



New Democratic Coalition Records (S0068)

Collection Number: S0068

Collection Title: New Democratic Coalition Records

Dates: 1968-1977

Creator: New Democratic Coalition

Abstract: The New Democratic Coalition Records contains newsletters, correspondence, bylaws, and press releases regarding the New Democratic Coalition, a Democratic party reform group founded in response to the 1968 Democratic Convention. The objectives of the New Democratic Coalition included reform of campaign spending, tax assessment, and the widening of the delegate selection process.

Collection Size: 3 cubic feet
(77 folders, 8 audio cassettes, 4 reel to reel)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *New Democratic Coalition Records* (S0068) Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Marvin L. Madeson on May 10, 1977 (Accession No. SA1050).

Related Collections: Additional materials related to the New Democratic Coalition Records can be found in the following collections:

[Rory Vincent Ellinger Collection \(C3555\)](#)

[Warren E. Hearnese Papers \(C3522\)](#)
[Americans for Democratic Action, St. Louis Chapter Records \(S0045\)](#)
[Lena G. Greenlaw Papers \(C3600\)](#)
[H. Clyde Wilson Papers \(C0390\)](#)
[St. Louis Peace Information Center Records \(S0136\)](#)
[Tom Chorlton Papers \(CA5803\)](#)
[Charles Klotzer Papers \(S1107\)](#)
[Missouri Campaign Spending Reform Records \(S0056\)](#)
[W. Stuart Symington Papers \(C3874\)](#)
[Metropolitan Church Federation Records \(S0618\)](#)
[Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Records \(S0741\)](#)
[Missouri State Labor Council, AFL-CIO Records \(C0216\)](#)

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, August 2023

Historical Note:

At the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, Hubert Humphrey, vice president to Lyndon B. Johnson, was selected as the Democratic nominee for president despite not winning a single primary. In combination with Eugene McCarthy losing the nomination, the selection of Humphrey, and increasing tensions around the continuation of the Vietnam War, riots broke out in the surrounding area of the convention, leading to hundreds of individuals being arrested and injured by Chicago police. On August 29, 1968, the last evening of the Democratic National Convention, a group of delegates, under the direction of Paul O'Dwyer, met to discuss the state of the Democratic Party after the embarrassment of the Democratic National Convention. The caucusing of these delegates led to the organization of the Temporary Organizing Committee to solidify the defeated, divided, and disorganized Democrat party.

The Temporary Organizing Committee established its official headquarters in Minneapolis and assigned Earl Craig, a supporter of Eugene McCarthy and eventual Democratic nominee for Senator in Minnesota, to coordinate the first national organization meeting. Craig established communication with McCarthy, Robert Kennedy, and George McGovern supporters, representatives of minorities groups, and dissatisfied members of the Democratic parties to invite them to the first official meeting of the Temporary Organizing Committee in Minneapolis, Minnesota from September 14-15, 1969. At this meeting, the group adopted the name of the New Democratic Coalition and identified its statement of political purpose to reform the Democratic Party through Democratic convention reform, aid Congressional candidates during election cycles, organize and identify local Democratic leaders, and the creation of task forces to solve problems such as party reform, peace, and the environment.

After the first official meeting of the newly named New Democratic Coalition, states and cities across the United States established local chapters of the New Democratic Coalition. The Missouri and Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition were both founded in November of 1968. The creation of local chapters of the New Democratic Coalition allowed for better concentrated effort to solve social and political issues, and extra assistance in state and local elections of Democratic candidates. For example, the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic

Coalition from 1968 to 1977 worked to re-elect Thomas Eagleton in 1968, end sales tax on food and medicine, and reform political campaign spending in Missouri.

Once local chapters emerged, the New Democratic Coalition worked to reform the procedures of the Democratic National Convention for the upcoming 1972 Presidential election. Using the recommendations made by the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Structure, a commission created by the Democratic National Committee in response to the disaster of the 1968 National Democratic Convention, the New Democratic Coalition urged state Democratic parties to adopt rules to reform the delegate selection process by ending proxy voting, secret caucuses, and increase diversity amongst delegates. By the 1972 Presidential election, all fifty states reworked state Democratic Party bylaws and constitutions regarding delegate selection to include affirmative action measures to incorporate more minority representation in delegation and increased access by the media to the delegation process. Besides convention reform, the New Democratic Coalition also provided campaign support to New Democratic Coalition-backed candidates in Congressional elections through the New Democratic Coalition Intern Program. The New Democratic Coalition disbanded in 1977 for unknown reasons.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following eleven series:

Correspondence
Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition
New Democratic Coalition Intern Program
Conventions and Conferences
Publications and Financial Records
Lists
Tax Reform
Task Forces and Party Reform
Campaign Finance
Newspaper Clippings
Audiovisual

Scope and Content Note:**Correspondence**

The Correspondence series primarily documents Marvin L. Madeson's, national chairman of the New Democratic Coalition from 1970 to 1972, correspondence with political leaders, state chapters of the New Democratic Coalition, and political reform groups. Much of Marvin Madeson's political correspondence is with Missouri and Illinois legislative leaders, including Stuart Symington, Adlai Stevenson III, and Thomas Eagleton. Topics of interest include inviting Eagleton and Stevenson to speak at New Democratic Coalition meetings and Symington thanking the New Democratic Coalition for supporting Symington's political career. Other topics of interest include a collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus to cut military spending; donations to anti-Vietnam organizations such as the Universities National Anti-War Fund and Coalition on National Priorities and Military Policy; and New Democratic Coalition attempts to obtain a facility for the Democratic National Convention of 1972. The correspondence has been arranged chronologically from 1968 to 1974.

Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition

The Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition series contains press releases, correspondence, bylaws, and lists of the St. Louis chapter of the New Democratic Coalition from 1969 to 1974. The files of Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition chairmen William F. Behm, Bruce T. Somer, and vice chairman J. William Hirzy are included in this series. These files primarily document Behm and Somer's correspondence with Missouri Democrats regarding resolutions adopted by the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition, which includes a resolution against the Selective Service Act and its efforts to change Missouri Democratic party bylaws and rules to comply with the recommendations made by the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection. Other materials of interest include meeting minutes that contain treasurer reports and nominations of new officers, press releases regarding Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition-sponsored events, and biographies of Missouri Democrats running for election in 1972. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

New Democratic Coalition Intern Program

The New Democratic Coalition Intern Program series documents the effort by the New Democratic Coalition to recruit college students across the United States to work on Congressional campaigns for New Democratic Coalition-backed candidates from 1970 to 1974. The correspondence details the inner workings of the New Democratic Coalition Intern Program. Howard Hughes, one of the founders of the New Democratic Coalition, outlines the program to a prospective intern, which includes a weeklong orientation course on voting registration, canvassing, and basic campaign skills, and a summer assignment to a Congressional campaign. Other materials of interest orientation interties, staff rosters, and intern applications. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

Conventions and Conferences

The Conventions and Conferences series contains press releases, correspondence, resolutions, and flyers for Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition and New Democratic Coalition-led conferences and conventions on Democratic party reform. The resolutions included in this series document the goals of the Missouri State Convention Workshop on Party Reform's objective to have the Missouri Democrat Party adopt guidelines regarding delegate selection made by the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, including public procedures to elect state delegates and allowing individuals as young as eighteen years of age to vote and participate in the Democratic National Convention. Other materials of interest include newspaper clippings from the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition Democratic Unity Banquet honoring Thomas Eagleton, Harold Hughes, a senator from Iowa and one of the founders of the New Democratic Coalition, speech on Democratic party reform from the National New Democratic Coalition Convention in 1970, and resolutions adopted by the New Democratic Coalition Northeast Regional Conference to redistribute corporate power in industries such as crime, business, and health. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1969 to 1970.

Publications and Financial Records

The Publications and Financial Records series contains fundraising reports, legal briefs, newsletters, and brochures regarding the financial standing and publications of the New

Democratic Coalition. The newsletter of the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition functioned to inform readers of news stories in St. Louis and of Democratic party reform. Topics of interest include the 1969 St. Louis rent strike, reports from New Democratic Coalition state conventions, and demonstrations against the Vietnam War. Newsletters from other state coalitions, including Nebraska, Iowa, and Rhode Island, are also in this series. Further materials of interest include fundraising reports from events such as the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition 1972 Annual Awards Banquet, a legal brief filed against the Democratic Party by the New Democratic Coalition to find the delegate apportionment formula for the 1972 Democratic National Convention to be unconstitutional, and a history of the New Democratic Coalition titled *No More Chicago: A Brief History of the New Democratic Coalition*. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1968 to 1976.

Lists

The Lists series contains mailing, membership, committee, and leadership lists of the national and state chapters of the New Democratic Coalition. Materials of interest include lists detailing membership card distribution of the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition, roster list of the New Democratic Executive Council, and mailing lists of chairpersons of each state chapter of the New Democratic Coalition. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1967 to 1972.

Tax Reform

The Tax Reform series documents the effort by the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition to end sales tax on food and medicine in Missouri from 1972 to 1976. Included in this series are the inhouse published newsletters of the St. Louis Tax Reform Group and the Missouri ACORN discussing the Missouri Exemption from Sales Tax Amendment (also known as Amendment 2), which was a Constitutional amendment that would have prohibited the use of a sales tax on food and medicine. Other materials of interest include informational pamphlets on tax reform created by the Metropolitan New Democratic Coalition and a transcript of the hearings on tax reform at the 1973 New Democratic Coalition National Convention. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1972 to 1976.

Task Forces and Party Reform

The Tasks Forces and Party Reform series contains newsletters, press releases, and flyers regarding newly Democrat-created coalitions on political issues such as the environment, criminal justice, peace, and Democratic party reform. Materials of interest include press releases regarding the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition's support of environmental bills in the Missouri State Assembly, newsletters from Citizens Lobby for Penal Reform regarding jail reform, and questionnaires from Missouri political leaders regarding reform of the Missouri Democratic Party. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1971 to 1975.

Campaign Finance

The Campaign Finance series contains legislative bills, press releases, newspaper clippings, transcripts, and pamphlets regarding reforming the funding of Congressional campaigns from 1973. This series primarily documents the Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition's efforts to lobby for the passage of Missouri State Assembly House Bills No. 1264, 1282, and

1510 during the 1974 legislative session. The Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition created the legislative bills during the summer of 1973. Other materials of interest include newspaper clippings documenting the defeat of campaign finance reform bills and a transcript of a Missouri General Assembly hearing on campaign finance which features an appearance by Metropolitan St. Louis New Democratic Coalition chairman Bruce T. Sommer. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1968 to 1973.

Newspaper Clippings

The Newspaper Clippings series contains newspaper clippings documenting topics such as the New Democratic Coalition, elections in Missouri, and campaign spending. Materials of interest include the election of Marvin Madeson as chairman of the national New Democratic Coalition, the 1973 Democratic primary elections for mayor of St. Louis and comptroller, and the Missourians for Honest Elections lawsuit of the Missouri Elections Commission regarding spending disclosure. The materials have been arranged chronologically and contain materials from 1968 to 1976.

Audio-Visual

The Audio-Visual series contains reel to reels, audio cassette tapes, and transcripts primarily regarding the 1973 New Democratic Coalition National Convention. Materials of interest include audio cassettes from hearings at the New Democratic Coalition National Convention on tax reform, and campaign spending, a transcript from an April 13, 1969 hearing before the Democratic National Committee Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, and reel-to-reel recordings of Marvin Madeson, chairman of the New Democratic Coalition from 1970 to 1972, and William Kunstler, one of the defense attorneys of the Chicago Seven. The materials have been arranged numerically by label number, and contain materials from 1969, and 1973 to 1974.

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