



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

Guide to the

Ernest Thompson collection

1950-1970

Sc MG 371

Summary

Creator: Thompson, Ernest, 1907-1971

Title: Ernest Thompson collection

Date: 1950-1970

Size: .8 linear feet (1 record carton)

Source: Gift, Joseph Wilson, Dec. 1987

Abstract: Ernest Thompson was a labor leader and one of the founders and the director of organization of the National Negro Labor Council. From 1951-1956 he was also the Fair Employment Practices Committee director for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, a multi-racial trade-union expelled from the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) on charges of communist infiltration. Thompson later became involved in efforts to gain African-American political representation in Orange, New Jersey and in improving education in the state and the elimination of segregation within the school system. The Ernest Thompson Collection consists of printed matter and publications of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America on blacks, women, urban renewal, and the labor movement in the 1950s. There is also printed material on the student movement of the 1960s, publications of communist youth organizations, and on segregation and discrimination in public schools in Orange, New Jersey in the late 1950s and early 1960s, as well as a speech by Henry Winston about the founding of a Marxist-Leninist youth organization.

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], Ernest Thompson collection, Sc MG 371, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Ernest Thompson was a labor leader and one of the founders and the director of organization of the

National Negro Labor Council. From 1951-1956 he was also the Fair Employment Practices Committee director for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, a multi-racial trade-union expelled from the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) on charges of communist infiltration. Thompson later became involved in efforts to gain African-American political representation in Orange, New Jersey and in improving education in the state and the elimination of segregation within the school system.

Scope and Content Note

The Ernest Thompson Collection consists of printed matter and publications of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America on blacks, women, urban renewal, and the labor movement in the 1950s. There is also printed material on the student movement of the 1960s, publications of communist youth organizations, and on segregation and discrimination in public schools in Orange, New Jersey in the late 1950s and early 1960s, as well as a speech by Henry Winston about the founding of a Marxist-Leninist youth organization.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Employment -- New Jersey
African Americans -- New Jersey -- Orange
Campaign literature -- New Jersey
Community organization -- New Jersey
Discrimination in employment -- New Jersey
Education, Urban -- New Jersey
Labor unions -- United States
Labor unions and communism -- United States
School integration -- New Jersey
School integration -- United States
Student movements -- United States
Women -- Employment -- United States

Names

Thompson, Ernest, 1907-1971
Winston, Henry, 1911-1986
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. National Fair Practices Committee
Young Workers Liberation League