Summary

Creator: New York Times Company

Title: New York Times Company records. Abraham H. Raskin papers

Date: 1950-1980

Size: 5.88 linear feet (14 boxes)


Abstract: Abraham H. Raskin was the labor news specialist of The New York Times in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, and between 1964 and 1977 was the assistant editor of the editorial page. This collection primarily documents Raskin's time as a member of the editorial board, along with some earlier notes, speeches, and writings related to his activities as a labor reporter.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Use: Copyright for documents created by New York Times Company principals and staff has been transferred to The New York Public Library.


Processing note: Compiled by Philip Heslip, 2013 The order and folder titles, which The Times archives staff imposed on the collection, have been maintained.

Related Materials: Forms part of span class="unittitle">New York Times Company records/span>

Creator History

Raskin was born in Edmonton, Canada, and graduated from the City College of New York in 1931. Shortly after graduating, he joined The Times as a part time campus correspondent and was hired full time in 1934 as a labor reporter. After serving in the military during World War II, Raskin became The Times' chief labor correspondent and was the paper's most prominent and active reporter on unions. Raskin established himself as a national authority on labor relations, strikes, unemployment, inflation, and the role of unions in American politics. He had close dealings with unions in such industries as automobiles, coal, copper, garments, newspapers, railroads, and steel, and was an active public speaker on labor affairs throughout his career. Raskin was elected to The Times editorial board in 1961 to consult on all labor-related stories. In 1964, he became the assistant editor (deputy editor) of the editorial page under John B. Oakes. In this role he oversaw the editorial staff when Oakes was off duty, helped select the content and shape the tone of the editorial page, and continued to write editorials and articles on topics that interested him. He retired from The Times in 1977 and died in 1993.

Custodial History
This collection was originally appraised, re-housed, and organized in 1989 by The New York Times' archives staff. Initially, the collection consisted of 89 boxes (29 cubic feet); the Times staff discarded the bulk of these files.

Scope and Content Note
This collection primarily documents Abraham H. Raskin's time as a member of The New York Times editorial board from 1961 to 1977. Some files contain notes, writings, and speeches that date to the 1950s, but, according to The Times archivists, most of these items were labeled with the note "For speeches and reference," indicating that Raskin maintained these files to inform later projects.

The collection is divided into two series: I: People and II: Subjects. The People files consist of records pertaining to individuals, while the Subjects files contain items on specific topics. Items germane to two or more people or subjects are often cross-referenced in the finding aid; documents related to specific issues are generally located in subject files rather than the people folders of those involved.

Both series contain correspondence and memoranda with Times employees, as well as with union and corporate management officials. Raskin maintained close communications with John B. Oakes, the editor of the editorial page; they frequently discussed the editorial staff and promotions, internal and reader responses to editorials, and general departmental administration. Also present are Raskin's notes on interviews with sources, notes on various research subjects, writings, and copies of speeches. The bulk of these files reflect Raskin's work on the social, political, and economic impact of unions in the United States. Specific topics include automation's effect on productivity and wages, the finances of unions, collective bargaining, racketeering in the labor movement, migrant farm workers, and pension plans.

Also present are some files not directly related to the labor movement. These include files for the 1964 student protests at University of California, Berkeley, on which Raskin wrote several in-depth articles, and the correspondence and memoranda concerning The Times' position regarding public policy on smoking and the 1975 editorial announcement that all cigarette advertisements would carry health warnings. Also of note are the memoranda among the editorial board on a series of editorials concerning the financial difficulties facing New York City in 1975. The collection documents Raskin's roles as advisor and board member to several charitable institutions, including The Legal Aid Society,
the James Gordon Bennett Foundation, the National Center for Citizens in Education, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. These files contain Raskin's communications with officials at these organizations, meeting minutes, and other records that document his role in aligning funders with grant recipients.

Key Terms

Subjects
American newspapers -- New York (State) -- New York
Journalism -- United States -- 20th century
Labor movement -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Memorandums
Photographs

Names
Oakes, John B. (John Bertram), 1913-2001
Raskin, A. H. (Abraham Henry), 1911-
## Container List

**Series I: People 1956-1973 (1 box)**

This series is made up of files that contain items to, from, or concerning various individuals, such as New York Times editors, labor and corporate management, and other newsmakers, such as governors and United States Presidents. Files for fellow Times editors typically contain discussions of specific articles or detail conflicts between departments related to editorial or staffing decisions. Memoranda from Editor John B. Oakes and Arthur Ochs Sulzberger are present in multiple files in this series and can also be found throughout the Subjects series. Of note is the George P. Shultz file that contains extensive notes used for Raskin's story "Said Nixon to George Shultz," which ran on April 23, 1970.

Files are arranged alphabetically by name. Entries without box and folder numbers cross-reference related material in other files. These files do not necessarily collect every letter, memorandum, or document related to the individual; subject files should also be consulted.

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<td>Buckley, William F</td>
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Series I: People (cont.)

Wicker, Tom
See: Newspapers (General)

Zigman, Morris
See: International Ladies Garment Worker's Union

Series II: Subjects 1950-1980 (13 boxes)

This series is made up of alphabetical subject files that are organized (and titled) by topical keywords, events, geographic location, or company, organization, or institution. The bulk of the files consist of article drafts and research and interview notes related to Raskin's reporting on labor issues. Also present are letters and memoranda between Times editors, notably John B. Oakes, concerning editorials and stories related to labor and other social, political, and economic issues. This series includes many memoranda between Raskin and Arthur Ochs Sulzberger primarily discussing sensitive editorial issues and controversies. Company and union files typically hold research notes on the institution as well as communications with leadership concerning Raskin's stories or setting up interviews. Many of the files for universities and journalist associations contain copies of speeches and speech notes by Raskin.

Files are arranged alphabetically by file title. Entries without box and folder numbers cross-reference related material in other files.

b. 2 f. 1 Advanced Management Research 1970
Speech entitled “The Changing Role of Government in Dispute Settlement” given at a collective bargaining conference

b. 2 f. 2-3 AFL-CIO 1953-1963
AFTRA
See: Buckley, William F.

b. 2 f. 4 Agricultural Labor (Migrant Farm Workers) 1959-1966
America Illustrated
See: Articles and Books by Raskin

b. 2 f. 5 American Arbitration Association 1968-1970
Of interest: memorandum from Raskin to Arthur Ochs Sulzberger regarding the role of the American Arbitration Association in the 1970s

b. 2 f. 6 American Assembly 1971
Notes and articles concerning collective bargaining

b. 2 f. 7 American Bar Association 1959
Speech entitled “Labor Management Relations”

b. 2 f. 8 American Association of Industrial Management 1968
Speech entitled “The Problems of the Era: Can We Solve Them?”; related correspondence

American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
See: Buckley, William F.

b. 2 f. 9 American Management Association 1966-1967
Speech entitled “Who Speaks for the Public at the Bargaining Table?”

Antitrust Laws
See: Newspapers: Failing Newspapers Act

b. 2 f. 10 Articles and Books by Raskin 1955-1963
See also: American Assembly; Atlantic Monthly; Harvard Business Review; Industrial Mobilization; Institute for Contemporary Studies; Newspapers: New York City - Articles by Raskin; Picket Lines; Public Employees; World Book Year Book

b. 2 f. 11 Atlantic Monthly 1961-1978
See also: Public Employees
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

b. 3 f. 1  Awards to The Times and Staff Members 1972

b. 3 f. 2  Awards, Decorations, Honors, and Tributes to Raskin 1963-1970
  Ballad of Raskin the Resolute
  See: Personal and Private Papers

b. 3 f. 3  Bennett, James Gordon Memorial Foundation 1971-1974

b. 3 f. 4  Biographical (General) 1959-1976
  Black Panthers
  See: Caldwell, Earl
  Blacks
  See: Negroes

b. 3 f. 5  Booth Newspapers Inc 1969-1970
  Correspondence and notes regarding a speaking engagement at a meeting of editors and
  managers of Booth Newspapers, Inc.

b. 3 f. 6  Buffalo, University of 1959
  Speech notes.

b. 3 f. 7-11  California, University of: Berkeley 1964-1970
  Notes on interviews and observations of the 1964 student rebellion at Berkeley and reader mail
  related to Raskin's articles on the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley

b. 4 f. 1  Canadian manufacturers Association 1968
  Speech notes

Challenge Magazine
  See: Articles and Books by Raskin

b. 4 f. 2  Cigarette Advertising 1969
  Civil Rights
  See: Negroes
  Collective Bargaining
  See: Advanced Management Research; AFL-CIO; American Management Association;
  American Assembly; Foreign Trade Unions; Labor Relations Institute; Speeches (By Raskin)

b. 4 f. 3  Collective Bargaining Forum 1969

b. 4 f. 4  Colleges and Universities 1969-1975
  Drafts of articles, notes, and correspondence regarding collective bargaining at higher
  education institutions

Columbia Journalism Review
  See: Newspapers: New York City - Articles by Raskin

b. 4 f. 5  Columbia University
  Of interest: Speech entitled “Labor Relations in the Socially Responsible Corporation”

  See also: American Assembly

b. 4 f. 6-7  Computers (Automation) 1955-1970

b. 4 f. 8  Consolidated Edison 1967-1974
  Notes and typescripts for articles on Consolidated Edison; copies of correspondence between
  Brooks Atkinson and the chairman of Consolidated Edison; correspondence between Raskin
  and Consolidated Edison officials

b. 4 f. 9  Copper Industry 1967-1968
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

**Current Affairs**
See: National Issues

b. 5 f. 1 Dartmouth College 1968
Speech notes for the Fifth Annual Orvil E. Dryfoos Conference on Public Affairs

b. 5 f. 2 Daytop Village 1970-1971

b. 5 f. 3 Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan 1976
Speech entitled “Are Unions Killing the Country?”

**Economic News**
See: Mooney, Richard E.

b. 5 f. 4-5 Economic Policy 1971-1973
Notes and typescripts concerning the United State Government’s economic policy and its effects on labor

b. 5 f. 6 Economic Recession 1975

b. 5 f. 7 Editorial Board 1969-1972
See also: New York City Fiscal Crisis

b. 5 f. 8 Editorial Page 1972
Report and recommendations of a task force to study the content of the editorial page

See also: Style

**Editorial Policy: General**
See: Poland; Lewis, Anthony; Vietnam

b. 5 f. 9 Editorial Policy: Elections 1970
Correspondence regarding The Times endorsement of candidates in the 1970 local elections in New York

b. 5 f. 10 Editorials (General) 1965-1973
Of interest: memorandum about the social function of newspapers (1969); and Arthur Ochs Sulzberger’s comments about editorials

**Educational Activities**
See: National Issues; Teachers’ In-Service Courses

**Electrical Union World**
See: Articles and Books by Raskin

**Fairness Doctrine**
See: Freedom of the Press

b. 5 f. 11 Finances of Labor Unions 1961

**Financial News**
See: Economic Policy; Economic Recession; Mooney, Richard E.

b. 5 f. 12 Foreign Trade Unions 1957
Essays and transcripts about unions in Germany and England and international labor movements

**Four-Day Week**
See: Shorter Work Week

b. 5 f. 13 Freedom of the Press 1961-1973
See also: Caldwell, Earl
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

Garment Industry
See: International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union

b. 5 f. 14 General Electric 1960-1970
b. 6 f. 1 Harvard Business Review 1969-1972
b. 6 f. 2-4 Hospitals 1968-1976
b. 6 f. 5 House Magazine Institute 1950
Address entitled “The Labor Management Picture Today”

b. 6 f. 6 Industrial Mobilization 1951
Reprint of a series of articles measuring the effectiveness of United States industrial mobilization

b. 6 f. 7 Industrial Ladies Garment Workers’ Union 1968-1969
b. 6 f. 8 Industrial Development Seminar 1965
b. 6 f. 9 Inflation 1959-1971
b. 6 f. 10 Institute for Contemporary Studies 1976
b. 6 f. 11 Institute for Religious and Social Studies 1969-1971
b. 6 f. 12 International Labor Organization 1965-1971
b. 6 f. 13 International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union 1965-1976
Includes typescripts and notes about the union and president David Dubinsky; notes and background documents on union president Morris Zigman

I.L.G.W.U.

Jews and Judaism
See: Poland

b. 7 f. 1 Labor Leaders undated
Article typescript about the leaders of labor unions

b. 7 f. 2-5 Labor Relations (General) 1949-1976
Labor Relations: Strikes - ITU
See: Newspapers: New York City

b. 7 f. 6 Labor Relations Institute 1969

b. 7 f. 7 Labor’s Productivity 1958-1971
Includes correspondence with Lester Markel

b. 7 f. 8 Legal Aid Society 1970-1975
b. 7 f. 9 Letters to the Editor 1969-1972
Correspondence regarding The Times’ policy about Letters to the Editor

b. 7 f. 10 Lieberman Foundation 1971-1976
Longshoremen’s Association
See: Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor

b. 7 f. 11 Maritime Industry 1965-1972
b. 7 f. 12 Metropolitan Transportation Authority 1965-1972
Letters, notes, and clippings regarding the situation of the transit system and the 1965 subway strike
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

b. 7 f. 13 Michigan, University of 1968
Of interest: speech entitled “Can Newspapers Learn to Live with Labor?”

b. 7 f. 14 Minnesota, University of 1967
Lecture entitled “Newspapers: Disrupters of the Status Quo”

Municipal Labor
See: Public Employees

b. 7 f. 15 Museum of Modern Art 1973

b. 8 f. 1 National Assembly for Social Policy 1969-1970
b. 8 f. 2 National Broadcasting Company 1969
b. 8 f. 3 National Center for Citizens in Education 1965-1967
b. 8 f. 4 National Council of Churches
National Educational Television
See: Newspapers (General); “Perspectives on Labor”

b. 8 f. 5 National Issues 1965-1969
A series of articles by Raskin on national issues facing Americans

National Maritime Union of America
See: Maritime Industry

b. 8 f. 6 National News Council 1978-1980

b. 8 f. 7 Negroes 1950s
Notes regarding the employment of African Americans in various industries; article draft on Philip Randolph

b. 8 f. 8 New York City 1965-1976
Correspondence with New York City officials concerning the West Side Highway and other construction programs; notes for editorials on poverty in New York

b. 8 f. 9 New York City Fiscal Crisis 1975

b. 8 f. 10 New York County Lawyers’ Association 1972
*The New York Journal-American*
See: Newspapers: New York City - Background Material

New York State Publishers Association
See: Awards
*The New York Sun*
See: Newspapers: New York City - Background Material

b. 8 f. 11 New York University 1968
Speech entitled “Labor Climate Today”
*The New Yorker*
See: Newspapers: New York City - Articles by Raskin

b. 8 f. 12 News Department (General) 1965-1972
Correspondence between Raskin and staff members of the News Department

News in Perspective
See: Newspapers (General)

News Sources
See: Caldwell, Earl
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

b. 8 f. 13  
Newspaper Guild of New York 1965

b. 8 f. 14-15  
Newspapers: General  
Of interest: script of a television broadcast of a discussion on the future of newspapers in America with Lester Markel, James Reston, and Tom Wicker

b. 9 f. 1  
Newspapers: Failing Newspapers Act 1968-1970

b. 9 f. 2  
Newspapers: New York City Articles by Raskin 1963-1979

b. 9 f. 3  
Newspapers: New York City (General) 1963-1974

b. 9 f. 4-7  
Newspapers: New York City (Background) 1963-1975  
Documents and clippings concerning the newspaper industry in New York City, the merger of The Herald Tribune, The Journal-American, The World Telegram and The Sun, and the closing of The World Journal

b. 10 f. 1-5  
Newspapers: New York City (Raskin’s Notes) 1963-1966  
Notes and typescripts on union negotiations with New York City newspapers

Ocean Hill–Brownsville Teacher’s Strike  
See: Teachers’ Union

b. 10 f. 6  
Ombudsman 1974  
Memoranda on the role of the ombudsman in a newspaper and Raskin’s advocating the need for one at The Times

b. 10 f. 7  

b. 10 f. 8  
Pennsylvania, University of 1971  
Speech entitled “Public Section Bargaining Impact on Private Sector Bargaining”

b. 10 f. 9-10  
Pension Plans 1958-1976

b. 11 f. 1  
Personal and Private Papers 1964-1976  
Primarily letters and notes from friends and colleagues

b. 11 f. 2  
“Perspective on Labor” 1963  
Correspondence and notes regarding Raskin’s presentation on a radio program entitled “Unions: Who Needs Them?”

b. 11 f. 3  
Picket Lines 1974-1975

b. 11 f. 4  
Pictures of Raskin (Photographs) 1951-1974

b. 11 f. 5  
Poland 1969  
Memoranda indicating discussions about the wisdom of publishing an editorial on Jews in Poland, at a time when the Publisher, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, had plans to visit that country

Poverty in New York City  
See: New York City

b. 11 f. 6  
Presidential Elections 1969-1973

Press Criticism  
See: Ombudsman

b. 11 f. 7-8  
Public Employees 1966-1975  
See also: Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Sanitation Workers

b. 11 f. 9  
Public Welfare (Governor’s Conference) 1967-1968

Publishers Association  
See: Awards

b. 11 f. 10  
Pulitzer Prizes 1964-1975
Series II: Subjects (cont.)

Racial Integration
See: Negroes

b. 12 f. 1 Racketeering in Labor Movement 1950s
b. 12 f. 2 Railroad Industry 1960-1972
b. 12 f. 3 Rockefeller Brothers Fund 1963-1970
b. 12 f. 4 Salzburg Seminar in American Studies (Mass Communications) 1967
b. 12 f. 5 Sanitation Workers 1968
Notes on the garbage collector strike in New York City

Saturday Review
See: Newspapers: New York City (Articles by Raskin); Picket Lines; Public Employees

School Weekly
See: National Issues

b. 12 f. 6 Shorter Work Week 1959-1975
b. 12 f. 7 Silurian, Society of, Award 1970
b. 12 f. 8 Speeches by Raskin 1950s
b. 13 f. 1-3 Steel Industry 1959-1975
Student Weekly
See: National Issues

b. 13 f. 4 Style 1971
Memorandum concerning the style of the Editorial Page

Subway Strike
See: Metropolitan Transit Authority

b. 13 f. 5 Teachers’ In-Service Courses 1950
Lectures

b. 13 f. 6 Teachers’ Union 1960-1969
b. 13 f. 7 Theatre Industry and Labor 1960
b. 13 f. 8 Trips to Europe 1975
b. 13 f. 9 Trips to Europe and Israel 1969
b. 13 f. 10 Trips to Japan 1968
b. 14 f. 1-2 Unemployment (Chronic) 1959-1976
b. 14 f. 3 United Auto Workers 1958-1975
United Steelworkers of America
See: Steel Industry

b. 14 f. 4 Vietnam 1965-1967
Memoranda from Hanson W. Baldwin, Max Frankel, and John Oakes on The Times’ editorial policy regarding the situation in Vietnam; memorandum from John Oakes on a conversation he had with President Lyndon Johnson about United States involvement in Vietnam; copy of the final version of a speech on Vietnam prepared for Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, but delivered by Monroe Green at the World Newspaper Conference in Japan

See also: Lewis, Anthony

b. 14 f. 5 Vineyard Gazette 1966-1969
Correspondence regarding the possible purchase of the Vineyard Gazette by The Times
Volunteer Army
See: Westmoreland, William C. (Gen.)

Wage and Price Control
See: Economic Policy

b. 14 f. 6 Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor 1955-1969

Welfare
See: Public Welfare (Governor's Conference)

West Side Highway
See: New York City

b. 14 f. 7 Women's Clubs 1950
Talk entitled "Labor and Management" at a seminar on national affairs for officers of women's clubs

b. 14 f. 8 *World Book Year Book* 1967-1968