

ASSOCIATION FOR UNION DEMOCRACY

Papers, 1937-1982
(Predominantly, 1960-1980)

21 linear feet

Accession Number 1085
L.C. Number MS

The papers of the Association for Union Democracy were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May 1982 by Mr. Herman Benson. The collection was opened for research in May of 1983. Additional papers were placed in the archives by Mr. Herman Benson in November of 1987 and opened for research in April of 1988.

In 1959, Herman Benson began publication of a newsletter entitled Union Democracy in Action. This newsletter was written to support the efforts of reformers promoting democracy within unions. Union Democracy in Action was funded through the aid of grants from organizations and donations from individuals. The Association for Union Democracy was incorporated into Union Democracy in Action in 1969. In 1971, the Association for Union Democracy received tax exemption, and by 1972 a second newsletter entitled Union Democracy Review began publication. Union Democracy in Action ceased publication at the end of 1972. Throughout the 1970's, the Association for Union Democracy continued publication of Union Democracy Review and provided legal assistance for those involved in union democracy court cases.

The papers of the Association for Union Democracy reflect Herman Benson's interest in the struggles for union democracy waged within unions, particularly the painters', seamen's and steelworker's unions. To a lesser degree, the papers reflect his interest in general labor concerns.

In addition to this collection, the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs holds the Herman Benson Collection.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Landrum-Griffin Act, 1959
Edward Sadlowski election and dispute, 1974
United Steelworkers of America elections, 1973, 1977
Steelworkers Fight Back, 1975

James Morrissey election campaign, 1973
Frank Schonfeld election campaign, 1967
Union democracy

Among the important correspondents are:

I.W. Abel	James Morrissey
Herman Benson	Joseph L. Rauh
Walter J. Burke	Edward Sadlowski
Penny Burroughs	Frank Schonfeld
Samuel C. Evett	Ray Marshall

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Sub series A: Union Democracy in Action, 1959-1972; Boxes 1-3,
Correspondence and other records relating to the funding and
interests of Union Democracy in Action.

Sub series B: Union Democracy in Action, General Files, 1937-1981, Boxes 3-10,
Correspondence, court records, and other documents relating to Herman
Benson's interest in union democracy within various labor unions.

Series II, Painter's Unions, 1939-1980; Boxes 10-20:

Particularly well documented are the correspondence, clippings, and
other documents relating to District Council (New York City) and the
Bay Area Painters Union (San Francisco) of the Brotherhood of Painters,
Decorators, and Paperhangers of America, AFL-CIO.

Series III, Seaman's Unions, 1946-1981; Boxes 20-26:

Correspondence, court records, and related documents, primarily from
the National Maritime Union. Among other unions represented are the
Masters, Mates, and Pilots, the Seafarer's International Union, and
the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Part II

Series IV, United Steelworkers of America Union, 1964-1985; Boxes 27-34:

Legal documents, court records and related documents, primarily from
the elections of 1973 of the United Steelworkers, District 31 (Chicago-
Northwest Indiana), and other represented districts involved in the
election. Among other unions represented are the Maritime, Ladies Garment,
International Union of Operating Engineers and the Electrical Radio and
Machine Workers.

Series V, United Steelworkers of America Union, 1956-1987; Boxes 35-41:

Correspondence, clippings and other related documents, including the
Observer Report Forms of the United Steelworkers of America elections.
Among other unions represented are the International Brotherhood of
Painters, Letter Carriers, the Federation of Post Office Clerks,
Musicians Voice, and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately 30 photographs relating to District Council 9 have been
placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collections. Numerous books,
newspapers, and pamphlets relating to union reform from this collection
are available in the Archives library.

Series I
Union Democracy in Action 1937-1981
Boxes 1-10

Files relating to UDA and Herman Benson. This series is divided into the following two sub series:

Sub series A: Union Democracy in Action, 1959-1972, Boxes 1-3

Correspondence, clippings, union newspapers, and pamphlets concerning the funding of UDA and Benson's relations with union reformers. Files are arranged alphabetically by type of material and name.

Sub series B: UDA General Files, 1937-1981, Boxes 3-10

Correspondence, studies, and court records relating to Benson's personal interest in attempts at union reform. Particularly well documented are the issues surrounding the Landrum-Griffin Act. The majority of the material is from the 1960's and 1970's. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and name.

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Series III
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Boxes 20-26

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Series V
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