The papers of Edward McFarland were opened for research in March 1975.

Edward Wills McFarland was born in Millwood, Pennsylvania in 1885. He received his early education in that state, graduating from the Pennsylvania State Teachers College at Indiana in 1908. After teaching in Pennsylvania he moved to this state to attend the University of Michigan. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in 1913 and 1915 respectively, and approximately two decades later, earned a doctorate degree, all from Michigan. His Special areas of interest were public finance, taxation, purchasing and distribution.

Between 1915 and 1920 McFarland taught in Detroit's Northern and Central high schools. In 1920 he was appointed to the Detroit Teachers College, eventually becoming professor of sociology and economics. He was one of the most important faculty members, quickly becoming popular among teachers in the city, who elected him president of the Detroit Teachers Association from 1932 to 1936.

McFarland served on innumerable committees for both mayors of Detroit and governors of Michigan. In 1937 he was appointed chairman of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in the Democratic primary of 1942. He was deeply involved in consumer affairs, being particularly interested in cooperatives and credit unions. He helped found the Motor City Co-op and the Detroit Teachers Credit Union.

Professor McFarland was an important figure in the creation of the labor education program at Wayne, and was placed in charge of the program in November, 1944. He continued his involvement in the program until his sudden death in December, 1949.

The papers of Edward McFarland deal in large measure with his involvement in the labor program. They also reflect, however, his concern with consumer issues and his political interests.
Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Consumer affairs
- Cooperatives
- Credit unions
- Industrial health and safety education
- Labor education at Wayne University
- Michigan political affairs

Contents
7 manuscript boxes

Series I, Boxes 1-3
This series consists of correspondence, including inter-office correspondence, from 1926 to 1950.

Series II, Boxes 3-5
This group of papers deals with the labor education program at Wayne University between 1943 and 1950.

Series III, Boxes 5-7
These papers pertain to McFarland's political and consumer interests. They date from 1931 to 1949, falling primarily in the period between 1938 and 1949.

Series IV, Box 7
This series contains records dealing with classes Professor McFarland taught at Wayne University. It includes materials dated from 1948 to 1950.
Series I 
Boxes 1-2, 3, (Folders 1-6)

This series consists exclusively of correspondence dated between 1926 and 1950, primarily 1945 to 1948. It includes inter-departmental correspondence. Much of the correspondence deals with the labor program at Wayne University, but Professor McFarland's other interests are also reflected. The papers are arranged chronologically, with separate folders for general and interdepartmental correspondence. Correspondence found in this series is related to subjects found in series II and III.

Box 1

1. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1926-1927, 1929
2. Correspondence-General, 1934
3-4. Correspondence-General, 1935
5. Correspondence-General, Jan.-May 1936
6. Correspondence-General, 1939, 1940-1941, 1944
7. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1944
8-18. Correspondence-General, 1945
19-23. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1945
24. Correspondence-General, 1946

Box 2

1-10. Correspondence-General, 1947
11-15. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1947
16-24. Correspondence-General, 1948

Box 3

1-4. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1948
5. Correspondence-General, 1949
6. Correspondence-Interdepartmental, 1950

Series II 
Box 3, (Folders 7-27); 4, 5, (Folders 1-6)

Materials regarding labor education are found in this series. Included are class and faculty records for 1945 to 1949; information regarding the industrial health and safety courses; and correspondence regarding the industrial health and safety courses and the labor program at Wayne University. The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject, with the exception of the first folder, which is placed for the benefit of the user. The papers cover the period 1943-1950.
Box 3

7. Program Origins, 1943-1944
8. Budget Requests and Reports, 1946-1950
9. Clippings and Newspaper Addresses, 1945-1949
10-11. Class Approvals, 1945
12-16. Class Approvals, 1946
17. Class Approvals, 1947
18. Class Approvals, 1948
19. Class Approvals, 1949
20. Class Approvals, Jan.-June 1950
21. Class Attendance Records, 1945, 1947
22-25. Class Contracts-#861-#5100
26. Class Descriptions, 1943-1950
27. Classes Offered, 1943-1945

Box 4

1. Industrial Health and Safety Courses - Background Information, 1944-1946
2. Industrial Health and Safety Courses - Class Information
3. Industrial Health and Safety Courses - Correspondence, 1944-1946
4. Industrial Health and Safety Courses - Instructor Records, c. 1945-1946
5. Information Requests about Labor Programs, 1947-1950
6. Instructor Certification and Dismissal, 1947-1950
7. Instructor Certification - Homemaking Course-Smith Hughes, 1947-1950
8. Instructor Payrolls, 1945-1946
10-11. Instructors and Classes - Correspondence re., 1947-1950
13. Labor Legislation-The Toledo Plan, 1947

Box 5

4. Publicity, 1945
5. Requisitions, 1945-1949
6. Worker Education Programs-U-D and U-M, 1945
Series III
Box 5, (Folders 7-24); 6, 7, (Folders 1-6)

This series deals with the political and consumer interests of Professor McFarland. Of particular value are the folders on consumer education, cooperatives, credit unions and national health legislation. The folders dealing with reapportionment of the state legislature, particularly the correspondence folder, give much insight into state politics. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject heading, and covers the period between 1938 and 1949.

Box 5

7. Academic Freedom Conference, May 24, 1947
8. Aid to Education - Federal, 1945, 1947
9. Aid to Education - States, 1946
10. Analysis of AAA Codes, 1931
11. Budgetary Processes - Federal, State, Local
13. Consumer Product Information, 1931-1945
15. Cooperatives, 1935, 1938, 1940
16. Co-ops - Chain Stores - Insurance, 1934, 1939, 1941
17. Co-ops - Motor City Co-op, 1947-1949
19. Credit Unions, 1941-1942, 1946-1949
20. Credit Unions - Central Credit Union of Michigan, 1947-1948
21. Credit Unions - Detroit Teachers Credit Union, 1947-1948
22. Credit Unions - Labor
23. Credit Unions - Michigan Credit Union League, 1941, 1948-1949

Box 6

1. Economics Club of Detroit - Correspondence and Printed Matter, 1941-1942
2. Gambling Legalization and Taxation, 1938
3. Gas Rate Problems, 1935
4. Government Economic Aid to Local Government, 1940
9. Oleomargarine-Taxation and Regulation, 1941-1943
10. Poem "The Indignant Monkey"
11. Polish War Relief
12. Public Affairs Pamphlets - Order Blanks and Correspondence, 1946-1949
13. Re-apportionment, 1941-1942
14. Re-apportionment - Correspondence, 1941-1942
15. Re-apportionment - Printed Matter, 1941-1942
Information regarding classes taught by Professor McFarland at Wayne University is in this series. The courses dealt with subjects important to McFarland. None were introductory in character. Generally, there are copies of lesson sheets and examinations for each class. Arrangement is by course title and number. The material covers 1948 and 1949.