

THE JOHN F. WILLIAMS COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1968
(Predominantly 1950-1968)

8 1/2 linear feet
1 oversize box
3 bound ledgers wrapped as 1; 2 wrapped packages of ledger pages

Accession Number 598

The papers of John F. Williams were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1973 by Mr. Williams.

John F. Williams was born November 5, 1909. He became a steamfitter's helper when he was 21 years old, and was initiated into Pipe Fitters Local Union #636 (Detroit) in 1935. During the next two years he helped organize the Johnson Larsen Shop in Detroit. He became recording secretary of Local 636 in 1937 and was later elected Business Manager of that local.

In 1952 he was elected the first President of the Midwest Building Trades Council, and in 1953 he became President of the Executive Board of the Detroit Building Trades Council. He served as president and then a second term as Business Manager for Local 636.

In 1956 he was elected Administrative Assistant to the President of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, and served on the committee which engineered the merger of the AFL and CIO in Detroit in 1958. After the merger, Mr. Williams served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Labor Body until 1968 when he ran unopposed for the office of Wayne County Auditor.

In addition to his work with the AFL-CIO, Mr. Williams was an active member of the Democratic Party gaining renown as state director of Senator Patrick V. McNamara's successful 1954 Senate Campaign, and serving as an alternate delegate from Michigan to the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. He was also involved with such organizations as the Michigan Employment Securities Commission Advisory Council, Michigan State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, The Wayne County Civic League, Dearborn Senator's Club, and the Mayor's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Police Procedures.

Mr. Williams' papers reflect his work with the Union (both his local and the Central Labor Body) and, to a lesser degree, his Democratic Party Affiliation.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

AFL-CIO Merger - Detroit - 1957-1958
Local 636
Labor involvement in politics

Contents

17 manuscript boxes
1 oversize box
3 wrapped ledgers; 2 packages wrapped ledger pages

Series I, Boxes 1-3, Pipefitters Local 636 and related Unions.

Clippings, minutes of meetings, some correspondence relating to Local 636 and their Building Association, Inc., and Matthews vs. Pipefitters (court case). Letters from and about The Detroit Building Trades Council, Michigan Council, and United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry. Time period covered: 1951-1968.

Series II, Boxes 3-4 Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor Papers relating to the work of The Detroit and Wayne Co. Federation of Labor from 1942 to 1958. Included are materials and newspaper clippings on the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations classes, meeting minutes, and the Per Capata tax book. There are a few items on the Michigan Federation of Labor and the Pontiac-Oakland County Federation of Labor.

Series III, Box 5, AFL-CIO Merger

The papers in this series cover the AFL-CIO Merger both in Wayne County (1957-1958) and in Michigan (1958). Included are minutes of the meetings, hearings and newspaper clippings.

Series IV, Boxes 5-12, AFL-CIO

These papers include minutes of meetings, committee reports, etc., and material on the Michigan State Convention. Also included are the desk calendars, office memos, and some private correspondence of Mr. Williams as Secretary-Treasurer (1958-1968).

Series V, Boxes 12-15, CIO-COPE

This series includes the working papers of the political advisory board of the CIO. 1940-194: Labor's Non-Partisan League; 1944-1955: CIO-Political Action Council; 1956-1958: C.O.P.E. Items include newspaper clippings, election results, and voter breakdown by precincts and wards.

Series VI, Box 16, Democratic Party

These papers cover Mr. Williams' personal involvement in the Democratic Party. Included are his materials about the 1960 Democratic National Convention and a hand corrected copy of John F. Kennedy's Labor Day (1960) Speech delivered in Detroit.

Series VII, Box 17, Miscellaneous Papers

Newspaper clippings, reference materials and programs from various events make up the bulk of this series.

Series VIII, Oversize Material

These materials include maps of Democratic Party Constituencies for the 1960 election, Michigan Pipefitters Association jurisdictional map, pages from two ledgers, the CIO check register (1948-1952); CIO check register (1952-1954); CIO Citizenship fund register.

Non-Manuscript Material

4 photographs: #1 - AFL-CIO Merger group photograph (1957); #2 - McNamara dinner 1964; #3 and #4 - unidentified; and miscellaneous memorabilia have "been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual collection. Several pamphlets and 13 Labor newspapers have been placed in the Archives Library.

Series I
Boxes 1-3
Pipefitters Local 636 and Related Unions

Minimal correspondence, clippings, reports and other items concerning the working of Local 636 including Executive Board Minutes (1964-1968), The Building Association, Inc., (1951-1956), Matthews vs. Pipefitters (1956, 1960), regular meeting minutes (1951-1956). Also included are clippings, reports, etc. of related building trade unions. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material, then chronologically within the topic. Local 636 papers are filed first, the related unions second.

Box 1 Local 636

1. Agreement forms, 1956-1958
2. Apprenticeship Programs, 1954-1956
- 3-4. Building Association, Inc., 1951-1956
5. Executive Board Minutes, 1964
6. Executive Board Minutes, 1965-1966
7. Executive Board Minutes, 1967-1968
8. Fiftieth Anniversary Banquet, 1964
9. Fourth Quarter Records, 1955
10. Insurance and Pension Funds, Pamphlets, 1956-1965
11. Jurisdictional Agreements, 1952-1958
12. Matthews vs. Pipefitters - Violation, evidence, and charges, 1956
13. Matthews vs. Pipefitters - Charges, Trial, and Results, 1956
14. Matthews vs. Pipefitters - Dismissal, Assessment, and Appeal, 1956
15. Matthews vs. Pipefitters - 1960

Box 2 Local 636

1. Miscellaneous, 1950-1958
2. Miscellaneous, 1958-1960
3. Newspaper Clippings, 1958-1961
4. Regular meeting Minutes, 1951-1956
5. John F. Williams - receipts, 1950-1962
6. Bills and Labor Laws, 1948-1959
7. Cooks Union, 1957
8. Detroit Building Trades Council, 1955-1968
9. Laborers Local 334, 1958-1968
10. Michigan State Association of Pipe Trades, 1951-1967
11. Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council, 1957

Box 2 Local 636

12. Midwestern State's Conference, 1952
13. Ohio State Association, 1958
14. Pipe Trades District Council of Detroit and Vicinity, n.d.
15. Related Locals - newspaper clippings, 1957

Box 3 Local 636

1. United Association 27th Convention, 1951
- 2-3. United Association 29th Convention, 1966
4. United Association President's Letters, 1956
5. United Association Procedural Booklets, 1962, 1968

Series II

Boxes 3-4

Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor

Printed matter, correspondence, and newspaper clippings relating to the D.F.L, during the period 1941 to 1958. Included are executive and regular board minutes, the Per-Capata tax book (1956) and some Michigan Federation of Labor material. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material than chronologically within the topic. DFL papers are filed first, MFL second.

Box 3 DFL

6. Agreement, 1941
7. Committees, Classes, 1957
8. Contents of Federation Safe, 1943-1952
9. Detroit Labor News editorial items, 1944-1947
10. Industrial Union Department, 1958
11. Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, 1957-1958

Box 4 DFL

1. Frank X. Martel, 1936-1952
2. Minutes, 1956-1958
3. Pension committee minutes, 1955
4. Per Capata Tax Book, 1956 A - E
5. Per Capata Tax Book, 1956 F - R
6. Per Capata Tax Book, 1956 S - Z
7. Per Capata Tax Book, 1956 Miscellaneous
8. Political Action Committee, 1958
9. Report on Finances, 1949, 1951
10. Secretary-Treasurer - Miscellaneous Papers, 1955-1958
11. Statistics (wages and earnings), 1957
12. Union Printing Company - from ledger, 1956-1957
13. United Foundation, 1958-1959
14. John F. Williams, newspaper clippings, 1957, 1968
15. Michigan Federation of Labor, 1956
16. Pontiac-Oakland County Federation of Labor, 1957-1958

Series III
Box 5
AFL-CIO Merger

Meeting minutes, constitution drafts, newspaper clippings etc. relating to the merger of the DFL and the CIO in Wayne County; and reports of hearings on the merger of the AFL and CIO in Michigan are included here. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein. Wayne County merger materials appear first, Michigan state merger materials are second.

Box 5 AFL-CIO Merger

1. Anti-merger speech, letter, 1958
2. Committee meeting minutes, 1956-1957
3. Constitution - drafts, 1958
4. Constitution - galley proofs, 1958
5. Constitution - printed copy, 1958
6. Constitution - working copy, 1958
7. Delegates and expelled unions, 1957
8. Newspaper clippings, 1957-1958
9. Constitution of Michigan State AFL-CIO, 1958
10. Hearing on Merger of State central bodies, 1958
11. Michigan Merger Committee Reports, 1957-1958
12. Special Meeting of Michigan Federation of Labor, 1958

Series IV
Boxes 5-12
AFL-CIO

Correspondence, clippings, meeting minutes relating to the 10 years (1958-1968) John F. Williams was associated with the AFL-CIO. The files fall into two parts: AFL-CIO official papers (both Detroit and national), and the desk calendars, office memos, and private correspondence of Mr. Williams. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein. The AFL-CIO papers are first, Mr. Williams' papers are second.

Box 5 AFL-CIO

13. AFL-CIO Elections, 1959
14. AFL-CIO Resolutions, 1958 (?)
15. Community Services Committee, 1958

Box 6 AFL-CIO

1. Convention, 1957
2. Ethical Practices Committee, 1958
- 3-4. Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 1959, 1960
5. Executive Council Reports, 1957-1958
6. Group Life Insurance, 1967
7. Joseph D. Keenan, 1956-1957
8. Labor Day, 1964, Line of March
9. Michigan State AFL-CIO Convention, 1958
10. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, 1959
11. Miscellaneous Board Minutes, 1958-1960
12. Nominating Committee, 1958
- 13-14. Desk Calendar Pages, 1957, 1958

Box 7 AFL-CIO

- 1-7. Desk Calendar Pages, 1959-1965

Box 8 AFL-CIO

- 1-3. Desk Calendar Pages, 1966-1968
4. Items from Desk Calendar, 1958-1960
- 5-12. Items from Desk Calendar, 1961-1968

Box 9 AFL-CIO

Desk Calendars: 1950, 1951, 1957-1960

Box 10 AFL-CIO

- 1-2. Histadrut - McNamara Dinner, 1964
- 3-9. Office Memos, 1960-1962

Box 11 AFL-CIO

- 1-7. Office Memos, 1963-1967

Box 12 AFL-CIO

1. Office Memos, 1968 2-4. John F. Williams, Personal Correspondence, 1956-1968

Series V
Boxes 12-15
CIO-COPE

Newspaper clippings, precinct and ward election breakdowns, correspondence, and advisory material of the Committee on Political Education of the CIO. The Emphasis is on the Democratic Party and its candidates. Also included are a few folders of post-Merger (1958)

material. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein, except under "Election Materials" where there was an attempt to retain the Labor's Non-partisan League material together.

Box 12 CIO-COPE

5. COPE, 1960
6. Election Clippings, 1940
- 7-12. Election Clippings and Sample Ballots, 1942-1947
13. Election Clippings and Sample Ballots, 1949
- 14-15. Election Clippings and Sample Ballots, 1956, 1957

Box 13 CIO-COPE

- 1-4. Election clippings, 1958-1961
5. Election contributions UAW/CIO Locals, 1-250, 1954
6. Election contributions UAW/CIO Locals, 254-697, 1954
7. Election contributions UAW/CIO Locals, 270-1200, 1954
8. Election contributions, Miscellaneous CIO Locals, 1954
9. Election contributions, UAW/CIO Locals, 1-246, 1955
10. Election contributions UAW/CIO Locals, 247-599, 1955
11. Election contributions UAW/CIO Locals, 600-1248, 1955
12. Election contributions, Miscellaneous CIO Locals, 1955

Box 14 CIO-COPE

1. Election contributions, UAW/CIO Locals 3-235, 1956
2. Election contributions, UAW/CIO Locals 236-412, 1956
3. Election contributions, UAW/CIO Locals 490-1248, 1956
4. Election contributions, Miscellaneous CIO Locals, 1956
5. Election materials, 1940
6. Robert Luce, Political Record, 1941
7. Non-Partisan League Speaker's Manual, 1951
- 8-11. Election materials, 1942-1945

Box 15 CIO-COPE

- 1-2. Election material, 1946, 1947
- 3-4. Election material, 1949-1952
5. Oakland County Democrats, 1956-1959
6. Oakland County Democrats, 1960-1961
7. Political Action Committee, 1957-1958

Series VI
Box 16
Democratic Party

Clippings, form letters, reference material, and correspondence concerning Mr. Williams' active role in state politics appear here. Of special interest are the folders on the Democratic National Convention (1960) and a copy of John F. Kennedy's 1960 Labor Day speech (hand corrected). The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically within each topic.

Box 16 Democratic Party

1. Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), 1957-1958
2. Cities and Townships, precinct maps, 1960
(note: see oversize box for additional)
3. Democratic National Convention, 1960
4. Democratic National Convention, 1960 Henry Jackson
5. Democratic National Convention, 1960 Lyndon B. Johnson
6. Democratic National Convention, 1960 John F. Kennedy
7. Democratic National Convention, 1960 Adlai Stevenson
8. Democratic National Convention, 1960 Stuart Symington
9. Democratic National Convention, 1960 G. Mennen Williams, correspondence
10. Flouridation, 1956
11. Independence Township Democratic Party, 1956-1960
12. John F. Kennedy, Labor Day Speech, 1960
13. Senator Patrick V. McNamara, 1953, 1960-1964
14. Michigan State Democratic Party Materials, 1956-1961
15. Miscellaneous Democratic Party Material, 1958-1965
16. Waterford Township Democratic Party Materials, 1957-1959

Series VII
Box 17
Miscellaneous Papers

Newspaper clippings, form letters, programs, and reference materials of interest to Mr. Williams. The folders are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.

Box 17 Miscellaneous Papers

1. Stanley Carter, Co., 1947
2. CIO Form Letters, 1949
3. Hoffa Trial clippings, 1957
4. Labor Rackets, 1954-1957
5. Programs, 1948-1954
6. Programs, 1955-1965
7. Programs, 1966-1972
8. Reference, n.d.
9. UAW Constitutional Convention, 1959
10. UAW Public Review Board, 1958
11. Williams vs. Sahli, 1958

Series VIII
Oversize box
Oversize Material

Oversize Box Oversize Material

1. Awards and Proclamations
2. Michigan State Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, Jurisdictional Map
3. Precinct and Ward Maps, 1960
4. Summary of Primary Election, Metropolitan Detroit Area, 1956
5. Ward and District Schedules for 1942, 1944

Wrapped Material

1. CIO Citizenship Fund, bound ledger, 1952
CIO General Fund check registers 1949-1951; 1952-1954, bound
2. Pages and accompanying material from CIO General Fund Ledger 1946-1952
3. Pages and accompanying material from Union Printing Co. Ledger 1956-1957