11. Miscellaneous
12. Teacher Retirement Bill, HB200
13. Teacher Tenure Bill, HB428
14. Government, Civil Service Law, SB1
15. Civil Service Law, SB1, Opponents

Box 11

- 1-2. Civil Service Law, SB1, Supporters
3. Conservation, Bow Hunting, SB181
4. Conservation Commission, HB662
5. Conservation, Game Licenses, HB224, HB226
6. Conservation, Miscellaneous
7. Conservation, Roadside Beauty, SB72
8. Finances
9. Foreign Affairs
10. Judicial, Court Appointments, SB307
11. Judicial, Court Re-organization
12. Judicial, Flint Municipal Court, HB320
13. Judicial, Legal Announcements
14. Judicial, Miscellaneous
15. Judicial, United States Supreme Court
16. Local Administration
17. Local, Miscellaneous
18. Public Utilities and Energy
19. Michigan Centennial
20. Senate
21. Services, Bill Requests
22. Services, House Journal
23. Services, Information

Box 12

1. Services, Michigan Manual
2. Services, Miscellaneous
3. State Affairs
4. State Constitution
5. State Militia
- 6-7. State Printing Bill, HB125
8. Health, Dental Advertising, HB594
9. Medical Education, HB261, Opponents
10. Medical Education, HB261, Supporters
11. Miscellaneous
12. Narcotics Act, HB565
13. Noxious Weeds Bill, HR4009
14. Occupational Diseases, HB106
15. Optometric Bill, HB106
16. Osteopathic Licensing Bill, HB325
17. Osteopathic Licensing Bill, HB325, Telegrams

Box 13

1. Pharmacy Act, SB128
2. Sex Hygiene, HB659
3. Insurance, Legislation
4. Miscellaneous
5. Parking Lots, HB630
6. Rates, SB74
7. Labor, Anti-Strike Bills, SB189, SB190
8. Eight-hour Day, SB192
9. Flint Bus Strike
10. Flint Sit-down Strike
11. Industrial Relations Bill, HB571
12. Minimum Wage Bill, HB66
13. Miscellaneous
14. Musician's Union, SB263
15. Painter's License Law, HB215, . Opponents
16. Painter's License Law, HB215, Opposition Telegrams
- 17-18. Painter's License Law, HB215, Supporters
19. Painter's License Law, HB215, Supporter's Telegrams

Box 14

1. Unemployment Compensation, SB270
2. Unemployment Compensation, SB270, Insurance Agents
3. Miscellaneous Legislation,
4. HB230
5. HB262
6. SB233
7. Telegrams
8. Personal, Courtesy Cards
- 9-10. Meetings
- 11-13. Miscellaneous
14. Organizations
15. Political, Meetings
16. Miscellaneous
17. Palmer's Senate Resignation
18. Patronage, Auditor-General
19. Patronage, Commissions
20. Patronage, Highway Department
21. Patronage, Miscellaneous, Employment
22. Patronage, Public Utilities Commission
23. Patronage, Senate Employment
24. Patronage, State Employment
25. State Elections
26. Social, Alimony Law
27. Gambling and Racing

Box 15

1. Housing
2. Liquor Advertising, SB312
3. Liquor Control
4. Loyalty Oaths, SB156, SB157
5. Pensions
6. Prison Administration
7. Public Assembly, HB549
8. Taxation, Delinquent Tax Moratorium, HB237
9. Miscellaneous
10. Sales Tax Refund, SB188
11. Transportation, Highway Construction
- 12-13. Highway Reciprocity, SB32
14. Miscellaneous
15. Vehicle Regulations

Series VI  
Box 15  
Correspondence After 1937

Correspondence dealing with Mr. Palmer's personal affairs and his interest in the War Production Board. The files are arranged alphabetically and cover the period from 1937 to 1941.

Box 15

16. Miscellaneous Correspondence
17. War Production Board