

**MS-49: International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), District Council 7 Records**

**Collection Number:** MS-49

**Title:** International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), District Council 7 Records

**Dates:** 1939-1971 (bulk 1949-1955)

**Creator:** Elsner, Robert; Kraft, E. J.; and Steinhilber, Wesley

**Summary/Abstract:**

The collection consists of the papers of three men who were active in IUE District Council 7: E. J. Kraft, Wesley Steinhilber, and Robert Elsner. Within the Kraft and Steinhilber series is material concerning the split within the UE (Union of Electrical Workers) before and after its expulsion from the CIO. There is also information about the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Dayton, Ohio, and reports of Communist Party influence in the UE during the late 1940s. The Elsner material consists of labor education information from the 1960s, and UE materials from the 1940s.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 6.75 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-49, International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), District Council 7 Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

The records were accessioned by Wright State University in December 1977, as part of the Ohio Labor Project.

**Sponsor:**

The records were acquired as part of the Ohio Labor Project sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio AFL-CIO, and the Labor Education and Research Service at Ohio State

University. The purpose of this project was to “locate and recover materials relating to the history of labor in Ohio and to make the importance of this history clear to the public.”

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Revisions:** Finding aid revised according to DACS by Lisa Rickey, June 2016.

**Processed by:** Patricia Burnett, March 1978

**Arrangement:**

The collection is organized into three series:

Series I: E. J. Kraft Papers

Series II: Wesley Steinhilber Papers

Series III: Robert Elsner Papers

**Historical Note**

The International Union of Electrical Workers District Council No. 7 (I.U.E. District 7) is headquartered at 3461 Office Park Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45439.

The U.E.'s first founding convention was held on March 21-22, 1936. At this time James B. Carey was unanimously elected President of the U.E. and Julius Emspack, Secretary-Treasurer.

At the National C.I.O. Convention, November 1949, the U.E. was expelled from the C.I.O. for being "Communist-dominated." At this same meeting a successor union with the same jurisdiction was chartered - the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (I.U.E.). James B. Carey, C.I.O. secretary and U.E. president voted out of office in 1941, was installed by Murray as head man of the I.U.E.

I.U.E. District Council 7 is one of 11 districts within the I.U.E. It has jurisdiction over 106 local unions in a seven state area - Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

The material within this collection consists of the papers of three men within District Council 7 - E.J. Kraft, Former President of the Frigidaire Local, Robert Elsner, former President of the I.U.E. Local 801 and Director of Education, and Wesley Steinhilber, former I.U.E. Secretary-Treasurer and President.

**Scope and Content Note**

The I.U.E. papers of Kraft, Elsner, and Steinhilber cover the period between 1939 and 1971 with most of the material falling between 1949 and 1955.

Series I: E. J. Kraft Papers (3 linear feet) contains material dated 1939-1959, dealing with labor management relations and material concerning the split within the U.E. before, during and after its expulsion from the C.I.O. in 1949. Of special importance is a letter from James Carey, who became head of the I.U.E.-C.I.O. after the split in 1949, to Kraft welcoming Local 755 to the I.U.E.-C.I.O. The

amount of material pertaining to the Communist influence and threat within the U.E. is significant and will be helpful to a researcher.

Series II: Wesley Steinhilber Papers (2 linear feet) contains materials dated 1947-1971. It is not as extensive as the Kraft series and deals with the split between the U.E. and the I.U.E. and has information on James Carey's life and his death and the death of Phillip Murray, the president of the C.I.O. from 1940 to his death in 1952. Most material covers the period from 1950 to 1965. This involves unity negotiations between the U.E. and the I.U.E. and the dispute between James Carey and Al Hartnett (the conspiracy against the I.U.E.).

Series III: Robert Elsner Papers (1.75 linear feet) contains materials dated 1941-1965, primarily Labor Education information and a great amount of U.E. material from the 1960's.

### **Subject Terms**

#### **Persons/Families**

Elsner, Robert  
 Kraft, E. J.  
 Steinhilber, Wesley

#### **Organizations/Corporate Names**

International Union of Electrical Workers. District Council 7

#### **Places**

Dayton (Ohio)

#### **Subjects (General)**

Labor unions and communism – Ohio  
 Electric industry workers -- Labor unions -- Ohio -- Dayton

#### **Material Types**

Correspondence  
 News clippings  
 Reports

### **Collection Inventory**

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I: E. J. Kraft Papers</b>			<b>1939-1959</b>
<b>Subseries I: Conventions</b>			<b>1947-1955</b>
1	1	U.E. Convention 12th U.E. Convention 12th U.E. Convention - Financial Report Report of general officers	1947 September 21

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
		U.E. Convention Survey U.E. Constitution and By-laws	
1	2	U.E. Convention U.E. proposed resolutions and Constitutional amendments	1947 September 21
1	3	U.E. Convention Resolutions Propaganda booklets	1947 September 21
1	4	14th U.E. Council Pro and Anti-Communist material	1949
1	5	Minutes District Council No. 7 Meeting	1949 October 8-9
1	6	I.U.E.-C.I.O. Conventions 16th Constitutional Convention - C.I.O. 17th Constitutional Convention - C.I.O. 5th Annual Convention – I.U.E.-C.I.O. 6th Annual Convention - I.U.E.-C.I.O.	1953-1955
<b>Subseries II: Communist Influence and Interplay within the U.E.</b>			<b>1939-1959</b>
1	7	U.E. Material - pro-communist-pre-1949 Split	1941-1950
1	8	U.E. Material - pro-communist-pre-1949 Split U.E.-G.M. negotiations	1948-1949
2	1	U.E. Material - after 1949 split includes U.E. convention of 1955	1950-1955
2	2	Anti-Communist material - before 1949 Split	1939-1949
2	3	Anti-Communist U.E. - after 1949 Split	1949-1959
2	4	Communist U.E. – current Suger Refrigerator Company - 1952 – Local 808 Pro and anti-communist material	1952
2	5	Communist U.E. – current U.A.W. developments	1948-1955
2	6	U.E. Hearings - Dayton - Sept. 9-13, 14, 15, 1954 Newspaper clippings	1954 September
2	7	Pro-Communist - U.E. Newspapers	1949-1958
2	8	Anti-Communist Articles Police Magazine I.U.E.-C.I.O. News	1943-1949
2	9	Newspaper Articles - U.E.-I.U.E. split	1949-1956
2	10	Newspaper Clippings - Kirkendal and Huppman	1944-1954
2	11	Investigations of Unions Letter to Kraft from Carey about new IUE-CIO	1949-1952
<b>Subseries III: House Un-American Activities 1952</b>			<b>1952-1953</b>

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	12	Un-American Activities Communist dominated unions Hearings before subcommittee of committee on labor and public Welfare pp. 1-251	1952
3	1	Un-American Activities Hearings Continued - pp. 252-529 Report of Subcommittee	1952-1953
3	2	Un-American Activities - Communist Dominated Unions Report - Communist domination of certain unions - Part II and Part III	1952
3	3	Un-American Activities - Communist Dominated Unions Material from Social Labor Party Report of hearings before subcommittee	1952
<b>Subseries IV: A.F.L.-C.I.O.</b>			<b>1955</b>
3	4	A.F.L.-C.I.O. Merger Convention notebook on 1st annual of A.F.L.-C.I.O.	1955
3	5	A.F.L.-C.I.O. Merger Background and extra information Roll call of international unions Constitution and bylaws of Delco Local 755	1955
<b>Subseries V: Univis Strike - 1948-1954</b>			<b>1948-1954</b>
3	6	Univis Strike Investigation Report of Strike Letters Kraft Testimony	1948-1954
<b>Subseries VI: Labor Management</b>			<b>1945-1951</b>
3	7	Delco Local 755 U.E. Constitution Affidavits of Loyalty	1945-1949
3	8	E.J. Kraft - Industrial Services Manual	Circa 1948-1951
3	9	E.J. Kraft - Industrial Services Manual	Circa 1948-1951
4	1	E.J. Kraft - Labor Management Co. for defense manpower.	1950-1951
<b>Subseries VII: Wage Stabilization Board</b>			<b>1951-1952</b>
4	2	Wage Stabilization Board: General regulations	1951
4	3	Wage Stabilization Board: General wage regulations	1951
4	4	Wage Stabilization Board	1951-1952

Box	File	Description	Date
		Case No. D-18-C - Statement of P. Murray Occupational wage survey	
4	5	Wage Stabilization Board (WSB 61 - WSB 100)	1951
4	6	Wage Stabilization Board (WSB 100 - WSB 200)	1951-1952
5	1	Wage Stabilization Board (WSB 100 - WSB 200 cont.)	1951
5	2	Wage Stabilization Board (WSB 200 - WSB 265)	1952
5	3	Wage Stabilization Board - Salary Stability Board (SSB28- 102 SSB)	1951-1952
5	4	Wage Stabilization Board - Supplements	1951
5	5	Wage Stabilization Board - Supplements	1951-1952
<b>Subseries VIII: War Labor Board, Manpower</b>			<b>1944-1954</b>
5	6	War Labor Board - 1946 reports	1945-1946
5	7	National War Labor Board - reports	1944
6	1	National War Labor Board - reports	1944
6	2	Neil Brant Communications Information on Delco Products - G.M. and Local 755 Case No. 111 - 1903 - Delco-G.M.-U.E. Minutes of G.M. negotiations-committee meetings	1943-1945
6	3	War Manpower Commission Minutes	1951-1952
6	4	War Manpower Commission Minutes	1951-1952
6	5	War Manpower Commission Minutes	1951-1952
6	6	War Manpower Commission - reports	1952
6	7	Wage and hour reports Labor relations	1945
6	8	House and Senate Bills for Labor Regulation	1947
6	9	U.S. Dept. of Labor - Weekly Bulletins	Undated
6	10	Miscellaneous	1945-1954
<b>Series II: Wesley Steinhilber Papers</b>			<b>1947-1971</b>
<b>Subseries I: Conventions</b>			<b>1947-1952</b>
7	1	National C.I.O. Convention	1947-1952
7	2	10th Constitutional Convention IUE-AFL-CIO Presidential Report Trustee's Report	1952 September
<b>Subseries II: Propagandistic Material</b>			<b>1961-1970</b>
7	3	Pro-U.E. - Join U.E.	1961-1965
7	4	I.U.E. Propaganda	1961-1965
7	5	"I.U.E.-M.D.A." Publications	1968-1970

Box	File	Description	Date
<b>Subseries III: V.I.P.'s</b>			<b>1952-1973</b>
7	6	James B. Carey File: Election 1964-65, Resignation, Death	1959-1965
7	7	James B. Carey File: Election 1964-65, Resignation, Death	1965-1973
7	8	Phillip Murray - Death	1952
7	9	C.I.O. team after Murray's death - Reuther	1952
<b>Subseries IV: Unity Negotiations</b>			<b>1955-1971</b>
7	10	Unity Negotiations - U.E.-I.U.E.	1955-1956
7	11	Coordination Meetings for Unity - I.U.E.-U.E.	1971
7	12	Merger U.A.W.-I.E.U.	1965
<b>Subseries V: Investigations</b>			<b>1949-1969</b>
8	1	Investigation of 1965 I.U.E. Presidential Election Ballot Miscount	1965
8	2	Investigation of District 3 - Misuse of Funds	1967-1969
8	3	Investigation of District 3 - Misuse of Funds	1967
8	4	District 4 - U.E.	1956
8	5	Case between Kraft and U.E. - Legality of taking funds	1949
<b>Subseries VI: Conspiracy Against I.U.E.</b>			<b>1960-1963</b>
8	6	Conspiracy - Oct. 1960 - July 1961	1960 October - 1961 July
8	7	Conspiracy - July 1961 - Nov. 1961	1961 July-November
8	8	Conspiracy - Jan. 1962 - July 2, 1962	1962 January-July
9	1	Conspiracy - July 3, 1962 - Sept. 5, 1962	1962 July-September
9	2	Conspiracy - Sept. 4, 1962 - Nov. 1963	1962 September - 1963 November
9	3	Conspiracy	Undated
<b>Subseries VII: Publicity</b>			<b>1945-1969</b>
9	4	Frigid facts - Aug. 1946 - March 1949 - 1950 and 1951	1946-1951
9	5	U.E. News - 1947 - Feb., March 1949- Oct., Nov. 1963- Sept., Dec.	1949-1963
9	6	Newspapers	1945-1969
9	7	Clippings	1946-1962
9	8	Broadsides	Undated
<b>Subseries VIII: General</b>			<b>1943-1966</b>

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
9	9	Correspondence	1949-1952
9	10	Miscellaneous	1943-1966, Undated
<b>Subseries IX: Pictures</b>			<b>1944-1954, Undated</b>
10	1	Univis Strike - Local 801	1948
10	2	Resigning Authorization Cards, Moraine City Local 807	1948 June
10	3	Identified Pictures	1944-1954, Undated
10	4	Unidentified Pictures	Undated
<b>Series III: Robert Elsner Papers</b>			<b>1941-1965</b>
<b>Subseries I: Local 801</b>			<b>1941-1950, Undated</b>
10	5	Administrative Information Constitution of U.E. and Local 801	1941-1949, Undated
10	6	General Correspondence - Newspaper Clippings	1946-1950, Undated
10	7	General Propaganda - Broadsides - Record	1948-1950, Undated
<b>Subseries II: Labor Education</b>			<b>1961-1963, Undated</b>
10	8	Labor Education	1961-1962 August
10	9	Labor Education	1962 August – 1963 January
11	1	Labor Education	Undated
<b>Subseries III: I.U.E. Material</b>			<b>1949-1962, Undated</b>
11	2	I.U.E. District 7	1960-1962
11	3	Locals: 754, 768, 764, 707, 717, 711, 601, 755	1949-1950
11	4	G.E., I.U.E., and U.E.	1951-1952
11	5	I.U.E. vs I.B.E.W.	Circa 1946
11	6	I.U.E. leaflets	1952-1959, Undated
<b>Subseries IV: U.E. Material</b>			<b>1942-1965</b>
11	7	I.U.E. vs U.E. U.E. Steward's Bulletins Information on 1949 U.E. National Convention	1942-1949, Undated
11	8	U.E. and Atomic Energy Commission	1948-1959
11	9	U.E. Members for Democratic Action	1947-1959, Undated
11	10	U.E. Leaflets	1946-1954
11	11	U.E. Personnel: Wilma Bond, John Gojack, Marie Haug	1950-1965
11	12	G.H. and R. Foundry	1950-1961
11		Proceedings of 8th International U.E. Convention	1942



<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
11		Proceedings of 9th International U.E. Convention	1943
12		Proceedings of 10th International U.E. Convention	1944
12		Proceedings of 11th International U.E. Convention	1945
12		Proceedings of 12th International U.E. Convention	1945
12		Proceedings of 13th International U.E. Convention	1946
12		Proceedings of 15th International U.E. Convention	1948
12		Proposed Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments of 12 <sup>th</sup> International U.E. Convention	1947
12		Proposed Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments of 13 <sup>th</sup> International U.E. Convention	1948
<b>Subseries V: Investigations</b>			<b>1943-1954</b>
12	1	House Un-American Affairs Committee Newspaper Articles and Company Reports	1954
12	2	Ohio Un-American Affairs Committee	1954
12	3	Communist Party Documents Booklets on Investigations into Communist Activities	1949-1954, Undated
13		Five volumes of official reports of proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board	1949
13	1	Affidavits and Court Proceedings - Fitzgerald, Elsner	1943-1949
<b>Subseries VI: Univis Lens Strike</b>			<b>1948-1962</b>
13	2	Strike in 1948	1948-1962
<b>Subseries VII: Bill of Rights Conference</b>			<b>1947-1949</b>
13	3	Conference correspondence, programs	1947-1949
<b>Subseries VIII: Publicity</b>			<b>1944-1965</b>
13	4	Dayton C.I.O. News	1944-1962
14	1	I.U.E. International Newspapers and Brochures	1950-1962
14	2	U.E. News - Feb. and Nov. 1949	1949
14	3	Clippings on Hupman Trial and Cohman Trial	1952-1955
14	4	Clippings on Senate Hearings	1952-1953
14	5	Clippings	1949-1965
14	6	Clippings	Circa 1949-1954
14	7	Clippings	Circa 1949-1954