

Irving Bluestone: UAW New Directions Movement Collection

Papers, 1984-1992

**1 linear foot
1 storage box**

Accession #213

Irving Bluestone's papers related to the New Directions Movement were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mr. Bluestone between 1990 and 1992 and opened for research in May of 2006.

The New Directions Movement (NDM) emerged in 1986 as a dissident caucus of UAW local union leaders, especially at General Motors facilities, within St. Louis-based Region 5. Its candidate for regional director at the 1986 convention, assistant director Jerry Tucker, lost by less than one vote in the closest election in UAW history. In the fall of 1988, responding to lawsuits brought by the Labor Department and Tucker contesting the election results, a federal judge ordered a new election, which Tucker, running on a platform of opposition to joint labor-management programs favored by the union's leadership, won. Forced to run for re-election on the expiration of his term at the 1989 convention, Tucker was defeated, prompting another series of lawsuits and the calling of an NDM national organizing conference later that year.

The New Directions Movement material collected by UAW vice president Irving Bluestone, an early proponent of joint programs, includes correspondence, meeting notes, newspaper and magazine articles, speeches and legal briefs documenting the dissident group's rise within the UAW. Also included are files related to the controversial open letter to Victor Reuther criticizing his attacks on union leadership penned by Bluestone and four other retired UAW officials.

Important subjects in the collection:

Joint labor-management programs in the auto industry
UAW dissidents
UAW elections process
Victor Reuther
Jerry Tucker

Important correspondents in the collection:

Owen Bieber
Don Douglas
Bob Lent
Victor Reuther

Non-manuscript material:

Seven videotapes of New Directions rallies in Indiana and Michigan have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Department.

Box 1

1. *Labor Notes*, 1989
2. New Directions Movement (NDM) National Organizing Conference, Oct 1989
3. Reuther, Victor; corres., 1985-90
4. Reuther, Victor; interviews, speeches, 1984-90
5. Reuther, Victor; media coverage, 1986-92
6. Reuther, Victor; National Rank-and-File Against Concessions Founding Conference, Dec 1985
7. Reuther, Victor; "An Open Response to Victor Reuther," Feb 1989
8. Reuther, Victor; "An Open Response to Victor Reuther"—drafts
9. Reuther, Victor; rebuttal video project, n.d.
10. Tucker, Jerry; UAW presidency campaign, 1991-92
11. Union in Crisis Conference (Warren, Mich.), Jan 1989
12. UAW; contract, 1990
- 13-14. UAW; convention and Region 5 director election, 1989
15. UAW; locals supporting NDM, 1989-91
16. UAW; locals supporting NDM—Local 599, 1989-92
17. UAW; locals supporting NDM—Local 645, 1988-89
18. UAW; Region 1-1B director election, 1988-90
- 19-20. UAW; Region 2A director election, 1990-92
21. UAW; Region 5 director election, 1986-88
- 22-25. UAW; Region 5 director election—lawsuits, 1986-90
26. UAW; Region 6 director election, 1992