

Robert "Buddy" Battle III and Marion Battle Collection

Papers, 1948-1993

**2 linear feet
2 storage boxes**

Accession #1801
OCLC #

The papers of Robert "Buddy" Battle III and Marion Battle were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in January of 2003 and opened for research in November of 2004.

Robert "Buddy" Battle III was born June 4, 1917 in Detroit, the son of a cleanup crew supervisor for railroad cars. He went to work as a sand-slinger in the Ford Rouge plant foundry in 1936 and quickly became a union organizer for the UAW. Beginning in the early 1940's he was elected to a number of positions in UAW Local 600, including district and bargaining committeeman, chairman of the special foundry unit and local vice president, culminating in his election as director of Region 1A in 1976. Recognizing the inhuman conditions of foundry labor, he helped set up the union's Foundry Wage and Hour Council in 1946, which fought for and won paid sick leave and 25-and-out for foundry workers. A skilled and aggressive negotiator at the bargaining table, he served on the UAW Ford national negotiating committee in 1967, 1970 and 1973.

Battle worked to increase African American leadership in the UAW and, with Horace Sheffield and others, formed the Trade Union Leadership Council in the late 1940's, which became the nucleus of the national Negro American Labor Council. As TULC president, he oversaw the organization's pre-apprenticeship training program designed to get blacks and other minorities into the skilled trades. Buddy Battle was also active in Democratic Party politics as UAW CAP chairman in the 1st and 13th congressional districts of Detroit and, later, chairman of the 1st congressional district and played a prominent role in the campaigns to elect Detroit's first black City Council member, William Patrick, and its first black mayor, Coleman Young. After he retired from the UAW in 1983, he served as executive assistant to Young. He died on August 4, 1989.

Marion McClellan Battle, the former wife of Coleman Young, married Buddy Battle in 1956. An employee of the Rouge Employees Federal Credit Union, she served for many years as secretary-treasurer of Office Employees International Union Local 42.

The Robert "Buddy" Battle III and Marion Battle Collection consists of correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, flyers, grievances, publications, press coverage and other material related to their careers in the labor movement and Detroit politics.

RESEARCHERS USING THIS COLLECTION MUST SIGN A RESTRICTED USE FORM. NO NAMES APPEARING IN THE DETROIT POLICE RED SQUAD FILES, OTHER THAN THOSE OF ROBERT "BUDDY" BATTLE III OR MARION BATTLE, MAY BE CITED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED. NO UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL IN RESTRICTED FILES MAY BE COPIED.

Important subjects in the collection:

African American automobile industry workers
African American labor leaders
Negro American Labor Council
Office Employees International Union Local 42
Trade Union Leadership Council
UAW Local 600

Important correspondents in the collection:

Horace Sheffield

Related collections:

Blacks in the Labor Movement oral histories
UAW Foundry and Forge Department
UAW Local 600

Box 1 Robert "Buddy" Battle Files

1. Battle family, 1979-93
2. Biographical sketches
- 3-4. Correspondence, misc., 1956-64, 1974-89
5. Detroit Council for Political Education, 1962-65
6. Detroit Police Red Squad file, 1948-68 **[RESTRICTED]**
- 7-8. First Congressional District, 1981-89
9. First Congressional District; delegate selection, 1984
10. Honors and awards, 1957-85
11. Honors and awards; tribute, 4 Dec 1987
- 12-17. Indictment for theft of union funds, 1983-86
18. Indictment for theft of union funds; press coverage, 1983-86
19. Negro American Labor Council, 1959-62
20. Rouge Employees Federal Credit Union; report, 1962
- 21-24. Trade Union Leadership Council (TULC), n.d., 1958-76, 1980-87
25. TULC; Apprentice Outreach Program, 1975-76
26. TULC; Housing Corp., 1969-87
27. TULC; newspaper (*Vanguard*), 1959-66 (scattered issues)
28. UAW; ad-hoc committees to promote black leadership, 1968, 1980, 1988-89
29. UAW; bylaws
- 30-32. UAW Local 600; corres., reports, 1952-67, 1974-76
33. UAW Local 600; elections, 1950's, 1965-75
- 34-38. UAW Local 600; Executive Board meeting minutes, 1959-63
39. UAW Local 600; General Council corres., reports, 1958, 1960, 1965
- 40-41. UAW Local 600; General Council meeting minutes, 1960-63
42. UAW Local 600; Special Foundry Unit grievances, 1952-56

Box 2 Robert "Buddy" Battle Files

- 1-5. UAW Local 600; Special Foundry Unit grievances, 1957-59
6. UAW Local 600; Special Foundry Unit health and safety reports, 1952
7. UAW National Advisory Council on Anti-Discrimination, 1982-83
8. UAW Region 1A director, 1970, 1976
9. UAW; retirement, 1983
10. Young, Mayor Coleman, executive assistant to, 1984-88

Marion Battle Files

11. Detroit Police Red Squad file, 1949-56 **[RESTRICTED]**
12. Office Employees International Union (O.E.I.U.) Local 42; constitution, bylaws, 1962
13. O.E.I.U. Local 42; contract, 1960, 1962-64
14. O.E.I.U. Local 42; corres., flyers, 1960-64

Box 2 (cont'd)

15. O.E.I.U. Local 42; Executive Board meeting minutes, 1961-64
16. O.E.I.U. Local 42; financial statements, 1960-65
17. O.E.I.U. Local 42; membership meeting minutes, 1960-65
18. O.E.I.U. Local 42; newspaper (*Voice of Local 42*), 1961-65
(scattered issues)
- 19-20. O.E.I.U. Local 42; reports, 1961-65