

Title: McGowan, William J. Papers

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Inclusive Dates: 1933 – 1999

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OS SM “M” (1 item)
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Historical Note: William McGowan was born on March 7, 1907, in County Down, Ireland. Shortly thereafter, his family relocated to Janesville, Wisconsin. He studied law at the University of Wisconsin and, from 1932 to 1942, was associated with the Milwaukee law firm of Lines, Spooner and Quarles. In 1942, he joined the legal staff of Allis-Chalmers. He was named director of the Employee and Community Relations Division in 1955 and served in that capacity until 1968, when he was appointed staff assistant to the Chairman of Allis-Chalmers. During the 1960s, he was involved in efforts to facilitate the hiring of minorities. He was director of the Milwaukee Urban League from 1960 to 1969, secretary to the Milwaukee Voluntary Equal Employment Opportunity Council, a member of the City of Milwaukee Commission on Community Relations, and a member of the Plans for Progress Advisory Council in Washington, D.C. He retired from Allis-Chalmers in 1972 but continued serving as a Washington liaison until 1979.

Scope and Content: The records consist of correspondence, clippings, speeches, minutes, pamphlets, various publications, and photographs. They primarily describe McGowan’s work with Allis-Chalmers, but also includes his involvement with several of the above-named organizations as well as some personal material. The collection includes information pertaining to labor-management relations at Allis-Chalmers, communist infiltration of the UAW Local, and minority hiring by Milwaukee-area businesses. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Administrative Note: The collection was processed on June 13, 2000 by Kevin Abing. Material was added to the collection on December 13, 2003 and was processed by Kevin Abing.

Contents	Box #	Folder #
A-C Benefits Information	1	1
A-C Correspondence	1	2
A-C Philosophy and Policy: Employee Relations, Union Relations, Community Relations	1	3
A-C – UAW Pittsburgh Extension Agreement, 1964	1	4
A-C Union Contract Negotiations, 1967-68	1	5
A-C Union Relations Documents, 1955-1965 (1 of 2)	1	6
A-C Union Relations Documents, 1955-1965 (2 of 2)	1	7
Advisory Committee, 1958-1959	1	8
All Works Union Relations Conference, 1964 (WJMcG Presentations)	1	9
Allis-Chalmers Histories	1	10

Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company File of Important Documents, 1941 (H. W. Story)	1	11
Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company File of Important Documents, 1941 (W. C. Van Cleaf)	1	11A
“The American Way of Life” and “It’s Later Than You Think” (Address/Discussion before Sales Managers’ Association of Milwaukee, 1949)	1	12
Biographical Material	1	13
Central v. Decentralized Industrial Relations, AMA Chicago Midwinter Conference, 2/14/61 (1 of 2)	1	14
Central v. Decentralized Industrial Relations, AMA Chicago Midwinter Conference, 2/14/61 (2 of 2)	1	15
Christoffel, Harold	1	16
Chronological Index (John L. Waddleton), Newspaper Clippings, February 1947	1	17
Citizen of the Year Award, 1988	1	18
Clippings, 1941, 1947	1	18A
Clubhouse, 1957-1960	1	19
Communication Services: Management-Employee Communications Policy	1	20
Communism	1	21
Communitistic Activities – General Correspondence	1	22
Communitistic Activities – General Correspondence [RESTRICTED]	1	23
“Confidential” Communist Material (1 of 2)	2	24
“Confidential” Communist Material (2 of 2)	2	25
“Confidential” Communist Material [RESTRICTED]	2	26
Confidential “X”	2	27
Daily Strike Memos (West Allis), 1946-47 (1 of 2)	2	28
Daily Strike Memos (West Allis), 1946-47 (2 of 2)	2	29
Daily Summary Sheets (W.J. McGowan), July 1, 1942 – April 24, 1946	2	30
Deerfield Works	2	31
Democratic Processes Clauses	2	32
Discussion Memo: Implementation of A-C Merit Employment Policy and EEO Commitments	2	33
ECRD Agendas, 1960-1964	2	34
E.E.O. Material	2	35
E.E.O.-Related Speeches	2	36
Employee and Community Relations Division – Annual Business Plan, 1968	2	37
Employee and Community Relations Division, Five Year Business Plan, 1965-1969	2	38
Employee and Community Relations Division Manual	2	39
Employee and Community Relations Division Manual, ca. 1965	2	40
Employee and Community Relations Division, Objectives and Goals, 1967	2	41

Fine Case	2	42
Forfeiture of Benefits Because of Competitive Activity	2	43
Foundry Employers Emergency Employment Agency, 10/1/47-11/7/49 (1 of 2)	2	44
Foundry Employers Emergency Employment Agency, 10/1/47-11/7/49 (2 of 2)	2	45
“The Greatest Opportunity On Earth”	2	46
Harold Christoffel’s Trial in Washington, D.C., Feb. & March 1948	2	46A
ICRD Communications Seminar (Talk by WJMcG 6/1/61)	2	47
ICRD Seminar 3/9-10/61 (WJMcG’s Welcoming Remarks)	2	48
“Information For Allis-Chalmers Management,” 1958-64	2	49
Invitation Materials, Inaugural Ball, 1965	2	50
Ireland (Miscellaneous Personal Items)	3	51
Ireland (Ron Watson Material)	3	52
Labor Law Information	3	52A
Labor Matters – Yahr-Lange Inc., 12/21/45 – 3/8/46	3	53
Letters of Commendation on E.E.O. Business	3	54
Management Meeting – 12/29/59	3	55
Material from Legal Division re Strike Situations	3	56
McGowan, Bruce and Kate	3	57
McGowan, David M. and Judy	3	58
McGowan, Victor B. and Pat	3	59
McGowan, W.J. – Membership cards, Awards, Certificates, etc.	3	60
McGowan, W.J. – Personal (File No. 2, 1946 & 1947)	3	61
McGowan, W. J.-Retirement from Allis-Chalmers, June 30, 1972	3	61A
McGowan’s Congratulatory Messages, 1955	3	62
McGowan’s Speeches, Union Relations – Volume 1	3	63
McGowan’s Speeches, Union Relations – Volume 2	3	64
Memorandum of Understanding (UAW), 1959	3	65
Milwaukee Voluntary Equal Employment Opportunity Council (1 of 2)	3	66
Milwaukee Voluntary Equal Employment Opportunity Council (2 of 2)	3	67
Milwaukee Voluntary Equal Employment Opportunity Council, Minutes, 1963-1971	3	68
Miscellaneous	3	69
Miscellaneous A-C Publications, Pamphlets, etc.	3	70
Miscellaneous Clippings	3	71
National Alliance of Businessmen	4	72
National Alliance of Businessmen, Annual Reports, 1970-1976	4	73
National Alliance of Businessmen, McGowan Speeches	4	74
1958 Labor-Management Challenge, 12/12/57	4	75
Norwood, OH, Plant Strike – 1946	4	75A
Organizational Planning Charts, etc. – ECRD	4	76
“Origins of Local 248, UAWA-CIO,” 1932-1937	4	77
Personal, 1947-1965	4	78

Personal, 1966-1999	4	79
Pertinent Data Re Negotiations, Strike, Settlement, 1958-1959	4	80
Pittsburgh Works, 1956-1959	4	81
Plans For Progress	4	82
Pre-Strike Vote Communications	4	83
President's Executive Council, Minutes, 1968	4	84
Professor Romanoff Program Script	4	85
Quotations	4	86
Reading Material-Advanced Management Course	4	87
Sample Stationery, ECRD	4	88
Senior Seminar in General Management-Dr. Earl Planty	4	89
Speech File, 1948-1959, 1963-1966	4	90
Speech: "The Christian Approach to Solution of Labor-Management Problems"	4	91
Speech: "The Place of Protestant Churches in Labor Relations"	4	92
Testimony of William Z. Foster before Special Committee of Congress Investigating Subversive Activities, 1931	4	93
"Tractors, Turbines and Tears-1941," (Film Script) ca. 1979	4	93A
Transcript re Fraud Ballots, 1941	4	94
UAW Negotiations, 1958-1959	4	95
UAW Negotiations, 1964	4	96
Union Contract Negotiating Conference Speeches, 7/18/61	4	97
Union Contract Settlements, 1964-1967	4	98
Union Representation Claims (Procedure for Handling)	4	99
"X" – W.J. McGowan (Union Organizing File)	4	100
"X" – W.J. McGowan (Union Organizing File) [RESTRICTED]	4	101
Documents re Allis-Chalmers Legal Proceedings	5	102
Allis-Chalmers Labor History	5	103
Allis-Chalmers Labor Relations	5	104
McGowan Legal Work, 1933-1940	5	105
"Congressional Hearing on Communistic Influences in Labor, March 19, 1947" (Includes Government Exhibits 32 and 33: Minutes, Milwaukee County Industrial Union Council, 1938-1946)	5	106
Joint Statement of Harold W. Story, et al, Before the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor, February 24, 1947(3 copies)	5	Loose in box
Letters to Employees, January 23, 1946 to April 4, 1947	5	Loose in box
Statement of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company in Negotiations with Local 248, U.A.W.A.-CIO. Before a Panel of the National War Labor Board, July 6, 1942 (Includes supplemental documents)	5	Loose in box
<i>Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company v. Allis Chalmers Workers' Union, Local 248, U.A.W.A. (CIO)</i> , Before the Wisconsin State Employment Relations Board, 1941 (vols. 2-4)	5	Loose in box

“Hearings Regarding Communism in Labor Unions in the United States.” Hearings Before the Committee on Un-American Activities House of Representatives, 1947	5	Loose in box
“Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States (Regarding Eugene Dennis).” Hearings Before the Committee on Un-American Activities House of Representatives, April 9, 1947	5	Loose in box
1968-1970 Agreement, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, West Allis Plant, and Local 248	5	Loose in box
Miscellaneous books and pamphlets on communism in the United States, African-Americans and civil rights, and law-related works	6	Loose in box
Document Photographs re: 1941 Strike	Loose on shelf	
Oversize Items	Location	
“Open Letter to the International UAW – A Plan to End the Allis-Chalmers Strikes,” ca. 1959	OS SM “M”	
Poster, “Will You Be Free to Celebrate Christmas in the Future?,” ca. 1958	OS LG “M”	
Newspaper Clippings	Location	
McGowan, William: Clippings & Correspondence	MF #591	
J.L. Waddleton’s Chronological Index, Dec. 1946-Nov. 1947; H.W. Story’s Chronological Index, 1942-1946	MF #592	
H.W. Story’s Chronological Index, March 1946-1949; Harold Christoffel’s Trial, 1948	MF #593	
Photos: See M-169A		
Slides: 4 pages; see binder, library shelves		
4 reel-to-reel tapes; see Multimedia Collection (Mss-2381)		