



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

Guide to the

Jack O'Dell papers

1962-2004

Sc MG 497

Summary

Creator: O'Dell, Jack (Jack H.)

Title: Jack O'Dell papers

Date: 1962-2004

Size: 6.8 linear feet (6 record cartons, 2 archival boxes)

Source: Gift, Jack O'Dell, 1993 Gift, Jack O'Dell, 1993

Abstract: Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1923, Jack H. O'Dell was an African-American Communist organizer in the National Maritime Union who later became head of fund raising and voter registration in several Southern States for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). O'Dell was also an associate editor of "Freedomways" magazine and a faculty member at Antioch College's graduate school of education in Washington, D.C. He joined People United to Save Humanity (Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH) as a foreign policy adviser in 1976, and was a consultant on international affairs during Rev. Jackson's first presidential bid in 1984. He remains active in peace and social justice issues. A selection of papers documenting Jack O'Dell's role as policy adviser to Rev. Jesse Jackson and as director of international affairs for the National Rainbow Coalition in Washington, D.C. during the 1980s. Included are correspondence and notes, conference packets and other material related to civil rights (1962-2004), the Africa Leadership Forum (1988-1991), the Reparations Conference in Nigeria (Dec. 1990), Constituency for Africa (1992), and Solidarity movements in Africa (Southern Africa, Zambia), the Middle East (Palestine, Iran), Asia (China, India), Latin America (Nicaragua, Cuba), and Europe (GDR), 1959-2000s. Occasional correspondents include Rev. Jesse Jackson, civil rights attorney Clarence B. Jones, Anne Braden of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, historian Manning Marable, Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and Casa de Las Americas president, Roberto Fernandez Retamar. Also includes a correspondence file for a 1970 Martin Luther King, Jr. documentary film project, and transcript of an oral history interview done with James Early, 1997.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access

Preferred citation: [Item], Jack O'Dell papers, Sc MG 497, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1923, Jack H. O'Dell was an African-American Communist organizer in the National Maritime Union who later became head of fund raising and voter registration in several Southern States for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). O'Dell was also an associate editor of "Freedomways" magazine and a faculty member at Antioch College's graduate school of education in Washington, D.C. He joined People United to Save Humanity (Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH) as a foreign policy adviser in 1976, and was a consultant on international affairs during Rev. Jackson's first presidential bid in 1984. He remains active in peace and social justice issues.

Scope and Content Note

A selection of papers documenting Jack O'Dell's role as policy adviser to Rev. Jesse Jackson and as director of international affairs for the National Rainbow Coalition in Washington, D.C. during the 1980s. Included are correspondence and notes, conference packets and other material related to civil rights (1962-2004), the Africa Leadership Forum (1988-1991), the Reparations Conference in Nigeria (Dec. 1990), Constituency for Africa (1992), and Solidarity movements in Africa (Southern Africa, Zambia), the Middle East (Palestine, Iran), Asia (China, India), Latin America (Nicaragua, Cuba), and Europe (GDR), 1959-2000s. Occasional correspondents include Rev. Jesse Jackson, civil rights attorney Clarence B. Jones, Anne Braden of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, historian Manning Marable, Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and Casa de Las Americas president, Roberto Fernandez Retamar. Also includes a correspondence file for a 1970 Martin Luther King, Jr. documentary film project, and transcript of an oral history interview done with James Early, 1997.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American communists
African American political activists
African Americans -- Civil rights -- Southern States
African Americans -- Political activity
Black author
Blacks -- Reparations
Political activists -- United States
Protest movements
Social movements

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government

Names

Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968
O'Dell, Jack (Jack H.)
National Rainbow Coalition (U.S.)

Operation PUSH (U.S.)