



United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Collection (S0756)

Collection Number: S0756

Collection Title: United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Collection

Dates: 1925-2006

Creator: United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers

Abstract: The United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Collection consists of pro and anti-Communism newsletters, newspaper clippings of the Emerson Electric strike of 1937, photographs, artifacts, and various union material from 1925 to 2006 collected by several members of the union. Members with materials in the collection are Frank Abfall, Lloyd Austin, and William C. Reidel. The union formed in 1936 and was affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations until 1948 when it was dropped because of the refusal of some of their officers to sign an affidavit stating they had no ties to the Communist Party.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic foot
(21 folders, 1 16mm film)

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.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *United Electrical, Radio, and Metal Workers Collection* (S0756); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-City].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Rosemary Feurer on April 20, 2007 (Accession No. SA3739).

Processed by: Updated by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, May 27, 2020

Historical Note:

The United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers was founded in 1936 as a labor union, and affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations until 1948. As anti-Communist tensions escalated in the post-World War II years, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947. The Act required union officers to sign an affidavit disavowing their ties to the Communist Party. Several United Electrical officers refused to sign the affidavit and, as a result, the Congress of Industrial Organizations expelled the group from the union. In its place they created the International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in alphabetical order.

Scope and Content Note:

The United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Collection contain papers and artifacts of past members of the organization from 1925 to 2006. Many of the papers and artifacts contained herein come from the personal collection of Lloyd Austin, a former employee of Emerson Electric in St. Louis. Austin's collection contains original copies of the *Emerson Equalizer*, a newsletter published by the Local 1102 UERW- CIO during the Emerson Electric sit-in of 1937 in St. Louis. The sit-in lasted 53 days, and sought to gain recognition from Emerson President Joseph Newman. When the strike finally ended, Newman conceded and agreed to recognize worker's rights under the Wagner Act of 1935.

The remainder of this collection consists of World War II worker propaganda, pro and anti-Communist literature, newspaper clippings pertaining to the Emerson strike, and a second scrapbook by Emerson employee William C. Reidel. There is also one signed copy of Rosemary Feurer's *Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950* (University of Illinois Press, 2006).

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Abfall, Frank -- Correspondence and photograph (1 photograph), 1937-1955
	f. 2	Austin, Lloyd, ceremonies and awards, 1936-1978
	f. 3	Austin, Lloyd, Emerson literature, 1929-1973
	f. 4	Austin, Lloyd, employment materials, 1931-1945
	f. 5	Austin, Lloyd, Local 1102, 1936-1995
	f. 6	Austin, Lloyd, personal memorabilia and photograph (1 photograph), 1925-1983
	f. 7	Austin, Lloyd, box with pins, cards, identification, and photographs (2 photographs), 1938-1945
	f. 8-9	Austin, Lloyd, strike bulletins and "Emerson Equalizer", 1937 (copy and original)
	f. 10	Austin, Lloyd, union hat, no date
	f. 11	Communism materials, 1946-1958
	f. 12-13	Glady's Slat scrapbook, Emerson strike, 1937-1938 (copy and original)
	f. 14	<i>Paris Post-Intelligencer</i> newspaper clippings, 1964

- f. 15 "The Voice of Emerson" newsletters, 1946-1949
- f. 16 Other strike and organization materials, 1936-1945
- f. 17 Jean Paul and Eugene Paul --"The Voice of Emerson newsletters, 1938-1942
- f. 18 "Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950", 2006
- f. 19-20 William C. Reidel scrapbook, 1937-1981 (copy and original)
- f. 21 World War II literature, 1939-1944
16mm film V756.1 "Help Wanted" International Union
Electrical AFL-CIO on decentralization, directed by F.
William Hart, Washington, DC (29 minutes 34 seconds),
1959

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Emerson Electric (Firm)	1-20	
Labor unions--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-20	
Labor--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-20	
Strikes and lockouts--Missouri-Saint Louis	1, 8-9, 19-20	
World War, 1939-1945	21	