

REFERENCE

GEORGE MEANY MEMORIAL ARCHIVES
A Subject Guide for Materials on
Labor and Religion

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The history of the interaction of labor and religion in the United States is a richly varied one. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries society struggled to come to grips with the emerging industrial world and the changes it created in the lives of the people as they entered the factories or took on the role of management. The churches, synagogues, and religious organizations also struggled to define their relationship to this problem, a relationship which was at times friendly and supportive and at other times antagonistic. The interaction of these institutions is one which must be addressed for a more complete view of either labor or religious history.

The points of conflict, the similarities of vision, and at other times the apparent indifference of the two institutions in regard to each other have, at times, elicited interest from historians. A recent Washington conference involving the two groups indicates that there is again a growing concern and an awareness that these groups have common goals and interests, and therefore share a desire to make attempts to work together to accomplish their purposes. The internationalization of the economy, plant closings, the problems of the unemployed and homeless, lack of a just family wage and lack of access to medical care are a few of the issues that concern both the religious community and organized labor. This growing interest and the interest in social history is creating an interest in the past relationship of these groups.

It is not the first time that the two communities have come together and recognized their common goals. Members of all religious groups, Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic, have long supported the concerns and the rights of laborers. Father Peter Dietz organized Catholic support for unions in 1909. Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical in 1891 in which he declared support for social justice for workers. In 1919, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise~~son~~, before his New York congregation, charged United States Steel with violence and unethical practices against its workers. Reverend Charles Stelzle, of the Presbyterian church, was a delegate without voting power to the AFL's conventions from 1905-1908. These are only a few of the

many connections between the two groups although all the contacts have not been as positive. George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO said of the religious community in 1965, "They stand, as we do, for economic and civil justice for all. Religion and labor are partners."¹

Prior to beginning this project, I read relevant chapters in Philip Taft's AFL in the Time of Gompers,² for background information on periods of specific interaction between various religious institutions and organized labor. The Meany Archives provided several indexes that, however incomplete, were useful to begin a search for material. These indexes were for the AFL executive committee minutes and to CIO convention proceedings. The finding aids to the microfilm collection, as well as the prepared, in-house finding aids and inventories for processed collections yielded additional material. The rest I found simply by memory of what I had seen in collections and what other archivists and researchers had discovered. The guide, as a result, is certainly not complete and is open to additions in the future.

It is arranged first by general type of material, then alphabetical by collections within that category, and finally in chronological order. Chronology was the most useful distinction because the items are filed in that arrangement and would be easiest to locate that way. The only exception to that was in the William Green Papers. These items were not dated so I placed them in the order in which they were arranged. One other note of explanation is necessary in regard to the minutes of the AFL executive council meetings. They are not numbered in this guide because they have not been processed yet. They could, however, be made available as necessary even without current arrangement.

¹The Seafarers Log, "Religion and Labor," 1968. As reprinted for A Dialogue Between the Religious and Labor Community on Social and Ethical Concerns in a Changing Economy, Washington D. C. January 25-27, 1989.

²Philip Taft, AFL in the Time of Gompers (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1957).

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

AFL, AFL-CIO Department of Legislation, 1906-1978 **Inventory 1**
 I. Legislative Reference Files

1958/1-1974/08 Religion	1/42/22
1945/12-1954/08 Jews	1/29/10-12

William Green Papers, 1909-1952 **Collection 2**
 IV. Speeches, Addresses

no date	Cathedral of St. John the Divine	2/14/9
no date	Labor, the Church and Freedom of Religion	2/14/11
no date	Labor Sunday	2/14/13
no date	Two speeches	2/14/16
no date	One speech: "Special concern being shown by church and religious organizations in industrial problems and human welfare."	2/14/18
no date	Labor Sunday speech; Catholic Community Club	2/15/5
no date	Ref. file: Notebook of quotations: Religious attitudes on labor	2/15/11

Lawrence Rogin Papers **Unprocessed Collection**

1954/01/04 Employer Material used in TWUA-CIO Organizing Campaigns.
 A loose leaf collection of anti-union materials. Contains several issues of The Militant Truth, a monthly publication from Atlanta, Georgia. The paper states that it "interprets events from a fundamental Christian and constitutional American viewpoint."

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS

AFL Executive Council Minutes

Microfilm 1

1905	Clergy-church, Resolution to exchange delegates with the ministerial association, pp. 152-54.	Box 1
1906/6	Recommendation that a church representative be seated as a fraternal delegate without a vote, p. 73.	Box 2
1914/5	Protest by Typographical Union #6 of New York City against seating church organization representatives at AFL conventions, p. 62.	Box 3
1915/9	Relationship of AFL to religious organizations. Letter from Fr. Peter Dietz, pp. 36-40.	Box 4
1916/2	Protest by executive council against discrimination of Jewish people in foreign countries, p. 60	Box 4
1923	Clergy-Church, pp. 122-123.	Box 6

The following minutes are not on microfilm:

1930/9	Celebration of 40 th anniversary of the encyclical on labor of Pope Leo XIII. Vice President Frank Duffy to serve on the American commission, pp. 31-34.
1931/1	Catholic unions, pp. 63-66.
1934/8	Vice President Frank Duffy reports on efforts of Fr. Charles E. Coughlin, pp. 15-16.
1935/4	Invitation by Fr. Coughlin to participate in National Union for Social Justice, pp. 25-34, 145-146. Appeal for fund to establish a Chair of Social Economics at Catholic University, pp. 22-24, 77-81, 107.
1936/5	The Catholic clergy's attitude toward the child labor amendment, pp 4-5.
1941/2	Religious sects and acts detrimental to existing wage and social standards, pp. 153-154.

- 1941/8 Mennonite proposal asking for exemption of their members from joining unions on the basis of religious principles, rejected, pp. 18-19.
- 1944/1 Protest by Catholic labor unions in New York, pp. 7-8.
- 1952/5 Request by the Religion and Labor Foundation to attend the national convention, pp. 29-30.
- 1955/2 Request for endorsement by National Church Attendance Crusade, denied, p.86.

CIO Convention Proceedings

Reference Rm

- 1943/11/1-5 Final Proceedings of the 6th Constitutional Convention, Rescue of Jewish people, pp. 144-150.
- 1944 /11/20-24 Final Proceedings of the 7th Constitutional Convention, Religion and Labor Foundation, Willard Uphouse, pp 242-43.
- 1946/11/18-22 Final Proceedings of the 8th Constitutional Convention, Presentation of theological students, pp. 230-31.
- 1947/10/13-17 Final Proceedings of the 9th Constitutional Convention, Presentation of theological students, p. 206. Rescue of Jewish people, pp. 243-46.
- 1949/10/31-1949/11/4 Final Proceedings of the 11th Constitutional Convention, National Labor and Religion Foundation, pp. 360-64.
- 1950/11/20-24 Final Proceedings of the 12th Constitutional Convention, Endorsement of the Jewish Labor Committee, pp. 492.

Jewish Labor Committee Records

Microfilm 42
Boxes 1-5

- 1938-1978 Minutes of administrative bodies.

Also with the finding aid for this collection are several manuscripts and articles:
Brooks, Thomas R. "The Jewish Labor Committee: Fighters for Freedom."
reprinted from AFL-CIO American Federationist (July 1964).

Goldstein, Edward S. "The Jewish Labor Committee: An Analytic History 1934-1968." (December 1978).

Waltzer, Kenneth. "American Jewish Labor and Aid to Polish Jews During the

Holocaust." paper delivered at the 17th Annual Conference on the Holocaust and the Church Struggle (March 8-10, 1987).

PAMPHLET COLLECTION

AFL Pamphlets

		Box/folder
1905	"An Open Letter to Ministers of the Gospel"	6/7
1920	"Letters to a Bishop: Correspondence of Samuel Gompers and Bishop William A. Quayle"	7/9
1925	"The Church as related to Labor and Nation"	8/7
1925	"Labor Seeks Life More Abundantly: Address at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine"	8/9
1925	"Open Letter to Ministers of the Gospel"	8/10
1925	"Revising the Gospel of What?"	8/10
1927	"A Hymn of Labor"	8/18
1928	"Religion and the Family Life"	9/6
1928	"Thinking our a Catholic Industrial Program"	9/8
1930	"Application of Religious Principles to Human Relations in Industry"	9/13

CIO Pamphlets

1935	"The Church Speaks out for Labor"	1/1
1943	"The Church and Labor"	1/17
1944	"Labor and Religion"	2/5
[1945]	"The Bible and the Working Man"	2/9
1945	"Letters to Dad"	2/12
1946	"Address by Rabbi Stephen S. Wiseman to the 8 th Convention of the CIO"	2/13
1954	"Religion Speaks to Labor"	4/12