

THE BRENDAN SEXTON COLLECTION

Papers, 1938-1988

8½ linear feet

Accession Number 1046
L. C. Number MS

The papers of Brendan Sexton were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May of 1981 by Brendan Sexton and opened for research in August of 1983. Additional papers were placed in the Archives by his wife, Dr. Patricia Cayo Sexton in February of 1988 and opened for research in October of 1988.

Brendan Sexton was born in New York, on June 9, 1911. He held various positions with key labor organizations. Some of the offices that he held before joining the UAW were: President of the New York Workers Alliance, Vice President of the Workers Alliance of America and National Secretary of the Workers Defense League. He was also a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. In 1941, Sexton joined UAW Local 50, Ford Willow Run, after four years as Regional Director and International representative of the United Steelworkers of America. He had become President of his local in 1947, when he was named to the first of a series of posts with the International Union. From 1949 to 1960 he was the Director of Education of the UAW. In 1960, he was appointed coordinator of organization for the UAW. He then became director of the union staff training facility, the Leadership Studies Center. In 1968, he was appointed Director of UAW Educational Activities, which included the Family Education Center at Black Lake as well as the Leadership Studies Center.

In addition to labor union activities, Mr. Sexton taught or lectured on labor studies at Harvard, Princeton, the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Cornell, Rutgers, and the University of California. He served on advisory committees on Workers Education at Cornell, Michigan State University, Roosevelt University, University of Chicago, and Wayne State University. At New York University, he taught a special course with his wife, Dr. Patricia Cayo Sexton. He served as an American delegate to UNESCO's Consultative Committee on Adult Education, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Labor Education.

He took leave of his UAW work several times to direct training programs for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, and for the UAW-backed Citizens Crusade Against Poverty. He retired from the UAW in 1971, but continued and expanded his teaching activities. He died January 17, 1988 in New York.

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Throughout his career, Mr. Sexton wrote and spoke extensively on labor and union issues. He published frequently in magazines and journals and authored a book with his wife.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Black Lake Family Education Center
"Eye Opener" Radio program, 1955-1960
Labor Education theory
UAW Leadership Studies Center

Among the important correspondents are:

Cesar Chavez	Lane Kirkland
Dr. John A. Childs	Emil Mazey
Congressman John D. Dingall	Jack Rubenstein
Judah Drob	Norman Thomas
Senator Paul Douglas	W. Paul Tippet
James T. Farrell	Esteban Torres
Irving Howe	Leonard Woodcock

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Contents

17 manuscript boxes

Part 1

Series I, UAW Education Department, 1955-1972, Boxes 1-3:
Correspondence, radio scripts and other materials relating to UAW Education Department.

Part 2

Series II, Correspondence, 1938-1988, Boxes 4-5:
Personal and business correspondence spanning Mr. Sexton's entire career. Also, sympathy cards and letters received by his wife after his death.

Series III, General Office Files, Boxes 5-11:
Articles, speeches and notes written by Sexton. Clippings and material from committees served on as Reuther representative .

Series IV, UAW Education Department, Boxes 11-14:
Teaching materials produced by the department, background materials, and Black Lake operation.

Series V, University Classes, Boxes 15-17:
Sexton's lecture notes, teaching materials, student papers, and transcripts of guest speakers' remarks.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 100 photographs relating to Brendan Sexton and various UAW functions and 25 transparencies of an art mural have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

Numerous labor magazines, newspapers, and pamphlets, Union publications and government documents, many with articles written by Brendan Sexton, along with two copies of Blue Collars & Hard Hats by Patricia Cayo Sexton and Brendan Sexton, New York: Random House, c.1971, received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.

Part 1

Series I
UAW Education Department, 1955-1972
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, scripts for the UAW Radio Broadcast, "Eye Opener", materials from the Leadership Studies Center and items relating to the Education Department. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 1

- 1-2. Correspondence, 1949-1958
- 3. Eye Opener; Index
- 4-13. Eye Opener, Jan-Oct 1955

Box 2

- 1-13. Eye Opener, Nov 1955-Mar 1957

Box 3

- 1-7. Eye Opener, Apr 1957-Jan 1960
- 8. UAW Educational Conference; James T. Farrell interview
- 9. UAW Education Department; Effective Writing, 1972"
- 10. UAW Leadership Studies Center; evaluation, Jun 1966
- 11-16. UAW Leadership Studies Center; manual
- 17. Union Leadership Academy; program

Part 2

Series II
Correspondence, 1938-1988
Boxes 4-5

Primarily business correspondence spanning Mr. Sexton's entire spectrum of professional positions and activities. Some personal correspondence included in the earliest years. Sympathy letters and cards written to his wife, on his death and the published obituaries on Mr. Sexton are included in 1988. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 4

- 1-15. Correspondence, 1938-39, 1941, 1943-46, 1949, 1951, 1957-73

Box 5

- 1-9. Correspondence, 1974-86, 1988, Undated
- 10-11. Sympathy cards, letters, and obituaries

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Series III
General Office Files
Boxes 5-11

Articles written by Mr. Sexton, both published and unpublished, with notes, on labor issues, labor personalities, labor history and his own reminiscences. Speeches, with notes, given by Mr. Sexton on labor issues to a wide range of audiences. Transcripts of interviews given by Mr. Sexton on labor issues and labor history. Also records of his association, as a UAW representative, with a variety of political and cultural organizations.

Box 5

12. Appointment books, 1950, 1953-55

Box 6

- 1-3. Appointment books, 1955-60, 1965, 1967-70 4-7.
Articles, proposals, position papers, 1955, 1959,
1962-65

Box 7

- 1-18. Articles, proposals, position papers, 1965-71,
1973, 1978-79, Undated
19. Book notes

Box 8

1. Book review of Burt Cochran's Labor and Communism
by Carl Shier
- 2-5. District 37, American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Survey and re
port, 1982
6. Ford Willow Run, UAW Local 50
7. Name and address lists
- 8-9. National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy
(SANE), 1963-64
- 10-18. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Expansion
Arts Program Evaluations, 1973-74, 1976-77, 1982-83

Box 9

1. Newspaper clippings & magazine articles, 1936, 1939,
1941, 1944-46
2. Newspaper clippings & magazine articles, The Bombardier
, May-Jun 1945
3. Newspaper clippings & magazine articles, 1947, 1949
4. Newspaper clippings & magazine articles, The Distri-
butor, Jun, Aug, Oct 1947
- 5-14. Newspaper clippings & magazine articles, 1950-88,
Undated

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Box 10

1. Plant floor plan
2. Sexton's resumes
- 3-6. Speech notes
- 7-19. Speeches and interviews, 1951-52, 1955, 1957-63, 1967, 1974, 1978-79, Undated

Box 11

1. Thomas-Debs Award Dinner, 16 April 1972
2. UAW Pictorial History, copy of final draft
- 3-5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Adult Education, 5-9 Nov 1951

Series IV
UAW Education Department
Boxes 11-14

Teaching and training materials produced by the Education department and the UAW Leadership Studies Center. Background materials used to develop the curriculum and the teaching methods. Some material on the early functioning of the Black Lake Family Education Center.

,Box 11

6. Actuarial Valuation of 1965 UAW Staff Pension Plans
- 7-11. Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), draft of Orientation kit for new staff representatives
- 12-14. ACTWU, J.P. Stevens' Co. Organizing project
15. Black Lake, Intern's report paper
16. Black Lake, Newsletters, Nov 1983, Summer 1985

Box 12

1. Canadian labor education information
2. European labor information
- 3-4. Film scripts
5. "The General Motors & Ford Images", Section 4 by Louis Harris & Assoc.
- 6-8. Guide for Education Committee Chairmen, 1973
- 9-16. Group Insurance Bargaining, Units I-IV

Box 13

- 1-6. Hospital Employer's Campaign
7. Industrial Relations Curriculum Unit, Portland, Oregon Public Schools, 1955
- 8-9. Labor Economics Workshop, 1977
10. Leadership Studies Center, handouts and notes
11. Newark, New Jersey Community Union Organizers, Training Classes
- 12-15. Principles of Collective Bargaining, 1976

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Box 13

16. Programmed instruction booklets
- 17-19. Residential Study Institutes for Trade Union Staff, Report, 1963

Box 14

- 1-7. Service Employees International Union (SEIU), The Organizing Campaign (incomplete copy)
- 8-10. The Simulated Union, Local 100
- 11-12. Statistical information and union public relations sheets
13. Swedish labor information
14. Tax clinic organizing kit
15. UAW-International Executive Board (IEB) Committee on Education, report and notes
- 16-20. UAW Organizing Department, Organizing Seminar, April 16-21, 1978

Series V
University Classes
Boxes 15-17

Mr. Sexton's lecture notes, teaching materials, and students' papers from labor studies classes. Lecture notes include critiques of literature from labor point of view and personal anecdotes of union experiences. Also the transcripts of speeches by nine guest speakers, from various unions, on the "Contemporary Trade Union Movement", with question and answer periods.

Box 15

- 1-3. Background papers, 1981
- 4-8. Classroom lecture notes
- 9-16. Contemporary Trade Union Movement, Cornell University, N.Y. State School of Industrial & Labor Relations, 1979

Box 16

- 1-11. Contemporary Trade Union Movement, 1979
12. CWA Staff Trainee Program, Rutgers University, 1962
13. Labor, Manpower & Urban Affairs
- 14-15. Labor Workshop II, 1975

Box 17

1. Metropolitan Studies, New York University
- 2-9. Surface Transportation, Metropolitan Studies Senior Seminar, New York University, 1974
- 10-16. Working Class Experience, Cornell University, New York State School of Industrial & Labor Relations, 1979

Index to Subjects and Correspondence

(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

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