



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

Guide to the

**George Marshall papers**

1933-1955

Sc MG 541

Processed by Andre Elizee, 2009

## Summary

**Creator:** Marshall, George, 1904-2000

**Title:** George Marshall papers

**Date:** 1933-1955

**Size:** 13.6 linear feet (36 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of George Marshall and Nancy Marshall Schultz, 1994, 2000.

**Abstract:** George Marshall was a leading advocate for the abolition of the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States House of Representatives, a noted conservationist, and a pioneer in the U.S. civil rights movement. The George Marshall collection documents Marshall's involvement in the 1940s with civil rights issues, his legal defense against a contempt citation from the House Un-American Activities Committee, and his management of the Robert Marshall Foundation's grant-making program.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], George Marshall papers, Sc MG 541, 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:** Processed by Andre Elizee, 2009

### Related Materials:

The records of the International Labor Defense Fund and of the Civil Rights Congress are housed at the Schomburg Center. There is also a small collection of Trenton Six materials located at this site. George Marshall's papers related to his work with the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club are at the University of California at Berkeley. The papers of Robert Marshall and his Civil Liberties Trust Fund are housed at the American Jewish Archives and at Columbia University Libraries, with additional materials in Roger Baldwin's papers at Princeton University. The Robert Marshall Wilderness Fund records are at the Denver Public Library. For additional material on the Robert Marshall Foundation, consult the Gardner Jackson Papers at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, NY.

## Creator History

Born in 1904, George Marshall was a leading advocate for the abolition of the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States House of Representatives, a noted conservationist, and a pioneer in the U.S. civil rights movement. His father, Louis Marshall, an influential lawyer and philanthropist, was instrumental in the founding of the Jewish Agency for Palestine under a League of Nations' mandate to Britain, and served on the board of the American Jewish Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His brother, Robert Marshall, with whom he shared a passion for preservation of the wilderness, died in 1939, leaving him as the manager and a trustee of his fund for protection of the environment, consumer education and civil liberties. He married Elizabeth Dublin, a fellow civil liberties advocate, in 1930 and fathered their two children, Roger Marshall and Nancy Marshall Schultz.

Marshall was a graduate of Columbia University (B.A., 1926; M.A., 1927) and the Brookings Institute of Economics (Ph D., 1930). He worked as an editor and writer for the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, and for several years as an economist in the New Deal National Recovery Administration. Some of his early associations with civil rights issues documented in the collection include: the National Association for the Defense of Political Prisoners; the Contributors' Information Service, a select group of affluent donors to liberal and radical causes organized by Corliss Lamont; the American League for Peace and Democracy, launched in 1933 as the American League against War and Fascism, which dissolved itself in 1940, citing the "advent of war" and the need for "a different program and type of organization;" and a citizen campaign to abolish the F.B.I., chaired by the anthropologist Franz Boas. Marshall wrote in 1950 of the Secretary of the National Association for the Defense of Political Prisoners, Joseph Gelders, that "his example and determination had a great influence on me ... at a time when I was beginning to become increasingly active as an adult in the progressive movement". A native Alabaman active in the Scottsboro case and in the defense of a communist organizer sentenced to 380 days on an Alabama chain gang for possession of communist literature, Gelders was abducted on the outskirts of Birmingham in September 1936, flogged and left unconscious in a ditch. His attackers included a lieutenant in the Alabama National Guard and a member of the American Legion.

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties (NFCL) was founded at a national conference on civil liberties held in Washington, D.C. in June 1940. Delegates at the conference represented trade-unions, churches, African-American, civil rights and professional organizations. The purpose of the new organization was to coordinate the activities of those various groups toward the realization of greater democratic freedoms. Marshall was elected to the Federation's Executive Committee and chaired its finance committee. A national office was established in the nation's capital, and Rev. Owen Knox of the Michigan Civil Rights Federation served as NFCL's first chairman. He resigned in October 1941, charging Communist domination of the group and contending that, with the Soviet Union's entry in the war against Nazi Germany, the Federation had abruptly reversed its position against the war.

Marshall who replaced him as chairman believed on the other hand that "the over-shadowing threat of Nazism" had become the greatest danger against the extension of the Bill of Rights.

Under Marshall's stewardship, the Federation supported vigorous prosecution of the war effort and made the fight against "native seditionists" and their supporters in Congress one of its chief concerns. Similar campaigns were waged for the abolition of the Dies Committee and its successor the Rankin Committee, two early manifestations of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). In August 1942, the Federation published a 47 page pamphlet, "Investigate Martin Dies! The case for a grand jury investigation of Martin Dies", accusing the Texas congressman and author of the House resolution that established the Special Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities in 1938, of sheltering native fascists and seditionists opposed to the war effort and to the New Deal. Dies in return

took to the floor of the House and denounced the Federation as "part of what Lenin called the solar system of organizations, ostensibly having no connection with the Communist Party, by which Communists attempt to create sympathizers and supporters of their program among those who would never affiliate themselves openly with the party".

In December 1945, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, known as the Rankin Committee, called on the Federation to open its books for an investigation of subversive activities. Rejected as "insulting and wholly unwarranted", that request was followed by a summons to Marshall to appear before the Committee with a list of NFCL contributors. Marshall first appeared before a HUAC subcommittee led by Congressman Parnell Thomas on April 8, 1946, and three days later before a closed hearing of the full Committee in Washington, D.C. At his appearance before the full Committee, Marshall brought ample evidence of the Federation's activities and pronouncements, but declined to produce any list of contributors, and was cited for contempt of Congress. Rankin called him "the most contemptuous person" to appear before the Committee and went on to label the Federation "one of the most viciously subversive organizations of the Communist Party".

The Federation also led numerous anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and anti-discrimination campaigns. Its legal work through hired attorneys and public opinion campaigns encompassed the defense of Communist leaders like Harry Bridges and Earl Browder who were targeted for deportation and imprisonment, and victims of Jim Crow justice like Samuel Buckhannon, Recy Taylor, and Willie McGee whose case was first brought to national attention by Marshall. Its labor advocacy included protection of the Wagner Act against encroachments from various anti-New Deal legislative proposals, and the defense of government employees labeled as subversive by the Kerr Committee. A proposed "Anti-Fascist Civil Rights Declaration for 1944" called for a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC), equality of training and treatment in the Armed Forces, legislation against anti-Semitism and the spread of race hatred, a ban on discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin in employment and in housing, the abolition of Jim Crow practices in the District of Columbia, and passage of a federal anti-lynching bill. The Federation publicized its campaigns and other activities through numerous pamphlets and through "Action Letters" mailed to thousands of local leaders, unions, churches, civic and professional groups. It organized conferences, public meetings and banquets with outstanding speakers and civil liberties advocates. Its Academic Council led the defense of educators like Josephine Adams and Max Yergan, blacklisted for their political beliefs.

In April 1946 in Detroit, at a national conference attended by over 300 delegates from church, labor, civil rights and community organizations, the Federation merged with the International Labor Defense to form the Civil Rights Congress; Marshall was elected chairman. The Congress continued the Federation's dual agenda of fighting discrimination, and organized the legal defense of victims of Jim Crow justice and advocates of radical causes. It also inherited the enmity of the Wood-Rankin Committee in Congress which labeled it a "Communist front". Marshall was especially active in the McGee case and in the campaign to save the Trenton Six. William Patterson, CRC National Secretary, called him "one of the outstanding leaders in the fight against Jim Crow". Marshall was also Secretary of the CRC Bail Fund, established in 1946 as a separate body with five trustees responsible for its operation. The Bail Fund posted \$5,000 each for the Communist leaders indicted under the Smith Act, and \$20,000 for the German Communist Gerhart Eisler that was forfeited when Eisler fled the U.S. in May 1949 as a stowaway on board a Polish ship.

The case against Marshall for contempt of Congress, dating to his appearance before HUAC in 1946, was tried in the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia in April 1948. His lawyers, Abraham Isserman and Osmond Fraenkel, argued that HUAC's request for NFCL lists of contributors violated their client's First and Fourth Amendments rights. The only evidence presented by the prosecution was Congressman Dies's 1942 speech. The Court sentenced him to three months in jail and a \$500 fine. In

his appeal to the D.C. Circuit Court, Marshall pleaded that Congress had acted unconstitutionally when it created HUAC, and argued that his conviction and sentence were motivated by his militant fight for civil rights, for prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and for the abolition of HUAC. The Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the sentence against him, ruling that although there was no evidence in NFCL literature of subversive activities, the organization may have been involved in the "silent and secret diffusion of subversive propaganda". The U.S. Supreme Court refused twice to review his case. He served his sentence at the federal penitentiary in Ashland, Kentucky from June to September 1950. He resigned as CRC chairman on the eve of his imprisonment; he had previously resigned from the Bail Fund in September 1949.

Following his incarceration, Marshall appeared to have severed all contacts with his former leftwing associates and organizations. In 1955, he appeared under subpoena in front of a New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Charitable and Philanthropic Organizations investigating allegations that CRC had diverted monies raised on behalf of the Trenton Six for the legal defense of indicted Communist leaders. Marshall testified under oath that he had never been a member of the Communist Party, but declined knowledge of any wrongdoing in funds allocation. The Civil Rights Congress dissolved itself in 1956 at the height of the McCarthy anti-Communist witch hunts. Marshall remained active in wilderness preservation issues. He died in 2000.

## Scope and Content Note

The George Marshall collection is divided into six series, and documents Marshall's involvement in the 1940s with civil rights issues, his legal defense against a contempt citation from the House Un-American Activities Committee, and his management of the Robert Marshall Foundation's grant-making program. The decade of the 1940s, as documented in this collection, was not a period of high radicalism or revolutionary politics, but of the united front to win the war against fascism. With the advent of the Cold War in 1946, progressives like Marshall would fight a rearguard defensive battle to preserve the gains made during the New Deal and were confronted with new repressive legislation and a growing anti-communist hysteria that would send many of them to jail. The internal evidence in the collection suggests that Marshall may have purged his papers of valuable correspondence with representative personalities in the civil rights and cultural realms for fear they would be incriminated or blacklisted through their association with him.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into six series: I. Personal papers; II. George Marshall Contempt of Congress Case; III. National Federation for Constitutional Liberties; IV. Civil Rights Congress; V. Other Organizations; and VI. Robert Marshall Foundation.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African Americans -- Segregation  
Antisemitism  
Authors, Black  
Civil rights  
Civil rights movements  
Discrimination  
Discrimination in employment  
Labor movement -- United States  
Trenton Six Trial, Trenton, N.J., 1948-1951

Trials (Political crimes and offenses) -- United States

**Geographic Names**

United States -- Race relations

**Names**

Marshall, George, 1904-2000

Yergan, Max, 1892-1975

Civil Rights Congress (U.S.)

Communist Party of the United States of America

National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

Robert Marshall Foundation

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Un-American Activities

## Container List

### Personal 1933-1955 (0.4 linear feet)

Consists for the most part of correspondence about Marshall's contempt case and incarceration, and various drafts of articles, statements and speeches written by him. Included are a nine page letter written by Marshall in Bavaria, Germany, in 1933, chronicling the Nazis' rise to power, and a selection of letters and memoranda authored by Marshall between 1939 and 1950. Also included are notes and transcripts of Marshall's testimony in front of the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Charitable and Philanthropic Organizations in 1955.

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Bavaria 1933
- b. 1 f. 3 Memoranda 1944-1950
- Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 4 1939-1949
- b. 1 f. 5 House Un-American Activities Committee - Letters and Articles 1945-1946
- b. 1 f. 6 1950
- b. 1 f. 7 Letters and Clippings re Marshal Case April 1950
- b. 1 f. 8 Personal Letters re Marshall Imprisonment June 1950
- b. 1 f. 9 Letters and Clippings Re Marshall Case June 1950
- b. 1 f. 10 William Patterson - Elizabeth Marshall Correspondence June 1950
- b. 1 f. 11 Resignation Letters 1950-1951
- Writings
- b. 1 f. 12 Selected Speeches, Statements and Reviews 1944-1950
- b. 1 f. 13 Drafts and Outlines of Civil Rights Congress Manuscripts
- b. 1 f. 14 Congressman Vito Marcantonio and Election Polls Investigation 1946
- b. 1 f. 15 Loyalty Order 1948
- b. 1 f. 16 Removal from Attorney General Clark's List of Subversive Organizations
- b. 1 f. 17 Marshall Statements on His Sentencing May-June 1950
- b. 1 f. 18 Various Articles 1950
- b. 1 f. 19 N.Y. State Joint Legislative Committee on Charitable and Philanthropic Organizations 1954-1955

## George Marshall Contempt of Congress Case 1945-1950 (1.6 linear feet)

Series is a densely documented archive on the use of subpoena power and contempt citations by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and on organized and legal opposition to the Committee prior to the rise of Senator Joseph McCarthy as the leading opponent of communism in the United States. Organized in loose chronological order, it includes Marshall's testimony and statements, and compilations of NFCL publications presented at his first and second appearances before the Committee; and legal correspondence, clipping files and campaign materials compiled by Marshall and his defense team toward his April 1948 trial in the District Court in Washington, D.C., his unsuccessful appeal of the lower court verdict, and his subsequent incarceration. Marshall's defense followed a two-pronged approach: to argue, with the help of expert witnesses, the unconstitutionality of the Un-American Activities Committee, and to establish the non-subversive character of the Federation through an accumulation of its publications and documents. The defense also contrasted the Committee's zeal in prosecuting perceived Communist front organizations with its reluctance to document activities of the Ku Klux Klan and other right wing groups.

Original NFCL materials submitted to HUAC in 1946 pertained to the extension of democratic rights, the elimination of discrimination, full employment legislation, voting rights, the rights of labor, support for the war effort, the fight against lynching, the danger of native fascism, and the elimination of the Committee itself. Other documents include a 146-page legal memorandum on the constitutional invalidity of the Wood-Rankin Committee; a 72-page digest of newspaper articles on the Committee's procedures and investigations, and of Congressman Rankin's more pronounced anti-Semitic and racist comments of that period; briefs, opinions, letters of support, speeches, evidence and exhibits, motions to dismiss, legal correspondence, campaign material and other court documents regarding Marshall's case and other HUAC contempt cases, including the Hollywood 10. There was a level of duplication inherent in the creation and the compilation of those files; their original order and titles have been preserved for the most part.

- b. 1 f. 1 "Master Key to Where Evidence is Located"
- b. 1 f. 2 Index of Newspaper Clippings and Congressional Record Citations 1945-1946  
Opposition to the Dies Committee
- b. 1 f. 3 1942-1943
- b. 1 f. 4 1944
- b. 1 f. 5 Opposition to Wood-Rankin Committee
- b. 1 f. 6 Attorney General Francis Biddle 1942-1947
- b. 1 f. 7 George Marshall Hearing before Wood-Rankin Committee 1946
- b. 1 f. 8 Marshall's HUAC Testimony 1946
- b. 1 f. 9 Summary of Appearance under Subpoena 1946
- b. 1 f. 10 Marshall's Protest against Subpoena 1946
- b. 1 f. 11 Grounds for Marshall's Objection 1946
- b. 1 f. 12 Marshall Speech May 23, 1946
- b. 1 f. 13 Letters, Statements, Press Releases 1946
- b. 1 f. 14 Marshall's Addresses and Statements 1946-1950
- b. 1 f. 15 Memorandum on Constitutional Invalidity of Wood-Rankin Committee
- b. 1 f. 16 United States against George Marshall 1947
- b. 2 f. 7 Brief, Memoranda, etc 1947
- b. 2 f. 18 National Federation for Constitutional Liberties Opposition to Hobbs-Holts  
Bill 1947  
With Holtzoff's Opinion in the Marshall Case
- b. 2 f. 19 Correspondence with Lawyers 1947-1949
- b. 2 f. 20 Positive Experts 1947-1948
- b. 2 f. 21 Marshall's Contempt Case - Expenditures 1947-1950
- b. 3 f. 1 Contempt Cases 1946-1948

George Marshall Contempt of Congress Case (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 2 Reports - 79th and 80th Congresses
- b. 3 f. 3 Civil Rights Congress Action Letters and Releases 1947
- b. 3 f. 4 Clippings 1947
- b. 3 f. 5 Clippings 1947
- b. 3 f. 6 Marshall's District Court Trial April 1948  
Brief, Subpoenas, Offers of Proof.  
Marshall's Trial - Witnesses April 1948
  - b. 3 f. 7 Adamson for Marshall
  - b. 3 f. 8 Mundt for Marshall
  - b. 3 f. 9 Rankin for Marshall
  - b. 3 f. 10 Wood for Marshall
  - b. 3 f. 11 Other Witnesses for Marshall
  - b. 3 f. 12 All Committee Members for Marshall
- b. 3 f. 13 Marshall Trial - Additional Exhibits April 1948
- b. 3 f. 14 Marshall Trial - Correspondence Prior to Sentencing April 1948
- b. 3 f. 15 Marshall's Statement to the Court Prior to His Sentencing May 1948
- b. 4 f. 1 Marshall vs. US Court of Appeals 1948
- b. 4 f. 2 Marshall's Memorandum on Contempt Case December 1949
- b. 4 f. 3 Comments on Brief 1949
- b. 4 f. 4 Marshall's Letters to Attorney Osmond Fraenkel 1949  
Marshall Evidence
  - b. 4 f. 5 Purpose of Organization
  - b. 4 f. 6 National Federation for Constitutional Liberties
  - b. 4 f. 7 Publications
  - b. 4 f. 8 Attacks Against HUAC
  - b. 4 f. 9 Preliminary Correspondence
  - b. 4 f. 10 Negating Belief
  - b. 4 f. 11 Defendant's Biography
  - b. 4 f. 12 Subpoena and Effect
  - b. 4 f. 13 Marshall Testimony, NY
  - b. 4 f. 14 Marshall Hearing
  - b. 4 f. 14 Abuse of Process
  - b. 4 f. 15 References to NFCL and Committee
  - b. 4 f. 16 Abuse of Process on Others
  - b. 4 f. 17 Blacklist, Exposure
  - b. 4 f. 18 Administrative Agency
  - b. 4 f. 19 No Definition of Un-American by Committee
  - b. 5 f. 1 Usage of Un-American by Committee
  - b. 5 f. 2 Un-American, Other Usage
  - b. 5 f. 3 Expert Opinion
  - b. 5 f. 4 Contempt Proceeding in Congress



George Marshall Contempt of Congress Case (cont.)  
Marshall Evidence (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 5 Anti Fascist Blacklist
- b. 5 f. 5 Miscellaneous and Printed Matter
- b. 5 f. 7 Exhibits for Marshall Case

National Federation for Constitution Liberties 1939-1946 (8.2 linear feet)

Administrative

Subseries groups some founding documents, a file on NFCL's first chairman, Rev. Owen Knox, correspondence and minutes of the Executive Board, materials relating to the American Civil Liberties Union and its 1940 anti-Communist purge, and some contact lists.

- b. 6 f. 1 Incorporation, Organization Brochure, History 1943-1945
- b. 6 f. 2 Material about NFCL
- b. 6 f. 3 Rev. Owen Knox and the Michigan Civil Rights Federation 1939-1941
- Executive Board
- b. 6 f. 4-5 Minutes 1940-1946
- b. 6 f. 6 Enlarged Board Meeting May 1944
- b. 6 f. 7 Correspondence 1943-1944
- b. 6 f. 8 Washington Office - Memoranda 1943-1944
- b. 6 f. 9 NFCL and the American Civil Liberties Union 1940-1941
- b. 6 f. 10 ACLU's Anti-Communist Purge 1940-1941
- b. 6 f. 11 Financial Correspondence 1943-1946
- b. 6 f. 12 Organizational Correspondence 1944-1945
- b. 6 f. 13 Contacts

Academic Council

Subseries begins with an exchange of letters between Marshall and his brother James, president of the Board of Education in New York City, on the prohibition of Communists as teachers in the city's public schools. Their disagreement is echoed in two files regarding violations of academic freedom in colleges and universities (1940-1941) and the Rapp-Coudert Committee. Frederick Coudert chaired a committee in the New York State Legislature that hunted down suspected communists among teachers and university professors, including the well-known educator and rights activist Max Yergan. Coudert was, in turn, criticized for his anti-Semitic sympathies and his failure to target any Nazi sympathizers in his investigations. The Academic Council, which replaced the earlier American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, was concerned with the spread of misleading textbooks about racial and religious minorities, with anti-Semitic bias in the Department of Romance Language at the City College of New York, and with discrimination in the academic field in general. Lyman Bradley was its Secretary.

- b. 7 f. 1 Bradley, L.R., Secretary - Correspondence 1945
- b. 7 f. 2 Marshall, James - Correspondence March 1941
- b. 7 f. 3 Cases 1945-1946
- b. 7 f. 4 Actions Taken 1945-1946
- b. 7 f. 5 Discrimination in Academic Field 1945-1946
- b. 7 f. 6 Ban of Army Fact Sheet on Fascism at Bronx High School 1945-1946
- b. 7 f. 7 Race Relations in City Colleges - Reports 1945
- b. 7 f. 8 Textbook Materials
- b. 7 f. 9 Violations of Academic Freedom - Rapp-Coudert Committee 1941-1942
- b. 7 f. 10 Violation of Academic Freedom in Colleges 1941-1942

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)

Action Letters

Action Letters, mailed to some 6,000 grassroots, professional and political leaders and organizations across the country, were used for prompt and effective response around various issues and cases, including the rights of political minorities, passage of a federal anti-lynching bill, the fight for a permanent FEPC, Morris Schappes's perjury case from the Rapp-Coudert investigations in New York State, the campaign against the Dies Committee, and the fight against Sam Buckhannon's extradition to a Georgia chain gang. Conferences and Testimonial Dinners brought together leading figures in the field of civil and constitutional liberties with select audiences. Arranged by year from 1940 to 1945, conference files include NFCL's founding convention, a 1942 "Conference for Victory over Fascism in Our Schools", and a Conference on Racial Unity (1943). The anthropologist Franz Boas was honored as a "Friend of Liberty" at a testimonial dinner in his honor attended by scientists, clergymen, educators and artists. Paul Robeson, honored at a 1944 Dinner for Racial and National Unity attended by 1,000 guests, called Marshall "a very quiet person ... but a real anti-fascist fighter". This latter file includes a complete transcript of the dinner speeches, correspondence, lists of contributors and invited guests, newspaper clippings and publicity materials.

- b. 7 f. 11 1940
- b. 7 f. 12 1941
- b. 7 f. 13 1942
- b. 7 f. 14 1943
- b. 8 f. 1 1944
- b. 8 f. 2 1945
- b. 8 f. 3 1946

Conferences and Testimonial Dinners

- b. 8 f. 4 1940
- b. 8 f. 5 1941
- b. 8 f. 6 1942
- b. 8 f. 7 1943
- b. 8 f. 8 Conference on Race Relations 1944
- b. 8 f. 9 1945
- b. 8 f. 9 Frantz Boas Testimonial Dinner 1941
- b. 8 f. 10 Dinner for Racial and National Unity 1944

Activities

Subseries groups several brief and early NFCL endeavors; later and long-term activities have their own subseries. "The Menace of the F.B.I." (1940) was an emergency group chaired by Franz Boas, concerned with the "unlawful actions and operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigations" and its "apparently ominous development into a secret political police force". The two files in question include letters by Boas and extensive memoranda on illegal wiretapping, unreasonable searches and seizures, excessive use of grand jury powers, arrests without warrant, and unlawful investigations of "peaceful and non-criminal activities based upon economic and political opinions" disliked by F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover. "Races of Mankind" was a monograph authored by Ruth Benedict and Gene Weltfish that was suppressed by the U.S.O. organization in 1944. Said file includes correspondence with Weltfish and with New York University professor Henry Pratt Fairchild who questioned the "monogenetic" assumptions in the pamphlet.

- b. 8 f. 11 "The Menace of the FBI" (Boas Committee) 1940
- b. 8 f. 12 "The Menace of the FBI" (Boas Committee) 1940
- b. 9 f. 1 "The Races of Mankind" Controversy 1944

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)  
Activities (cont.)

Freedom of Speech

Two Freedom of Speech files deal with the rights of trade-unions to buy radio time in the face of industry restrictions against "controversial subjects" like union organizing and the rights of labor; with restrictions against Japanese-Americans and other national minorities during the war years; and with the rights of Trotskyites indicted in Minneapolis under the Smith Act and labeled by the Federation in NY as "fifth column agents". Included are some materials of the American Civil Liberties Union which supported the Minneapolis Trotskyites. War related activities include a brief but intensive campaign against compulsory military training in 1940; a 1943-1944 campaign in favor of federal legislation for a voting program for absentee soldiers, opposed by a coalition of conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats; and a petition drive in support of the War Department's special order against denying commissions and other appointments to Communists and Communist sympathizers. Chaired by Dashiell Hammett, NFCL's Committee on Election Rights mobilized on behalf of minority parties kept off the ballot in 30 states in 1940 and 1941. In several states people were indicted for signing nominating petitions, and Communist Party workers and candidates were sentenced to heavy jail terms. Election rights materials include statements by Hammett, Theodore Dreiser and Lloyd K. Garrison, drafts of a NFCL pamphlet, "Will You Vote as You Please in 1942?" and several Action Letters and campaign literature. There are also affidavits by Mississippi African-Americans denied the right to vote in 1946 and clipping files on the intimidation of black voters in several Southern states.

b. 9 f. 2 Restrictions 1944-1946

b. 9 f. 3 Re Fascists (and Trotskyites)

World War II

b. 9 f. 4 Conscription 1940

b. 9 f. 5 Soldiers' Ballot Campaign 1943-1944

b. 9 f. 6 Army Order 1945

Voting Rights

b. 9 f. 7 Elections Rights 1940

b. 9 f. 8 Elections Rights 1941-1942

b. 9 f. 9 Affidavits - Mississippi - Intimidation of Black Voters

b. 9 f. 10 Franchise - Texas Primary 1944

b. 9 f. 11 Franchise - Southern Primaries 1944

b. 9 f. 12 Franchise - State Registration and Voting Laws

Fair Employment Practices Committee

Subseries consists of correspondence, campaign and research material developed as part of a national effort to turn the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice empanelled by Executive Order in 1941 and 1943 into a permanent FEPC. Included are letters from the League of Women Shoppers urging an end to discrimination in the railroad industry and the Brooklyn Navy Yard; two letters from James Wolfe, Chief Justice in Utah and former correspondent to the President's Committee, warning of serious race riots in the aftermath of the war if greater equality in employment was not secured in time. There are also letters from congressmen and senators in response to letters and telegrams from Marshall urging them to vote for a permanent FEPC, including Wisconsin Representative Charles LaFollette who took Marshall and the National Negro Congress to task for using tactics more likely "to see the 'right' prevail then to accomplish progress". A solicitation telegram from Marshall brought dozens of endorsements from legal scholars, trade unions, religious leaders and other personalities, including Judge Jane Bolin, New York City Councilman Benjamin Davis, and Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Serge Koussevitzky.

b. 9 f. 13 Letters Received 1944

b. 10 f. 1 Letters Sent 1944

b. 10 f. 2 Correspondence 1945-1946

b. 10 f. 3 Campaign Material 1944

b. 10 f. 4 Attacks against FEPC 1943-1944

b. 10 f. 5 How it Grew, How it Operates 1943-1945

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)  
Fair Employment Practices Committee (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 6 Prominent Citizens Support 1944
- b. 10 f. 7 Appropriation 1944-1945
- b. 10 f. 8 For a Permanent Agency 1944-1946
- b. 10 f. 9 New York State FEPC 1944-1945
- b. 10 f. 10 Marshall Statement to Senate Committee 1945
- b. 10 f. 11 Printed Matter, Clippings 1943-1946

Poll Tax

Subseries groups Action Letters, correspondence, surveys, proposed legislation and other congressional documents, newspaper clippings, and materials of the New York State Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

- b. 10 f. 12 Action Letters 1942-1945
- b. 10 f. 13 Correspondence 1942-1946
- b. 10 f. 14 Organizational Releases 1940-1943
- b. 10 f. 15 Clippings 1943-1944
- b. 10 f. 16 Additional Data 1943
- b. 10 f. 17 N.Y. State Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax 1943-1946
- b. 10 f. 18 National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax 1943-1945

Labor

Advocating for the rights of organized labor was one of the mainstays of NFCL activities, including retaining the gains made by minorities during the war years, defending government workers from anti-communist witch-hunts, and preserving the Wagner Act from the encroachments of anti-labor legislation like the Smith-Connally bill, the John Kerr Amendment and the Taft-Hartley law which eventually passed in 1947. Included in the Labor subseries is one file on the Dies and Kerr Committees' investigations of federal government employees Robert Morss Lovett, Goodwin Watson and William Dodd, who were purged by a Congressional rider to an appropriations bill signed by President Roosevelt in 1943; clipping files on anti-labor initiatives; pro-labor documentation from the C.I.O. Political Action Committee and about the Ives-Quinn bill in the New York State Senate; and NFCL publications in support of labor.

- b. 11 f. 1 Labor Legislation 1939-1947
- b. 11 f. 2 Anti-Labor Legislation 1943-1947
- b. 11 f. 3 Organized Opposition to Anti-Labor Legislation 1942-1947
- b. 11 f. 4 Dies-Kerr Committee Witch Hunt 1943
- b. 11 f. 5 Christian American Associations (Anti-Labor) 1943-1944
- b. 11 f. 6 National Association of Manufacturers (Clippings) 1943-1946
- b. 11 f. 7 Attacks on Government Workers 1941-1944
- b. 11 f. 8 Montgomery Ward (Anti-Labor) Case 1944-1945
- b. 11 f. 9 Pro-Labor Legislation 1943-1947
- b. 11 f. 10 C.I.O Political Action Committee 1943-1944
- b. 11 f. 11 National Citizens Political Action 1944
- b. 11 f. 12 Farm Labor 1944
- b. 11 f. 13 War Production Wages 1942-1943
- b. 11 f. 14 Ives-Quinn Bill, Albany (NY) 1945
- b. 11 f. 15 Right to Strike 1946
- b. 11 f. 16 Labor - Miscellaneous Clippings 1943-1946

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)

Legal Cases

Legal Cases where the Federation provided legal representation, submitted briefs or engaged in support work through public outreach campaigns, ranged from deportations and issues of academic freedom, to unequal justice for Mexican-Americans and Southern blacks. The files consist of correspondence, briefs, publications of various defense committees and newspaper clippings. Among the academic freedom issues represented in these files are the cases of Josephine Truslow Adams, dismissed from the faculty at Swarthmore College; Homer Rainey removed as president of the University of Texas; Morris Schappes jailed for perjury; and Max Yergan dropped from the teaching staff at the College of the City of New York. Cases involving red-baiting and freedom of speech include Harry Bridges who faced deportation, and Tom Mooney and Earl Browder, jailed because of their association with the Communist Party. (Tom Mooney's November 1933 desperate appeal to Marshall for funds is one of the earliest documents in the collection.)

The King, Ramsey and Conner case in California, and the R.J. Thomas case in Texas were concerned with the rights of labor to organize. The Sleepy Lagoon case involved the mass arrest of 300 Mexican-American youth and the conviction of 17 among them in the alleged killing of one man in Los Angeles during the so-called "Zoot-Suit crime wave" of 1942. Cases of Jim Crow justice included Samuel Buckhannon, sentenced to a Georgia chain gang for the theft of cigarettes; William Mason Wellman, strapped to the electric chair and pardoned in extremis when someone else confessed to the rape of a 67 year-old white woman that took place at a time when Wellman was on a job 350 miles away; James Williams, Fred Lane and James Davis, three Florida youth sentenced to death and executed in an alleged case of rape. Meanwhile the six Alabama whites who gang-raped Recy Taylor, a 24 year-old African-American woman, were not even indicted. Additional Jim Crow cases are in a miscellaneous folder.

- b. 11 f. 1 Adams, Josephine Truslow 1941
- Bridges, Harry
- b. 11 f. 2 Deportation Case 1942-1945
- b. 11 f. 3 Defense Committee and Publications
- b. 11 f. 4 Browder, Earl and Raissa 1942-1944
- b. 11 f. 5 Buckhannon, Samuel 1943
- b. 11 f. 6 Clark, Clinton and Kenneth Adams 1942
- b. 11 f. 7 Darcy, Sam Adam 1940
- b. 12 f. 8 Fay, Frank 1945-1946
- b. 12 f. 9 Gainesville, Florida Case
- b. 12 f. 10 King-Ramsay-Conner Case
- b. 12 f. 11 Miscellaneous
- b. 12 f. 12 Mooney, Tom 1933
- b. 12 f. 13 Moss, Elizabeth 1941
- b. 12 f. 14 Oklahoma Criminal Syndicalism Case 1940-1943
- b. 12 f. 15 Pueblo Indians Case 1943
- b. 12 f. 16 Rainey, Homer 1944-1946
- b. 13 f. 1 Schappes, Morris 1941-1943
- b. 13 f. 2 Sleepy Lagoon Case 1943
- b. 13 f. 3 Taylor, Recy 1944-1945
- b. 13 f. 4 Thomas, R.J 1943-1944
- b. 13 f. 5 Wellman, William Mason 1942
- b. 13 f. 6 White, Maude 1943
- b. 13 f. 7 Yergan, Max 1941

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)

Discrimination

The Discrimination subseries documents various forms of discrimination against blacks, aliens and Jews in the workplace, in education, in politics and in housing. In support of the New Deal and the war effort, the Federation sought to expose and defeat "every person, organization or publication whose activities tend to create disunity". Those included the Ku-Klux-Klan, the "Poll Tax" Democrats in Congress, and those "guilty of lynching, mob violence and peonage", whose "seditious" and "fifth-column actions" undermined national unity and morale. The file Racial Discrimination in the Armed Forces catalogs abuses, both administrative and social: lynching, enforced segregation, instances of black soldiers wounded, beaten or killed, especially in the South. The Housing and Schools file deals in part with white riots against the Sojourner Truth Defense Homes in Detroit initially constructed for black defense workers but eventually converted to all-white occupancy, and with the Hillburn school in Rockland County (NY) where some white parents protested the enforced segregation of their children to a private school after the admission of black children to the county's public school.

The Federation documented a "campaign of shocking lynching and mob violence in war production centers" in eight states across the country over a 90 day period in 1943, as "part of a conspiracy aimed at stopping war production and weakening the United Nations' war effort". Substantive files were compiled on the race riots in Detroit, Mobile (Alabama) and New York City, where most of the violence occurred, and a petition drive was launched calling on President Roosevelt and his Attorney-General "to arrest and prosecute the leaders of the KuKlux Klan, the America First Party, the National Workers League ... and to disband all pro-fascist groups in the United States". These files consist of correspondence, Action Letters, press releases and other campaign material, a pamphlet "Smash Detroit's Fifth Column!" and newspaper clippings. Similar files were compiled on lynching and police brutality. Additional materials deal with U.S. policy toward Japanese-Americans, the blacklisting of anti-Fascists, and with legislative efforts to ban racial discrimination.

- b. 13 f. 8 In the Armed Forces 1941-1946
- b. 13 f. 9 In Employment 1944
- b. 13 f. 10 In Housing and Schools 1941-1946
- b. 14 f. 1 In Industry 1941-1944
- b. 14 f. 2 In Schools 1945
- b. 14 f. 3 In Sports 1943-1945
- b. 14 f. 4 Petition for the Prosecution of Seditiousists 1943
- b. 14 f. 5 Lynchings 1942-1945
- b. 14 f. 6 Police Brutality 1945-1946
- b. 14 f. 7 Race Riots 1943
- b. 14 f. 8 Detroit Race Riots 1943
- b. 14 f. 9 Detroit Race Riots - Meeting with Attorney General Biddle 1943
- b. 14 f. 10 Detroit Race Riot - Reports, Clippings 1943
- b. 14 f. 11 Racial Outbreaks, New York 1944
- b. 14 f. 12 Mobile, Alabama; Beaumont, Louisiana; Los Angeles, California 1943
- b. 15 f. 1 Discrimination against Japanese-Americans 1944-1945
- b. 15 f. 2 Persecution Of Anti-Fascists 1942-1943
- b. 15 f. 3 Anti-Alien Bills 1944-1945
- b. 15 f. 4 Anti-Discrimination Legislation 1944-1945

## National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)

### Anti-Semitism

The Anti-Semitism subseries groups clipping files on anti-Semitic outbreaks in Boston and New York in 1942 and 1943, and correspondence, speeches and publicity material from various campaigns to combat anti-Semitism, including efforts to have patrolman James L. Drew, accused Nazi sympathizer, dismissed from the New York Police Department. In January 1944, the Federation convened a citywide conference of community and union leaders, and representatives of racial and religious groups, to work out a program to stop anti-Semitic violence, vandalism and defamation. Marshall saw the increase in anti-Semitic outbreaks, after similar attacks against Mexican-Americans and blacks, as part of a nationwide pattern of violence against racial minorities to sow disunity and disrupt the war effort. Also included are a 170-page report by police investigation commissioner William Herlands to Mayor LaGuardia on "Anti-American and Anti-Semitic Vandalism" (1944), and a correspondence file between Marshall and members of the Mayor's Committee on Unity (1945).

- b. 15 f. 5 James Drew Case 1943-1944
- b. 15 f. 6 Boston, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island 1943-1944
- b. 15 f. 7 New York 1944-1945
- b. 15 f. 8 Meeting on Anti-Semitism January 1944
- b. 15 f. 9 Investigation of Anti-Semitic Vandalism 1944
- b. 15 f. 10 Actions to Combat Anti-Semitism 1945-1946
- b. 15 f. 11 Mayor's Unity Committee (NYC) 1945

### House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)

The fight to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was a major part of NFCL's activities, and replaced earlier efforts by the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom to abolish the Dies Committee. Marshall firmly believed that HUAC and the men who led it in its early days - Dies, Rankin, Karl Mundt and John Wood - were anti-democratic and should be investigated for giving aid and comfort to the "Nazi-Fascist cause". The HUAC subseries is divided into Dies Committee and Rankin Committee files, correspondence and printed matter, and includes petitions, Congressional resolutions, correspondence, pamphlets, detailed memoranda on Congressman Dies' confluence with pro-Nazi groups, and materials of other organizations, including the National Lawyers Guild, the International Labor Defense and the National Negro Congress. The Rankin Committee files consist of correspondence, NFCL Action Letters and broadsides, campaign materials opposing the establishment of the Committee, various statements challenging the legality of its contempt citations and its investigations in general, as well as a file of NFCL publications presented as exhibits during Marshall's appearance under subpoena before the Committee. Marshall's correspondents in this subseries include members of Congress, government officials and broadcasters; Edward Barsky of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee; and Ernie Adamson, HUAC Chief Counsel. A file of mounted clippings dating from January 1945 to January 1947 completes the HUAC subseries.

#### Dies Committee

- b. 16 f. 1 1940
- b. 16 f. 2 1942
- b. 16 f. 3 1943
- b. 16 f. 4 Clippings 1939-1944
- b. 16 f. 5 Clippings 1944-1945

#### Rankin Committee

- b. 16 f. 6 Correspondence 1945-1946
- b. 16 f. 7 Action Letter 1946
- b. 16 f. 8 Statements 1945-1946
- b. 16 f. 9 Hearings 1946
- b. 16 f. 10 Organizational Literature 1945-1946
- b. 16 f. 11 Exhibits

National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)  
House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) (cont.)  
Rankin Committee (cont.)

- b. 16 f. 12 Clippings 1945-1946
- Correspondence
- b. 17 f. 1 NFCL Letters 1945
- b. 17 f. 2 Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee 1946
- b. 17 f. 3 ACLU Letters 1945-1946
- b. 17 f. 4 National Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism
- b. 17 f. 5 Miscellaneous Letters 1946
- Clipping File
- b. 17 f. 6 Editorial 1944-1947
- b. 17 f. 7 January-September 1945
- b. 17 f. 8 September 1945
- b. 17 f. 9 September-October 1945
- b. 17 f. 10 January-March 1946
- b. 17 f. 11 January-June 1946
- b. 17 f. 12 April-October 1946
- b. 17 f. 13 September 1946-January 1947

Printed Matter

The Printed Matter subseries comprises a complete run of NFCL publications arranged chronologically, a subject file on civil rights and legislative issues, and a box of newspaper and magazine articles on WWII seditionists. Included with the NFCL publications are correspondence, outlines and drafts of various leaflets and pamphlets, including a 41-page manuscript for the repeal of the Smith-Connally Act, as well as correspondence with American Unitarian Youth minister Stephen Fritchman who drafted the Federation's FEPC pamphlet. Additional Fritchman materials are in the Civil Rights Rights case files. The Seditionists files are mostly newspaper clippings on known individuals and organizations like Charles Coughlin, Gerald L.K. Smith and the Ford Motor Co., their supporters in the press and in Congress, including actions against them taken or recommended by the Federation and allied organizations.

NFCL Publications

- b. 18 f. 1 1940-1941
- b. 18 f. 2 1941
- b. 18 f. 3 1941-1943
- Press Releases
- b. 18 f. 4 1941
- b. 18 f. 5 1942
- Bulletins
- b. 18 f. 6-7 1942
- b. 18 f. 8 1943
- b. 19 f. 1 Proposals Submitted to the Robert Marshall Foundation
- b. 19 f. 2 Drafts, Correspondence, Revision 1943-1945
- b. 19 f. 3 FEPC 1944-1945
- b. 19 f. 4 A-E 1944-1945
- b. 19 f. 5 F-S 1944-1945
- b. 19 f. 5 Clippings to be Modified
- b. 19 f. 6 Clippings 1944-1946



National Federation for Constitution Liberties (cont.)  
Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 19 f. 7 Letterheads, List of Names
  - Subject File
  - Civil Rights
- b. 20 f. 1 U.S. Supreme Court Decisions
- b. 20 f. 2 Printed Matter 1940-1941
- b. 20 f. 3 Congressional Hearings 1943
- b. 20 f. 4 Defendant Exhibits in Marshall Case April 1946
- b. 20 f. 5 House and Senate Bills 1945
  - Legislation
- b. 20 f. 6 Smith Committee 1943-1944
- b. 20 f. 7 Albany (NY) 1944
- b. 20 f. 8 Dewey and His Supporters 1944
- b. 20 f. 9 City Council (NY) 1943-1944
- b. 20 f. 10 National Farmers Union
  - Seditionists
- b. 21 f. 1 Action for Prosecution of Seditionists and Native Fascists
- b. 21 f. 2 Seditionists Indicted January 1944
- b. 21 f. 3 Seditionists On Trial
- b. 21 f. 4 Seditionists and Their Supporters
- b. 21 f. 5 Seditionist Organizations
- b. 21 f. 6 Charles E. Coughlin
- b. 21 f. 7 Gerald L.K Smith
- b. 21 f. 8 Frank R. Gannett
- b. 21 f. 9 Ford Motor Corporation
- b. 21 f. 10 Pro-Axis Press
- b. 21 f. 11 Congressional Allies
- b. 21 f. 12 Trial of Alleged Japanese Agent Frederick Heiser Wright
- b. 21 f. 13 Spanish Civil War
- b. 21 f. 14 Miscellaneous Printed Matter

Civil Right Congress 1946-1951 (2.8 linear feet)

Comprises the following subseries: Administrative, Conferences, Case Files, Subject Files and Printed Matter. These are Marshall's files as Civil Rights Congress Chairman, active participant and key financial contributor, and also as Secretary of the CRC Bail Fund.

Administration

The Administrative subseries includes some correspondence and minutes of the Executive Board, a file of correspondence and other documents of the New York branch of the Civil Rights Congress chaired by Dashiell Hammett, CRC's grant requests to the Robert Marshall Foundation (1946-1949), financial reports, and correspondence and other documents of the CRC Bail Fund.

- b. 22 f. 1 Constitution and Bylaws
- b. 22 f. 2 Notices to Board and Executive Committee 1946-1948
- b. 22 f. 3 Executive Committee Minutes 1946-1949
- b. 22 f. 4 Board Meeting January 28-29, 1950

Civil Right Congress (cont.)

Administration (cont.)

- b. 22 f. 5 National Correspondence 1949
- b. 22 f. 6 Minutes of Chapter- Executive Committee
- b. 22 f. 7 Notices to Chapters 1948-1949
- b. 22 f. 8 Civil Right Congress of New York 1946-1949
- Grant Requests
- b. 22 f. 9 1946
- b. 22 f. 10 1948
- b. 22 f. 11 1949
- b. 22 f. 12 Financial Reports 1948-1949
- b. 22 f. 13 Bail Fund 1946-1950, 1956

Conferences

The Conference files in this series consist of correspondence, lists of sponsors, programs, publicity material, newspaper clippings and related documents. The Mass Delegate Conference in Defense of Civil Rights held in NY in April 1948 was part of an overall campaign to defeat the Mundt Bill (H.R. 5852), known as the Subversive Activities Control Act, which would outlaw any group or third-party movement deemed "Communist-inspired" or a Communist-front organization, and would require them to register their members with the Attorney General. The 1949 National Civil Rights Legislative Conference and Freedom Crusade called for thousands of delegates and participants to converge on Washington, D.C. to urge Congress to pass comprehensive legislation to abolish thought control, grant full equal rights to ethnic minorities and women, dissolve HUAC and dismiss the Smith Act indictments against leaders of the Communist Party.

- b. 22 f. 14 Second National CRC Conference 1947
- b. 22 f. 15 Against the Mundt Bill April 1948
- b. 22 f. 16 National Emergency Conference on Civil Rights July 1948
- b. 22 f. 17 Civil Rights Conference and Crusade January 1949
- b. 22 f. 18 Civil and Human Rights June 1949
- b. 22 f. 19 Bill of Rights July 1949

## Civil Right Congress (cont.)

### Case Files

The Case Files consist for the most part of correspondence, briefs, publications of various defense committees and newspaper clippings. The Columbia, Tennessee Riot of 1946 started with a dispute over a radio in a repair shop and the failed lynching of a young African-American veteran, followed by a nightly raid on the black side of town by a mob of white vigilantes and state and local police. One black resident fired back at the assailants who went on a rampage of terror and mass vandalism. Dozens of black residents were rounded up at the local jail and two of them shot to death. The NAACP handled the legal defense in the case but NFCL and later CRC conducted a vigorous campaign in favor of a Federal grand jury investigation of the riot and its aftermath. Marshall co-chaired a Conference to Stop Lynch Terror in Columbia, Tennessee, and NFCL/CRC joined the NAACP in launching a National Committee for Justice in Columbia.

German Communist Gerhart Eisler was a WWII refugee who was widely denounced as Moscow's No.1 man in the U.S. He was convicted of entering the country with a false passport and of contempt of Congress. While on bail awaiting appeal, he fled as a stowaway on a Polish ship. The CRC Bail Fund had posted bail for Eisler and intervened after his flight to reverse a Justice Department perjury charge that would make him extraditable from England where he was briefly detained after being forced to exit the ship in Southampton. The file includes various Eisler speeches and statements, several briefs and letters of support, newspaper clippings and campaign material on his behalf. A letter of apology from Eisler to Marshall is with the personal correspondence in box 1. Other communist-related cases include the "Los Angeles 10" ordered jailed indefinitely and without bail for failure to answer questions about the Communist Party; Carl Marzani, indicted and found guilty of concealing his past membership in the Party; William Patterson, CRC's national executive secretary, charged with contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over names of CRC contributors to HUAC; and the 12 Communist Party leaders indicted under the Smith Act.

Arrested on the charge of having raped a white woman in Laurel, Mississippi in 1945, Willie McGee was tried and convicted three times in Mississippi courts, and after the Supreme Court refused to review his case was put to death in the electric chair in May 1951. Marshall was among the first to bring his case to national attention, and CRC spearheaded an international campaign in his defense. In a letter to New York Post columnist Max Lerner the day of McGee's execution, and after his own retreat from political life, Marshall wrote that he was sickened and deeply angry: "There is nothing more horrible than taking the life of an innocent man - of a State killing a man because he is a Negro". The McGee file consists of correspondence, campaign material and clippings. Included is a letter from Mississippi's Attorney General to the governor of the state laying out the case against McGee, a letter from NY attorney Bella Abzug commenting on the Mississippi Attorney General's letter, and the copy of a letter from McGee's wife, Rosalee, to William Patterson (1949).

The case of the "Martinsville 7" in Virginia, also involving allegations of interracial rape, resulted in the execution of eight African-American men in spite of mass protests organized by CRC and other organizations. Another case that appealed to Marshall was the "Trenton Six" in New Jersey - six black youth on death row who were exonerated after a vigorous CRC defense and public opinion campaign. Included in the latter file are legal briefs, correspondence, clippings and campaign material. A miscellaneous file for other Jim Crow and racial discrimination cases relates to, among others: Fletcher Mills, a 23 year old former sharecropper fighting extradition to Alabama in 1949; Lemas Woods whose 1946 death sentence was reversed after a determined public opinion campaign; and disabled veteran Major Benton sentenced to death on an alleged rape charge in North Carolina in 1946.

- b. 23 f. 1 Columbia, Tennessee "Riot" 1946
- b. 23 f. 2 Denver and Los Angeles "Witch Hunts"
- b. 23 f. 3 Deportations
- b. 23 f. 4 Eisler, Gerhart 1948-1949
- b. 23 f. 5 Fritchman, Rev. Steven - Resignation
- b. 23 f. 6 Miscellaneous Jim Crow and Discrimination Cases 1946-1951
- b. 23 f. 7 Josephson, Leon
- b. 24 f. 1 McGee, Willie 1946-1951
- b. 24 f. 2 Martinsville 7
- b. 24 f. 3 Marzani, Carl

Civil Right Congress (cont.)  
Case Files (cont.)

- b. 24 f. 4      Miscellaneous 1946-1948
- b. 24 f. 5      Patterson, William L 1950-1951
- b. 24 f. 6      "Smith Act 12" (Communist Party Leaders)
- b. 24 f. 7-8    Trenton 6 1948-1950

Subject Files

The Subject Files subseries consists for the most part of printed matter on civil rights, lynching, academic and intellectual freedom, President Truman's 1947 Loyalty Order, the 1949 Peekskill riots, and on various legislations pertaining to CRC's work - the Mundt-Nixon and the Mundt-Ferguson Bills, the Smith and McCarran Acts, and the Taft-Hartley Law. Also included are materials from the National Committee to Oust Bilbo. The Lynching folder includes legislative proposals and materials of the American Crusade to End Lynching chaired by Paul Robeson. The Peekskill file incorporates some unrelated Robeson materials. The Printed Matter subseries includes six files of CRC publications arranged chronologically, as well as petitions, resolutions and organizational leaflets, and a compilation of briefs from various cases involving CRC.

- b. 25 f. 1      Academic and Intellectual Freedom
- b. 25 f. 2      Conwell Committee
- b. 25 f. 3      Civil Rights 1946-1950
- b. 25 f. 4      Fair Employment Practice Act
- b. 25 f. 5      Fascist Activities in the U.S
- b. 25 f. 6      House Un-American Activities Committee
- b. 25 f. 7      Jury System 1949
- b. 25 f. 8-9    Loyalty Order
- b. 25 f. 10    Lynchings
- b. 25 f. 11    Minority Rights
- b. 26 f. 1      McCarran Act
- b. 26 f. 2      Mundt-Ferguson Bills
- b. 26 f. 3      Mundt-Nixon Bills
- b. 26 f. 4      National Committee to Oust Bilbo
- b. 26 f. 5      Paul Robeson/Peekskill
- b. 26 f. 6      Segregation
- b. 26 f. 7      Smith Act
- b. 26 f. 8      Taft-Hartley Law
- b. 26 f. 9      Wallace Campaign 1948
- b. 26 f. 10    Wiretapping

Printed Matter

Publications

- b. 27 f. 1      1946-1947
- b. 27 f. 2      1946-1950
- b. 27 f. 3      1948-1950
- b. 27 f. 4      1949
- b. 27 f. 5      1949-1950
- b. 27 f. 6      1950-1952
- b. 27 f. 7      Petitions and Resolutions
- b. 27 f. 8      Miscellaneous-Speech, Organization, Leaflets

Civil Right Congress (cont.)  
Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 27 f. 9 Statements to Political Parties 1948
- b. 27 f. 10 Mimeographed Material
- b. 28 f. 1 "Action Bulletin" 1946-1947
- b. 28 f. 2 Action Bulletins 1946-1948
- b. 28 f. 3 Attacks on CRC in the Press 1945-1947
- b. 28 f. 4 *Daily Compass on Civil Rights* 1949
- b. 28 f. 5 Federated Press Clippings 1947-1950
- b. 28 f. 6 Anti-HUAC Petition and New York Times Article on CRC Dissolution 1956
- Miscellaneous
- b. 28 f. 7 Ethel and Julius Rosenberg Case
- b. 28 f. 8 House Un-American Activities Committee
- b. 28 f. 9 Police Crimes
- b. 28 Legal Briefs, Pamphlets and Government Documents

Other Organizations 1936-1946 (1.2 linear feet)

Includes one box of material from the International Labor Defense Fund which merged with NFCL in 1947 to create the Civil Rights Congress. Included in the ILD files is a 199-page "Memorandum on Violations of the Rights of Free Speech and Assembly and Undue Interference with the Right of Labor to Bargain Collectively" submitted to the La Follette Committee of the U.S. Senate (1936), with sections on lynching, lawless police and vigilante activity against striking workers, farmers' unions and the unemployed. The Files of the American League for Peace and Democracy consists of minutes, reports, publications, some correspondence with Harry F. Ward, chairman of the League, and a 48-page transcript of a January 1939 meeting of the National Labor Committee which was affiliated with the League. The file of the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, chaired by Franz Boas, reflected some of its activities against censorship, racial prejudice and communist witch-hunts (Rapp-Coudert investigation in NY State's public schools).

The Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity initiated by Marian Anderson and Rabbi Stephen Wise in 1943, called for actions that would address the causes of the Harlem Riots of that year; its file includes minutes, conference reports, resolutions, some correspondence and newspaper articles. The file for the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners includes letters from Joe Gelders, data on violations of the rights of Alabama cotton pickers and Kentucky coal miners, documents related to Gelders' kidnapping and flogging in Birmingham, and a memorial tribute for Gelders written by Marshall. Other organizations represented in this series are the Contributors' Information Service founded by Corliss Lamont, the Council on African Affairs, the National Negro Congress, the National Council on American-Soviet Friendship and the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

International Labor Defense

- b. 29 f. 1 Memorandum to the La Follette Committee 1936
- Newsletter
- b. 29 f. 2 1940-1941
- b. 29 f. 3 1942-1943
- Legislative Service
- b. 29 f. 4 1940-1941 March
- b. 29 f. 5 April-December 1941
- b. 29 f. 6 1942
- b. 29 f. 7 1945-1946
- b. 29 f. 8 Civil Right Surveys 1940-1942
- b. 29 f. 9 Washington Legislative News (Marion Bachrach) 1940

A - S 1938-1946

Other Organizations (cont.)  
A - S (cont.)

- b. 30 f. 1-3 American League for Peace and Democracy 1938-1940
- b. 30 f. 4 American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom 1940-1941
- b. 30 f. 5 Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity 1943
- b. 31 f. 1 Contributors Information Service 1936-1937
- b. 31 f. 2 Council for Pan American Democracy 1939-1945
- b. 31 f. 3 Council on African Affairs 1944-1946
- b. 31 f. 4 Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee 1943-1944
- b. 31 f. 5 National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners 1936-1940
- b. 31 f. 6 National Committee for People's Rights 1938
- b. 31 f. 7 National Council of American-Soviet Friendship 1943-1946
- b. 31 f. 8 National Negro Congress 1941-1946
- b. 31 f. 9 Southern Negro Youth Congress 1940-1945

Robert Marshall Foundation 1940-1950 (1.6 linear feet)

In keeping with its mission statement ("The education of the people of the United States of America to the necessity and desirability of the development and organization of unions of persons engaged in work or of unemployed persons and the promotion and advancement of an economic system in the United States based upon the theory of production for use and not for profit"), the Robert Marshall Foundation awarded grants to trade-unions and labor advocacy groups, progressive research groups and schools, alternative newspapers and civil rights organizations. The files consist for the most part of correspondence between George Marshall, director of the fund, and the funded groups, grant proposals and tracking sheets, activity reports, and general information about the organizations involved.

Funded newspapers and publication projects include The Allied Labor News, Charlotta Bass's California Eagle, the weekly Chicago Star edited by William Sennett, Federated Press and Adam Clayton Powell's People Voice. The Foundation funded various projects of the National Farmers Union and Farm Research Inc., including educational and organizational work in the South and farm-labor cooperation. The file for the Southern Negro Youth Congress includes correspondence with Executive Secretary Louis Burnham and several grant proposals. The Southern School for Workers file holds correspondence with directors Louise Leonard McLaren and Brownie Lee Jones, reports, grant proposals and a 98-page transcription of a public hearing on the minimum wage organized by the School. Other correspondents include Marion Bachrach of the Council for Pan-American Democracy; Willard Uphaus of the National Religion and Labor Foundation; Terry Pettus, editor of the Seattle New World and the Washington New Dealer, Doxey Wilkerson of the People's Voice; and James Dombrowski of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

- b. 32 f. 1 Allied Labor News 1941-1949
- b. 32 f. 2 American Guardian 1940-1941
- b. 32 f. 3 California Eagle 1945-1947
- b. 32 f. 4 The Chicago Star 1947-1948
- b. 32 f. 5 Clapp's Social Project based on Land and Forest 1943
- b. 32 f. 6 Council for Pan America Democracy 1940-1946
- b. 32 f. 7 Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America 1946
- b. 32 f. 8 Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America 1941-1946
- b. 32 f. 9 Farm Research, Inc 1940-1949
- Farmers Union
- b. 33 f. 1 Eastern Division 1946-1948
- b. 33 f. 2 Northeastern Division 1944-1949
- b. 33 f. 3 New York Milk Shed 1942
- b. 33 f. 4 Federated Press 1940-1949

Robert Marshall Foundation (cont.)

- b. 33 f. 5 Frontier Films 1941
- b. 33 f. 6 Highlander Folk School 1940-1949
- b. 33 f. 7 International Juridical Association 1940-1942
- b. 33 f. 8 Labor Research Association 1941, 1949
- b. 33 f. 9 Methodist Federation for School Service 1940-1947
- b. 33 f. 10 National Council of Scientific, Professional Art and White Collar Organizations 1944-1946
- b. 34 f. 1 National Federation for Constitutional Liberties 1940-1946
- b. 34 f. 2 National Lawyers Guild 1941-1949
- b. 34 f. 3 National Religion and Labor Foundation 1940-1944
- b. 34 f. 4 National Wartime Conference 1944
- b. 34 f. 5 The New World 1944-1948
- b. 34 f. 6 Oil Workers Organizing Committee 1941-1942
- b. 34 f. 7 Pacific Northwest Labor School 1945-1949
- b. 34 f. 8 People Voice 1943-1947
- b. 34 f. 9 School for Democracy 1943
- b. 34 f. 10 School Conference Educational Fund 1948-1949
- b. 34 f. 11 Southern Conference for Human Welfare 1940-1948
- b. 35 f. 1 Southern Negro Youth Congress 1941-1948
- b. 35 f. 2 Southern School for Workers 1943-1950
- b. 35 f. 3 Summer School for Workers 1940-1943
- b. 35 f. 4 Summer School for Office Workers 1940-1945
- b. 35 f. 5 Washington New-Dealer 1941-1942
- b. 36 Oversized Materials