

Guide to the

# New York Times Company records. Abraham H. Raskin papers 1950-1980

MssCol 17805

Compiled by Philip Heslip, 2013

# **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)

**Source:** New York Times Company, donated 2007.

**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.

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

**Preferred citation:** New York Times Company records. Abraham H. Raskin papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, 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**

Journalist Abraham Henry Raskin (1911-1993) was *The New York Times* labor news specialist between 1934 and 1963, and assistant editor of the editorial page between 1964 and 1977.

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 crossreference 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.

- b. 1 f. 1 Adams, Frank S 1970
- b. 1 f. 2 Agnew, Spiro (Vice President) 1973

Baldwin, Hanson W

See: Vietnam

b. 1 f. 3 Beame, Abraham D 1969-1970

Bradford, Amory

See: Newspapers: New York City

b. 1 f. 4 Buckley, William F 1971-1973

Correspondence regarding the case of William F. Buckley challenging the constitutionality of a rule requiring him to become a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Burritt, Richard D

See: Newspapers: New York City

b. 1 f. 5 Caldwell, Earl 1972

Articles about the case of Earl Caldwell, a *Times* reporter who refused to provide a grand jury investigating the Black Panthers with information about his confidential sources

b. 1 f. 6 Catledge, Turner 1970

Dryfoos, Orvil E

See: Dartmouth College

Dubinsky, David

See: International Ladies Garment Worker's Union

b. 1 f. 7 Fisher, Andrew 1970

Frankel, Max

See: Vietnam

b. 1 f. 8 Gelb, Arthur 1967-1972

Green, Monroe

See: Vietnam

b. 1 f. 9 Harrison, George M 1956-1957

Raskin's notes and correspondence regarding a book to be written by Raskin on the life of George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks

- b. 1 f. 10 Hechinger, Fred M 1969
- b. 1 f. 11 Humphrey, Hubert H. (Vice President) 1966

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Pres.)

See: Vietnam

b. 1 f. 12 Koch, Edward I 1969-1971

	Series I: People (cont.)
b. 1 f. 13	Lewis, Anthony 1965-1972 Of interest: correspondence about the editing of Anthony Lewis' column from North Vietnam
b. 1 f. 14	Lindsay, John V 1969
b. 1 f. 15	Loeb, Louis M 1971-1972
b. 1 f. 16	Markel, Lester 1969 See also: Labor's Productivity; Newspapers (General)
	Mayer, Martin See: Teachers' Union
b. 1 f. 17	Mondale, Walter F 1969
b. 1 f. 18	Mooney, Richard E 1970 Comments by Raskin on Richard Mooney's memorandum on the economy
b. 1 f. 19	Moscow, Warren 1970 Raskin's comments on a manuscript of Warren Moscow's book
b. 1 f. 20	Oakes, John B 1967-1971 See also: Vietnam
b. 1 f. 21	O'Neill, Raymond B 1962
b. 1 f. 22	Perez Jimenez, Marcos (Former President of Venezuela) 1958 Raskin's memorandum concerning the extradition trial of Marcos Perez Jimenez
	Randolph, Philip A See: Negroes
b. 1 f. 23	Reston, James B 1968-1969 See also: Newspapers (General)
b. 1 f. 24	Robinson, Layhmond 1969
b. 1 f. 25	Rockefeller, Nelson (Governor) 1969-1972 See also: Public Welfare (Governor's Conference)
b. 1 f. 26	Rosenthal, Abraham M 1968-1971
b. 1 f. 27	Salisbury, Harrison 1972
b. 1 f. 28	Scales, Junius Irving 1962  Typescript of an editorial by Raskin urging a Presidential pardon for Junius Scales, a former official of the Communist party in North Carolina; background material
b. 1 f. 29	Schultz, George P 1970
	Seitz, Peter See: Personal and Private Papers
b. 1 f. 30	Sulzberger, Arthur Ochs 1964-1972 See also: Editorials (General); Poland; Vietnam
b. 1 f. 31	Sulzberger, Cyrus L 1967-1972
b. 1 f. 32	Sulzberger, Iphigene Ochs (Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger) 1967-1970
b. 1 f. 33	Westmoreland, William C. (Gen.) 1969  Memorandum from Dan Schwarz concerning a General Westmoreland's thoughs regarding a volunteer army in the United States
	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 Settelment" 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

# 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

Series II: Subjects (cont.)

# 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

# **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 Mighigan 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

	Series II: Subjects (cont.)
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 <i>The Times</i> 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
	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

Institute for Contemporary Studies 1976

International Labor Organization 1965-1971

Institute for Religious and Social Studies 1969-1971

b. 6 f. 10

b. 6 f. 11

b. 6 f. 12

#### Series II: Subjects (cont.) 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 Speech entitled "The Role of Government in Collective Bargaining" 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 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

Notes regarding the employment of African Americans in various industries; article draft on

b. 8 f. 7

Negroes 1950s

Philip Randolph

	Series II: Subjects (cont.)
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
b. 8 f. 13	Newspaper Guild of New York 1965
o. 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 HillBrownsville Teacher's Strike See: Teachers' Union
b. 10 f. 6	Ombudsman 1974  Memoranda on the roll of the ombudsman in a newspaper and Raskin's advocating the need for one at <i>The Times</i>
b. 10 f. 7	Op-Ed Page 1969-1971
b. 10 f. 8	Pennsylvania, University of 1971 Speech entitled "Public Section Bargaining Impact on Private Sector Bargaining"

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

Pension Plans 1958-1976

b. 11 f. 2 "Perspective on Labor" 1963

b.

b. 10 f. 9-10

 $\dot{\text{Correspondence}}$  and notes regarding Raskin's presentation on a radio program entitled "Unions: Who Needs Them?"

	Series II: Subjects (cont.)
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
	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	Rockerfeller 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

Series II: Subjects (cont.)

# 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