



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

Guide to the

National Negro Congress records

1933-1947

Sc Micro R-1182

Summary

Creator: National Negro Congress (U.S.)

Title: National Negro Congress records

Date: 1933-1947

Size: 44.5 linear feet; 94 microfilm reels

Source: Gift, National Negro Congress, 1948

Abstract: Files of John P. Davis, Edward Strong, and Revels Cayton, as well as financial records. Included with the National Negro Congress records are Davis' files from the Negro Industrial League, 1933, of which he had been executive secretary; Davis' files from the Joint Committee on National Recovery, 1933-1935, an ad-hoc lobby to protect black interests in the federal government; and his subject/reference files on different aspects of the "Negro question." Also, records of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, 1942-1945, including files of Charles A. Collins, executive secretary, and M. Moran Weston, field secretary, consisting of correspondence, subject/organization files, and printed matter.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers are restricted to microfilm copy.

Alternative Form Available: Collection available on microfilm; University Publications of America; call number Sc Micro R-1182

Preferred citation: National Negro Congress records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The National Negro Congress was established in 1936 to "secure the right of the Negro people to be free from Jim Crowism, segregation, discrimination, lynching, and mob violence" and "to promote the

spirit of unity and cooperation between Negro and white people." It was conceived as a national coalition of church, labor, and civil rights organizations that would coordinate protest action in the face of deteriorating economic conditions for blacks. Executive secretaries were John P. Davis, 1935-1942, Edward Strong, 1943, and Revels Cayton, 1945-1947.

The Negro Labor Victory Committee, founded in 1942, was an organization of black and white trade union officials from the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the Railroad Brotherhoods. It was organized to encourage black workers to fight for equality within organized labor, government, and the Armed Forces.

Scope and Content Note

Files of John P. Davis, Edward Strong, and Revels Cayton, as well as financial records. Included with the National Negro Congress records are Davis' files from the Negro Industrial League, 1933, of which he had been executive secretary; Davis' files from the Joint Committee on National Recovery, 1933-1935, an ad-hoc lobby to protect black interests in the federal government; and his subject/reference files on different aspects of the "Negro question." Also, records of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, 1942-1945, including files of Charles A. Collins, executive secretary, and M. Moran Weston, field secretary, consisting of correspondence, subject/organization files, and printed matter.

Arrangement: Records organized into three series: Parts I and II Records and Correspondence, 66 reels; Part III Financial Records and Publications, 19 reels; and Part IV Negro Labor Victory Committee

Key Terms

Subjects

African American labor union members
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Discrimination
African Americans -- Economic conditions
African Americans -- Employment
African Americans -- Political activity
African Americans -- Segregation
Civil rights -- United States
Labor movement -- United States -- Political activity
Labor unions -- United States -- Political activity
New Deal, 1933-1939
Race discrimination

Geographic Names

United States -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1945
United States -- Politics and government -- 1933-1945
United States -- Social conditions -- 1933-1945

Names

National Negro Congress (U.S.)
Cayton, Revels
Collins, C. A. (Charles Alexander), 1944-
Davis, John P. (John Preston), 1905-1973

Strong, Edward
Weston, M. Moran, 1910-2002
Joint Committee on National Recovery
Negro Industrial League
Negro Labor Victory Committee