

Inventory of the

Elgin Trades Council
Elgin, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 153

INTRODUCTION

Curtis Mason, President, donated the records of the Elgin Trades Council to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on June 23, 1982.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.5
Number of containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 153

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection represents a small portion of the records generated by the Elgin Trades Council; records pre-dating 1965 have been lost. The materials are divided into five series. The first series contains the records of the Council -- constitutions, meeting minutes (1967-1979), and general correspondence (1968-1978). The remaining four series contain documentation on related organizations.

Series two and three contain records from the Elgin Association of Commerce, the Aurora Labor and Trades Assembly, and the Kane County Building and Construction Trades Council. Meeting minutes and newsletters, found in series four and five, describe the labor climate in the Kane County area. Materials from the Illinois State Federation of Labor and the AFL-CIO provide a broad view of labor for the years 1968 to 1979.

Researchers are urged to consult the other labor collections held by the Regional History Center for more information on labor in northern Illinois. Consult the guide index and with a staff member for other sources of documentation.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Elgin Trades Council organized on October 12, 1898 to fulfill three main objectives. First, they wanted to unite the various trades and labor unions of the city and vicinity and to assist in the formation of unions where they did not exist. This objective was designed to form one brotherhood for the defense of rights and the protection of the interests of the laboring masses. The second objective entailed the discussion and examination of all questions affecting the interests of the working classes which could not be acted upon in special labor organizations. Once discussed and agreed upon, the group intended to successfully compete, with concentrated capital, in controlling the law-making power of the country. The final objective concerned an

effort to impress upon the various branches of trade the necessity for organization and maintenance of unions. These objectives, in a slightly varied form, are still used today.

The Elgin Trades Council remained very active throughout its history. In 1927 they became affiliated with the Illinois State Federation of Labor. They continue to strive for equity for working people within the Elgin area today.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Aurora
Building Trades
Construction Industry, Labor Unions
Elgin
Elgin Trades Council
Kane County
Labor
Labor Unions
Politics

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Elgin Trades Council Records		
1	1	Constitutions and Certificates, List of Affiliated Organizations, (1898-1979)
	2-6	Meeting Minutes, 1967-1976, (1977-1979)
	7	Correspondence, Labor Day Parade, 1975
	8-11	General Correspondence, 1968-1978
Series II. Elgin and Aurora Area Records		
2	1	Elgin Association of Commerce, Correspondence and Newsletters, 1970-1973
	2	<u>Manpower Trends</u> , Elgin, 1970-1974
	3-5	Aurora Labor and Trades Assembly, Minutes and Correspondence, 1970-1974
Series III. Kane County Records		
	6	Building and Construction Trades Council, Minutes, 1972-1973
	7	<u>The Challenge</u> , Kane County Democratic Party, 1970-1972)
Series IV. Illinois Records		
	8	Illinois State F. of L., Correspondence and Reports, (1970-1975)
	9	<u>Illinois Labor Bulletin</u> , 1970
	10	<u>A Working Paper on the Future of Illinois</u> , 1979
	11	<u>Guide to Consumer Agencies and Organizations in Illinois</u> , 1979
Series V. AFL - CIO Records		
	12	Constitution, 1977
	13-15	Correspondence, (1968-1977)
	16	Statements and Reports Adopted by Executive Council, 1970-1974

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
3	1	Secretary-Treasurer' s Financial Reports, (1969-1976)	
	2	Union Label and Service Trades Department, 1970-1974	
	3	Department of Community Services, 1970, 1974	
	4	Labor Studies Center Catalogs, 1970-1973	
	5	Platform Proposals, 1972	
	6	Organizations Affiliated with AFL-CIO, 1973	
	7	<u>HRDI Manpower Advisory</u> , (1973-1974)	
	8	Legislative Fact Sheet, 1972	
	9	<u>Memo from COPE</u> and COPE Correspondence, 1970-1974	
	10	<u>News from the AFL-CIO</u> , 1970-1973	
	11	Watchdog, 1972	
	12-13	<u>Advocate</u> , Retail Clerk Association, 1970-1972	
	14	<u>A-I-Labor Letter</u> , 1970-1971	
	15	<u>The American Federationist</u> , 1970	
	16	Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Council, 1968-1969	
	17	<u>IUD Bulletin</u> , 1972-1973	
	4	1	Illinois State F. of L., Newsletters, (1970-1979)
2		Labor Newspapers, (1972-1979)	