

The Olive R. Beasley Collection

Papers, 1948-1973

(Predominantly, 1960-1972)

1.5 linear feet

Accession Number 81  
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Olive Rankin Beasley were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs during the period November, 1963 through January 1974 by Mrs. Beasley and were opened for research in January, 1983.

Olive Beasley was born January 2, 1903. She graduated from the Central YMCA High School, Chicago, Illinois and subsequently received her B.A. degree from the same institution in 1941.

She came to Michigan in 1947 to begin a career devoted to improving human and civil rights of minority groups. She served as Secretary and later as Executive Director of the Michigan Committee on Civil Rights and was a member of the Fair Employment Practices Commission which was established in 1959. She continued to serve its successor, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission as Executive Director of the Flint office. She held numerous posts in labor and community organizations in both Detroit and Flint. Among them were president, Local 52, Detroit Area Union of State Employees; Vice-President, Council 7, Michigan State Employees Union; Executive Board Member, Michigan AFL-CIO and Secretary, Detroit League of Women Voters. In 1972 she received the Governor's Award for Distinguished Public Service Employees.

The papers of Mrs. Beasley reflect her career with Michigan Agencies and organizations concerned with civil rights and to a lesser degree her involvement with labor unions and Michigan politics.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

AFSCME  
Civil Rights and Minority Groups, 1948-1972  
Fair Employment Practices, 1951-1973  
Labor Unions and Michigan Politics, 1952-1973

Among the important correspondents are:

Mildred Jeffrey  
Donald Riegle G.  
Mermen Williams  
Jerry Wurf

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 6.

Contents

2½ manuscript boxes

Series I, Civil Rights: Minority Groups, 1948-1972; Box 1:

Memoranda, newsletters, reports and clippings relating to the rights of American Indians, blacks, Hispanics, senior citizens and women. Some files relate to civil rights organizations.

Series II, Civil Rights: Fair Employment Practices, 1951-1973; Box 2:

Correspondence, memoranda, reports and clippings relating to Michigan civil rights agencies and the enactment and implementation of fair employment legislation.

Series III, Labor & Politics, 1952-1973, Box 2: Correspondence, reports and other items concerning AFSCME and Michigan Public Service employees. Some items relate to the Michigan Democratic Party.

Series IV, Governor's Award and Other Activities, 1950-1972, Box 3:

Correspondence and testimonial letters relating to Mrs. Beasley's nomination for the Governor's Award for Distinguished Public Employees. Also included in this series are an article by Mrs. Beasley and material relating to her interest in the United Nations.

Non-manuscript material

Selective issues of labor journals and periodicals and pamphlets dealing primarily with civil liberties have been placed in the Archives Library. A list of these publications have been placed in the case file.

Series I

Civil Rights: Minority Groups, 1948-1972

Box 1

Clippings, memoranda, newsletters, reports relating to human and civil rights of various minority groups, including American Indians, blacks, Hispanics, senior citizens, and women. The files include material from and about civil rights organizations such as the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the Urban League of Flint, Michigan and others.

Box 1

1. American Indians, clippings, 1972
2. Blacks, announcements, brochures, programs, 1962-73
- 3-4. Blacks, clippings, 1963-73
5. Civil rights, brochures, bulletins, & memoranda, 1949-62
6. , clippings, 1964-72
7. Fair election practices; announcements, clippings, memoranda, 1952-56
8. Freedom Agenda; announcements, news releases, 1954-56
9. Hispanics, clippings, 1971-73
10. Inter-racial organizations, flyers, newsletters, 1951-64
11. Michigan Committee for Constitutional Liberties; fliers, c. 1961
12. Michigan Council on Employment Problems of Working Women; memoranda, programs, 1962
13. Michigan Democratic State Central Committee; statement on civil rights, June, 1956
14. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; clippings, 1964-72
15. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; pamphlets, flyers, 1948-73
16. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; 61st annual convention, July 1970; addresses, resolutions
17. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; 61st annual convention; pamphlets
18. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; statements on civil rights, busing, 1961-72
19. National Ass'n for the Advancement of Colored People; 36th annual Michigan Conference, May 1972, resolutions
20. National Urban League; clippings, 1971-73
21. Urban League, Flint, Michigan; clippings, 1963-72
22. ; newsreleases, programs, reports, 1965-73
23. White House Regional Conference, Nov 1961, "Opportunities for Senior Citizens."
24. Women; clippings, 1971-73

25. Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom; correspondence,  
petitions, 1961-65

Series II

Civil Rights: Fair Employment Practices, 1951-1973

Box 2

Clippings, correspondence, memoranda, staff reports, relating primarily to Michigan's Civil rights agencies and their efforts to enact and implement Fair Employment Practices legislation in Michigan. Agencies involved included the Michigan Fair Employment Practices Commission, its successor, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, and the Michigan Committee on Civil Rights.

Box 2

1. Michigan Civil Rights Commission, clippings, news releases, pamphlets, 1963-64, 1971-72
2. Michigan Civil Rights Commission, correspondence, March 1972-May 1973
3. Michigan Committee on Civil Rights Community FEPC Conferences; agenda, membership, schedules, 1952-53
4. Michigan Committee on Civil Rights, Community; correspondence, Dec 1952-May 1953
5. Michigan Committee on Civil Rights; speakers, 1953
6. Michigan Dept of Civil Service; personnel memoranda, 1970, 1972
7. Michigan Fair Employment Practices; Community High School press conferences, arrangements, correspondence, Jan-Apr 1959
8. Michigan Fair Employment Practices Committee; legislative, Sept 1959
9. Michigan Labor Committee to Combat Intolerance; report of staff activities, Jan-May 1951

Series III

Labor and Politics, 1952-1973

Box 2

Clippings, correspondence, reports and other items primarily concerning the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME) and its Michigan councils and locals and their involvement with political and economic issues relating to public service employees; principally in the mid-sixties; and early seventies. Some materials pertain to national union and to the Michigan Democratic Party from 1952 to 1973.

Box 2

10. AFSCME International Conventions, 1964, 1966; bulletins, constitutional amendments.
11. AFSCME Local 52; correspondence, April 1969
12. AFSCME Michigan Public Employees Council 68; officer's training course, 1965
13. AFSCME Michigan State Employees Union, Council 7; clippings, 1963-65
14. , legislative reports, 1969-71
15. , memoranda reports, 1969-72

16. AFSCME Michigan State Employees Union, Council 7, Committee for Union Responsibility and Education; statements
17. AFSCME Political Action Committee; bulletin, correspondence, Sept-Oct 1972
18. Beasley, Olive; AFSCME Vice-President election flier
19. Diggs, Charles C. Jr; clippings, 1954-57
20. Labor Unions, Michigan; clippings, Mar 1952-Dec 1973
21. Labor unions, national, clippings, Oct 1969-Sept 1973
22. Michigan Democratic Party; announcements, clippings, correspondence, guides, 1952-73
23. Minimum wage legislation, Michigan; correspondence, memoranda, 1957, 1963
24. U.S. Senate Rule XXII (cloture) :Clippings, 1952-53

Series IV Awards & Other Activities 1950-1972

Box 3

Correspondence and testimonial letters relating to Olive Beasley's nomination in 1971 and 1972 for the Governor's (Michigan) Award for Distinguished Public Employees. Also included are an article written by Mrs. Beasley and material related to the U.N.

Box 3

1. Beasley, Olive; American Ass'n for the United Nations, 2 Mar 1961
2. ;"Dynamic Detroit - Obstacle for Democracy," 31 Jul, 1950
3. Correspondence; Nov 1971-Oct 1972
4. Governor's Award Commission for Distinguished Public Employees, news releases, 1971-72
5. Nomination of Olive Beasley, Governor's Award for Distinguished Public Employees, 1971
6. Nomination of Olive Beasley, Governor's Award for Distinguished Public Employees, 1972

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\*Williams, G. Mermen, 2:22  
\*Wurf, Jerry,