

THE SAM SWEET COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1952

4 Linear feet

Accession Number 841
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Sam Sweet were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in August and December of 1977 by Sam Sweet and were opened for research in May of 1982.

Sam Sweet was born in Poland in 1911, moved to the United States in 1930, and was granted citizenship in 1946. After working in various jobs, Sweet found employment in the auto industry in the mid-1930's. He helped in organizing the Briggs workers in Detroit, and the GM workers in Flint in the early days of the United Auto Workers. He moved on to UAW Local 155, where he worked on organizing small auto plants on Detroit's east side, and in 1937 he became Education Director of the Local. In 1938, he moved on to become the Education Director for Plymouth Local 51, and served in that capacity until 1950, except for two years during World War II, 1943-1945, when he became the Education Director of Briggs Local 742 and the Co-editor of its newspaper. In the late 1940's, Sweet also served as Co-editor of Local 51's newspaper, the Beacon.

From 1946 to the early 1950's, Sweet had to fight repeated attempts by the government to remove his citizenship because of alleged Communist affiliations.

In addition to his work with the UAW, Sweet also served as Housing and Education Director for the Greater Detroit and Wayne County CIO Council in 1945.

The papers of Sweet reflect his activities as Education Director of various UAW Locals, and the co-editor of Local newspapers.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Anti-Communism
- Civil Rights
- Housing
- Political Action
- Progressive Party, 1948
- UAW Factionalism, 1946-1950
- Workers' Safety and Health

Among important correspondents are:

- Nick-Di Gaetano
- Emil Mazey

An index to subjects and correspondents is found on p.9

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8 manuscript boxes

Series I, Local 51, 1938-1942, and 1945-1950; Boxes 1-4: Reports, articles, correspondence and other materials concerning education and other subjects Sweet was interested in as Education Director of Local 51. These subjects include civil rights, Chrysler strikes, UAW factionalism and political action.

Series II, Local 742, 1943-1945; Boxes 5-7:
Correspondence, housing applications, leaflets and other items collected by Sweet while Education Director of Local 742. Some of the subjects covered are housing, civil rights, World War II, and the political action of the UAW.

Series III, Progressive Party, 1948-1952; Box 8:
Newsletters, leaflets, and convention materials relating to the presidential campaign of the Progressive Party in 1948 in which Local 51's leadership was actively involved.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately 15 photographs of Local union leaders and newspaper mats have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection. Numerous books concerning labor history and economics, pamphlets concerning workers' safety, education, and UAW convention proceedings, and newspapers from Local 51, other UAW Locals, and other union--such as the United Electrical Workers and the Farm Equipment Workers--are available in the Archives library.

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Series I
Local 51 1938-1942, 1945-1950
Boxes 1-4

Correspondence, reports, articles, leaflets, and other printed materials generated and collected by Sweet while Education Director of Plymouth local 51. Important subjects covered in this series are Chrysler strikes, UAW factionalism, civil rights, and UAW political action. This series also includes materials relating to the attempts of the government to deport Sweet as a Communist in the late 1940's and early 1950's and his defense. The papers are arranged alphabetically by subject or originating body and cover the years 1938-1942 and 1945-1950.

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1. American Jewish Labor Council, 1947-1949
2. Beacon Drafts
3. Bowling
4. By-laws
5. China, 1948-1949
6. Chrysler, 1939, 1946-1949
7. ; Advertisements, 1950
8. ; Strike, May 1948
9. ; Strike, 25 Jan-4 May 1950
10. ; Markers' Security Program
11. Civil Rights , 1946-1950
12. ; Protection of Foreign Born
13. Civil Rights Congress , 1947
14. Committee for a Militant and Democratic UAW
15. Cooperatives, Credit Unions
16. Correspondence, Jun 1947-Apr 1950
17. Detroit Council of American-Soviet Friendship, 1945
18. Detroit Edison; Home Service Division
19. Education

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5. ; Committee minutes, 15 Jul 1948-4 Jan 1950
6. ; UAW Campus Clippings, 24-27 Jun 1942
7. ; UAW East Side Committee, 1942
8. ; UAW Education Dept.
9. ; UAW Radio Dept.
10. ; UAW Region 1, 1942-1943, 1945
11. ; UAW State Committee
- 12-13. Elections; Local 51, 1946-1950
14. ; Other UAW Locals
15. Factionalism, 1939, 1946-1949
16. Factionalism; Danowski-Matthews conflict, Sep-Nov 1947

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17. Factionalism; Other UAW Locals, 1937-1939
18. ; Other UAW Locals, 1946-1950
19. ; Other Unions, 1948
20. ; Raiding , 1946-1950
21. ; UAW Executive Board Action, Dec 1948-Jan 1949
22. ; UAW Leadership, 1947-1949
23. Fair Employment
24. Federated Press; press releases, Jun 1947-Jul 1948
25. FIAT Corporation
26. Financial Statements, Receipts, 1948-1949

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1. Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council, 1948
2. Bousing, 1942, 1945-1949
3. In Fact, Dec 1944-May 1949
4. Labor Day Parade; minutes, attendance cards, 1947, 1949
5. Letters from Mortimer, 1950
6. Membership Lists
7. Michigan CIO News Service, Jun 1948-Jan 1949
8. Miscellaneous
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10. National Committee for Peaceful Alternatives
11. Notes
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14. ; United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, 1946-1950
15. People's Lobby Inc.; press releases, Feb 1948-May 1949
16. Polish American Labor Council, 1949
17. Political Action, 1945-1950
18. ; Americans for Democratic Action, 1948
19. ; Conference of Progressives, 28-29 Sep 1946
20. ; CIO Political Action Committee, Oct 1947-Mar 1950
21. ; Michigan State CIO Political Action Committee
22. ; "Nowak for Congress", 1946-1948
23. ; UAW
24. ; Wayne County CIO Political Action Committee
25. Research Institute of America; reports, Jul 1944-Mar 1950
26. Reuther, Walter; biographical material, 1942, 1948
27. Safety and Health, 1942, 1947-1948
28. Skilled Workers; resolutions, 11 Aug 1946
29. Socialist Labor Party

Box 4

1. "Johannes Steel Report on World Affairs", Jim-Dec 1947
2. Social Security
3. Songs
4. Sweet, Sam; biographical material, 1939,1947-1950
5. Thomas, RJ; biographical material, 6 Jul 1942
6. Unemployment Compensation, 1948-1950
7. ; appeals, 1947-1950
8. UAW; 10th Convention Report
9. ; 11th Convention, Nov 1947
10. ; 12th Convention, Jul 1949
11. ; International Executive Board, minutes, 1943-1948
12. ; International Executive Board, resolutions, 1949
- 13-14. ; Public Relations Dept, press releases, 8 Jan 1947-22 Feb 1950
15. United States Rubber Co.
16. Wayne County CIO Council, 1948
17. Workmen's Compensation
18. World Federation of Trade Unions
19. World War II
20. ; Department of State, 1945
21. ; Price Control and Rationing, 1942
22. ; Production, 1942
23. ; Reconversion
24. ; Veterans' Benefits
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Series II
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Boxes 5-7

Correspondence, membership lists, minutes, housing applications and other items collected by Sweet while in Local 742. This series contains both the office files generated by Sweet in his capacity as Education Director of the Local and printed materials concerning subjects of interest to him. These interests include civil rights and discrimination, workers' education, safety and health, and labor's role in World War" II. This series is also strong in materials relating to the problem of housing during the War, and the political activities of the UAW. The files are arranged alphabetically by broad subject or originating body and cover the years 1943-1945.

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1. Briggs Co. and UAW; Agreement, 1945
2. Chief Stewards, 1944-1945
3. Civil Rights Federation
4. Committee Membership
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11. Counter Attack, 15 Dec 1944
12. Education, 1943-1944
13. ; 1st Education Convention, 20-21 Nov 1943
14. ; 2nd Education Convention, 29 Oct 1944
15. ; Class Attendance
16. ; Committees, Councils
17. ; Labor Schools, Workers' Education
18. ; Region 1 Education Committee
- 19-20. Elections; Local 742
21. ; Other UAW Locals
22. Housing, 1943-1944
- 23-24. ; Applications, Nov 1943-Oct 1944
25. ; Conferences, Meetings, 1944
26. ; Detroit...Today and Tomorrow, Sep 1944, Jan 1945
27. ; House and Senate Bills, 1944
28. ; Pamphlets

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1. Housing; Rent Control, 1943-1944
2. Leaflets
3. Michigan CIO Council
4. Miscellaneous
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6. National Maritime Union, 1943
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12. ; Fair Practices Committee
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14. ; Local 742
15. ; No-strike Pledge
16. ; Political Education Campaign, Dec 1944- Jan 1945
17. ; UAW, Aug 1943-Oct 1944
18. ; Wayne County CIO
19. Safety and Health, Sep 1943- Jan 1945
20. ; UAW Medical Research Institute, 1944
21. ; UAW Medical Research Institute, referral
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22. "Social and Labor Problems of Peru and Uruguay"
23. Social Security
24. Songs
25. Subsidies
26. Sweet, Sam; biographical material, 1943-1945
27. Unemployment Compensation
28. UAW; 8th Convention, 1943
29. ; 9th Convention, Sep 1944
30. ; Recreation Institute, 30 Oct 1944
31. United States Rubber Co., 1943
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33. ; Child Care
34. ; UAW Conference, Dec 1944
35. World Peace

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4. ; Office of War Information, Apr-Nov 1944
5. ; Price Control and Rationing
6. ; UAW War Policy Division, Sep 1943- Apr 1944
7. ; Wage Stabilization, 1943
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9. ; War Assets Administration
10. ; War Labor Board, May 1943- Nov 1944
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12. ; War Production Board
13. ; War Writers' Board, Apr 1944

Series III Progressive Party
1948-1952 Box 8

Leaflets, newsletters, press releases, convention materials, and other items relating to the Henry Wallace--Progressive Party campaign for President in 1948. The leadership of Sweet's Local 51 was actively involved in the Auto Workers' National Committee for Wallace and Taylor. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or by type of material and cover the campaign and the period January 1948 to June 1952.

Box 8

1. Auto Workers' National Committee for Wallace and Taylor
2. Citizen, May, Oct 1948
3. Executive Committee; minutes, 2 Oct 1948
4. Facts for Action, 27 Sep, 4 Oct 1948
5. Facts on the Wallace Campaign, Jul, Oct 1948
6. Films
7. Leaflets
8. Michigan Progressive Party, 27 Apr-Nov 1948
9. ; press releases, 16 Apr-25 Oct 1948
10. ; State Convention, 18 Sep 1948
11. **National Committee, Oct 1948**
12. National Convention; Agenda, Schedules, 23-25 Jul 1948
13. ; Calls, 23-25 Jul 1948
14. ; Proposed Platform, 24 Jul. 1948
15. ; press releases, 23-25 Jul 1948
16. ; Rules Committee Report
17. ; Speeches, Statements 23-25 Jul 1948
18. National Labor Committee, 4 Oct 1948
19. Organizer, 4 Jun 1948
20. Post-election Letters and Speeches, 19 Nov 1948-19 Jun 1952
21. Press Releases, 15 Mar-27 Oct 1948
22. Progressive Citizen, Feb 1948
23. Public Relations Dept., 2i May-8 Oct 1948
24. Radio Schedule, Oct 1948
25. Score; Vol I #2,4-9, Vol II #1-8, Jun-Oct 1948
26. Songs
27. Wallace Speeches, 17 Jan-11 Oct 1948
28. Women for Wallace

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Sam Sweet Papers, Part II

1 linear foot
1940s-1980s

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

Finding aid written by Aimee Ergas on August 2, 2010.

Accession Number: 841

Creator: Sam Sweet

Acquisition: The Sam Sweet Papers were placed in the Reuther Library on July 15, 1993.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Papers are open for research.

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Related Material: Reuther Library Collections: Sam Sweet Papers Part 1; A-V and Library collections.

Five photographs and small envelope of negatives from Part 2 transferred to Reuther Archives Audiovisual Department.

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 history.

Materials from the 1940s in Part II of the Sam Sweet Papers supplement those in Part I, with additional documents from the 1950s to 1980s representing his involvement with union retiree committees and other senior citizens' issues, such as housing and substance abuse.

Important Subjects:

Senior citizens

UAW Education Department

UAW politics

Union retiree committees

Important Correspondents:

Albert Kahn

Sam Sweet Papers Part 2

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.

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9. Senior citizens, aging, substance abuse, 1970s-1980s
10. UAW Education Department, 1940s
11. UAW job controversy, 1940s-1950s
12. Report to UAW International Executive Board by Convention Investigating Committee, 1947
13. Walter Reuther essay, circa 1949
14. Plain Facts, Local 51 handbill, undated
15. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Anti-Crime Orientation Program, 1977
16. First Educational Convention, Local 742 UAW-CIO, 1943
17. UAW Region 1 Resolution Committee, 1940s-1980s
18. Union Retiree Committees, 1970s-1980s
19. Emil Mazey Library, 1970s-1980s
20. Greater Detroit Senior Citizens Council, 1980s
21. Education programs and courses, 1940s-1980s
22. Undated correspondence and materials
23. Union cards and other membership cards
24. Newsletters, 1940s
- 25-26. Pamphlets and other publications
- 27-29. Newspapers and clippings