

Title: McGowan, William J. Papers

Call Number: Mss-2795

Inclusive Dates: 1933 – 1999

Bulk: 5.51 cu. ft.

Location: WHS, Sh. A067-A068
OS SM “M” (1 item)
OS LG “M” (1 item)

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.

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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)		