



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**A. Philip Randolph collection**

1940-1978

Sc MG 232

## Summary

**Creator:** Randolph, A. Philip (Asa Philip), 1889-1979

**Title:** A. Philip Randolph collection

**Date:** 1940-1978

**Size:** 1.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, 1985, and Joe Wilson, 1993.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** A. Philip Randolph was a civil rights leader and President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The A. Philip Randolph collection consists of speeches, statements, and press releases related to A. Philip Randolph and his work with the labor movement, international and national politics, civil rights, the Brotherhood of Sleeping of Porters, and the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Box 3 closed until processed.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], A. Philip Randolph collection, Sc MG 232, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, 1985 and 1993.

### Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: artifacts.

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books, pamphlets, periodicals, and newspapers.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

### **Related Materials:**

Also held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection, Sc MG 250

(Jessica Davis) Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection, Sc MG 426

### **Creator History**

A. Philip Randolph was a civil rights leader and President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The son of a Methodist minister, Randolph moved to Harlem, New York, in 1911. He attended City College at night and, with Chandler Owen in 1912, established an employment agency through which he attempted to organize Black workers. In 1917, after the entry of the United States into World War I, the two men founded a magazine, *The Messenger* (later known as the *Black Worker*), that called for more positions for Blacks in the war industry and the armed forces. After the war, Randolph lectured at New York's Rand School of Social Science and ran unsuccessfully for offices on the Socialist Party ticket.

In 1925, as founding president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Randolph began organizing that group of Black workers and, at a time when half the affiliates of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) barred Blacks from membership, took his union into the AFL. Despite opposition, he built the first successful Black trade union; the Brotherhood won its first major contract with the Pullman Company in 1937. The following year, Randolph removed his union from the AFL in protest against its failure to fight discrimination in its ranks and took the brotherhood into the newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). He warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that he would lead thousands of Blacks in a protest march on Washington, D.C.; Roosevelt, on June 25, 1941, issued Executive Order 8802, barring discrimination in defense industries and federal bureaus and creating the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC). After World War II, Randolph founded the League for Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation, resulting in the issue by President Harry S. Truman on July 26, 1948, of Executive Order 9981, banning racial segregation in the armed forces.

When the AFL merged with the CIO in 1955, Randolph was made a vice president and member of the executive council of the combined organization. He was the first president (1960–66) of the Negro American Labor Council, formed by Randolph and others to fight discrimination within the AFL-CIO.

In an echo of his activities of 1941, Randolph was a director of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which brought more than 200,000 persons to the capital on August 28, 1963, to demonstrate support for civil rights for Blacks. Two years later, he formed the A. Philip Randolph Institute for community leaders to study the causes of poverty. Suffering chronic illness, he resigned his presidency of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1968 and retired from public life. Randolph died in 1979.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of speeches, statements, and press releases related to A. Philip Randolph and his work with the labor movement, international and national politics, civil rights, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the Fair Employment Practice Committee, and other activities as they relate to African Americans. Randolph's personal financial records are included as well. The speeches are duplicates; the originals are at the Library of Congress in the A. Philip Randolph papers.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American labor leaders  
African American labor union members  
African Americans -- Economic conditions  
Civil rights workers, Black  
Discrimination in employment  
Porters -- Labor unions  
Railroads -- Employees -- Labor unions

### **Occupations**

Civil rights leaders.

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1945  
United States -- Social conditions -- 1933-1945

### **Names**

Randolph, A. Philip (Asa Philip), 1889-1979  
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters  
United States. Committee on Fair Employment Practice

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical 1943-1955
- b. 1 f. 2 Wakins, B. Paper on Randolph
- b. 1 f. 3 Interviews
- b. 1 f. 4 Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) 1949-1951
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence 1951
- b. 1 f. 6 March on Washington movement 1943
- b. 1 f. 7 Press releases 1948-1953
- b. 1 f. 8 Articles by Randolph
- b. 1 f. 9 A. Philip Randolph Institute 1966-1968
- b. 1 f. 10 Tributes 1959-1976  
1959 tribute was in honor of Randolph's 70th birthday.
- b. 1 f. 11 National Educational Committee for a New Party 1946
- b. 1 f. 12 80th birthday 1969
- b. 1 f. 13 White House conference 1958 June 23
- b. 1 f. 14 Programs
- b. 1 f. 15 Clippings 1941-1961  
Speeches 1942-1978
  - b. 2 f. 1 1942-1958 May
  - b. 2 f. 2 1958 August-1960 April
  - b. 2 f. 3 1960 May-1961 August
  - b. 2 f. 4 1961 November-1962 December
  - b. 2 f. 5 1963 July-1964 May
  - b. 2 f. 6 1964 May-1965 July
  - b. 2 f. 7 1965 October-1967 April
  - b. 2 f. 8 1967 May-1972
  - b. 2 f. 9 undated
  - b. 2 f. 10 "Is the Negro an Asset or Liability in Nashville?" (#16)
  - b. 2 f. 11 "Character Qualities Essential to Better Relations Between Employer and Employee" (#19)
  - b. 2 f. 12 "Racially Segregated Unions" (#22)
  - b. 2 f. 13 "In Quest for New Frontiers of Freedom" (#23)
  - b. 2 f. 14 "Should Negroes Help the USA Win the Cold War Against the USSR?" (#25)
  - b. 2 f. 15 "Non-Violent Civil Disobedience", for "We Are Americans Too" Conference (#26)
  - b. 2 f. 16 "Justice to All" (#29)
  - b. 2 f. 17 "The Conflict between Western Democracy and Russian Communism" (#30)
  - b. 2 f. 18 "The Crisis of Negro Leadership?" (#33)
  - b. 2 f. 19 "Negroes Fight to Be Free" (#36)

Speeches (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 20 "The World of Challenge of Ghana and the New World Labor Looks at Ghana" (#40)
- b. 2 f. 21 Miscellaneous notes on various subjects (#41)
- b. 2 f. 22 "Apprenticeship: A Source of Economic Security" (#44)
- b. 2 f. 23 Lincoln University commencement address (#45) 1940 June
- b. 2 f. 24 "The Negro's Struggle for Power", address delivered at Hampton Institute (#46)
- b. 2 f. 25 "The Negro's Fight for Democracy Now" (#47)
- b. 2 f. 26 Address in acceptance of Clendenin Award (#54) ca. 1944  
Includes press release dated May 2, 1944.
- b. 2 f. 27 Address at Madison Square Garden (#57) 1946 February 28
- b. 2 f. 28 Statement regarding non-registration for the draft (#60) 1948 August 18
- b. 2 f. 29 Memo on the National Council for FEPC (#80) 1950 March 8
- b. 2 f. 30 Statement before Subcommittee of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the U.S. Senate (#83) 1950 May 15
- b. 2 f. 31 Address at May Day Celebration, Tokyo, Japan (#96) 1952
- b. 2 f. 32 "The Role of the Negro in the Labor Movement and the World", Negro Labor Committee Conference (#98) 1952 March 1
- b. 2 f. 33 Address at luncheon to honor Judge J. Waties Waring (#101) 1954 November 20
- b. 2 f. 34 Address at 70th birthday celebration for Norman Thomas (#102) 1954 November 21
- b. 2 f. 35 Statement at preview of Nigerian Art and Cultural Exhibit (#103) 1955 April 19
- b. 2 f. 36 Address at reunion of Old Timers (#105) 1955 October 29
- b. 2 f. 37 "The Fight for Civil Rights Is also the Fight for American Democracy", Catholic Interracial Council (#115) 1956 October 28
- b. 2 f. 38 *ABC's As We See It, radio transcript* (#120) 1957 October 13
- b. 2 f. 39 Statement to National Negro Publishers Summit Meeting (#122) 1958 May 12-13
- b. 2 f. 40 Statement at the Youth March (#126) 1958 September 19
- b. 2 f. 41 Statement to Labor Conference on Human Rights (#127) 1958 October 3-4
- b. 2 f. 42 Letter to President Eisenhower, pp. 3-4 only (#128) 1958 October 10
- b. 2 f. 43 The Role of the Negro Worker in the American Trade Union Movement and the Problem of Racial Discrimination, Address to Trade Union Leadership Council, Inc. (#129) 1959 February 7
- b. 2 f. 44 Africa Freedom Day (#130) 1959 April 15
- b. 2 f. 45 Statement at Youth March for Integrated Schools (#131) 1959 April 18
- b. 2 f. 46 Statement at President's Committee on Government Contracts (#132) 1959 May 11
- b. 2 f. 47 Statement at 25th Anniversary Observance of the Catholic Interracial Council (#133) 1959 May 17
- b. 2 f. 48 Address at Commencement Exercises, Morgan State College (#134) 1959 June 1
- b. 2 f. 49 Address at Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Annual Achievement Observance (#142) 1959 November 21

Speeches (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 50 Statement to Philadelphia Urban League Equal Opportunity Day Celebration (#143) 1959 December 4
- b. 2 f. 51 Address at National Education for Citizenship Banquet of Improved Benevolent and Protective Order Elks of the World (#145) 1960 January 28
- b. 2 f. 52 Statement in Acceptance of John Dewey Award (#146) 1960 March 5
- b. 2 f. 53 "Minority Groups in Labor and Politics", Yale University (#147) 1960 March 12
- b. 2 f. 54 "The Philosophy of Freemasonry" (#148) 1960 April 7
- b. 2 f. 55 Address at Negro American Labor Council Co-Workshop (#157) 1961 February 17-18
- b. 2 f. 56 Reply to report of AFL-CIO Executive Council Subcommittee on Memo on Civil Rights (#160) 1961 June 25-30
- b. 2 f. 57 "The Negro and the Civil Rights Revolution", Brown University (#165) 1962 February 6-8
- b. 2 f. 58 "The American Trade Union Movement at the Crossroads", Brown University (#167) 1962 February 6-8
- b. 2 f. 59 African Methodism and the Negro in the Western World (#168) 1962 May 30
- b. 2 f. 60 Statement at hearings of Emergency Board on disputes between the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, The Pullman Co., The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Co., The N.Y. Central System, and the S00 Line Railroad Co. (#175) 1963 August 20
- b. 2 f. 61 Address at the March on Washington (#176) 1963 August 28
- b. 2 f. 62 Civil Rights Revolution: Problem and Purpose", Howard University (#178) 1963 November 13
- b. 2 f. 63 Statement at testimonial luncheon for Charles Cogen (#195) 1964 November 7
- b. 2 f. 64 "My Visit to Israel" (#197) 1964 November 28
- b. 2 f. 65 Address at 150th Anniversary of Free and Accepted Masons (#205) 1965 October 11
- b. 2 f. 66 Statement at N.Y. Urban League's "Frederick Douglass Awards" Dinner (#213) 1966 May 2
- b. 2 f. 67 Draft testimony for National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty (#219) 1967 February 15
- b. 2 f. 68 "Labor Day and Racial Justice", Pittsburgh Civic Center (#225) 1967 September 4
- b. 2 f. 69 "Breakthrough for Ghetto Schools", Randolph and Rustin support United Federation of Teachers agreement (#227) 1967 September 28
- b. 2 f. 70 Statement on the Black Panthers (#234) 1970 January 8
- b. 2 f. 71 Endorsement for Farmer in Congressional election (#235) 1968 October 30
- b. 2 f. 72 Statement in response to unknown award (#237) 1975 December 1
- b. 2 f. 73 "'Right to Work' Defeat Is a Victory for Blacks" (#240) 1978 November 8

b. 3 Financial records

Closed until processed because of personal information.