

The Robert J. Greene Collection

Papers, 1948-1991

1/2 Mss. Box

Accession Number 1485

L.C. Number MS

The papers of Robert J. Greene were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1991 by Mr. Greene and were opened for research in April of 1993.

Robert Greene, of Jewish parentage, grew up in Detroit, Michigan in the 'thirties and early 'forties. He attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 1949. He was active in the late 'forties in the formation of the Students for Democratic Action. He campaigned for G. Mennen Williams in his race for the governorship of Michigan in 1948 and in 1949 he was active in the campaign of George Edwards in his unsuccessful candidacy for the office of Mayor of Detroit.

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Greene worked as an organizer for the Detroit and Cleveland Workmen's Circles, America's largest Jewish labor fraternal order, founded in the 1890s by immigrant Yiddish-speaking needle workers. In 1959 Mr. Greene became the Central States Area director for the American Jewish Committee, headquartered in Washington D.C.

The papers of Robert J. Greene consist primarily of selections from his manuscript "Side Bars", an anecdotal reminiscence of some forty years as a political activist in liberal democratic circles, and his efforts in the political campaigns in Michigan of G. Mennen Williams and George Edwards. In addition to Mr. Greene's autobiographical sketches, the collection contains several C.I.O. songbooks and political pamphlets.

Non-manuscript material:

A steward's badge from the Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee (G.C.E.O.C.) has been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

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BOX 1

1. "Bat Boy for Reaction" [1948]
2. C.I.O song books [n.d.; 1954]
3. Correspondence, 1955
- 4-8. Greene, R. "Side Bars...", 1991
9. "It's Time for Action" [1949]
10. Knox, I. and Howe, I. "The Jewish Labor Movement in America" [n.d.]

