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Department of Archives and Manuscripts

Jefferson County Coordinating Council of Social Forces Papers, 1922-1968

Background/Scope and Content:

The Jefferson County Coordinating Council of Social Forces Papers span the years 1922 to 1968, but the bulk of the manuscript material falls between the years 1950 and 1956, with minutes and annual reports being the most representative items.

The coordinating Council's Papers include minutes, records and other scrapbooks on Council activities, and annual reports (on microfilm) dating from 1939 through 1962. Aside from these annual reports, there are few records of the Council itself which date beyond 1951. This dearth of records is partially explained by the following: the Coordinating Council was succeeded, first, by the Community Service Council and then, the Birmingham Regional Health Systems Agency; this latter organization found the Coordinating Council's objectives much different from its own and, in the absence of any viable alternative to continued storage, the decision was made to write an inhouse history of the Coordinating Council and the Community Service Council and, then, to discard those records for which space could not be found. The minutes and correspondence represented here were originally contained in ring binder notebooks which apparently were separated from the other Council records and retained. Most of the minutes for the Council itself deal with organizational matter, as the Council reactivated following World War II, rewrote its constitution, redefined its objectives, and sought new professional leadership to guide its welfare activities.

The papers of one of the Council's most significant committees -- the Interracial Committee -- provide the highlight of the collection. The Interracial Committee was formed by local white and Negro leaders in 1951 under the aegis of the Community Chest, which was the funding agency for the Coordinating Council. An earlier effort to organize a chapter of the Urban League had failed, and the Interracial Committee was created to serve many of those same functions, among the most important of which was the establishment of formal communications between the races in Birmingham. The Committee was dissolved in April, 1956 when the Community Chest withdrew its support. Included in the Interracial Committee Papers are minutes of organizational meetings, Executive Committee meetings, quarterly and annual meetings, and meetings of the Community Chest - Red Cross Executive Committee and Coordinating Council Board of Directors to discuss the dissolution of the Interracial Committee. The heart of the Interracial Committee was in its subcommittees and their work is represented in the minutes of the Subcommittees on Daycare, Employment Relations, Hospital Facilities, Housing, Negro Police, Personnel, Recreation, and Transportation, all of which reflect the role in race relations which the Committee sought to play in Birmingham.

The other Council committee represented in this collection is the Survey Committee. It was organized in 1951 to direct a survey of social and welfare needs in Jefferson County in order to determine how best to meet these needs. Included are Survey Committee minutes, correspondence relating to the organization and staffing of a survey, and a report on preliminary recommendations for the scope of a survey.

Finally, the Council Papers contain the minutes of the Birmingham Service Organization, a member agency of the Council set up to provide recreation and other services for military men visiting or stationed in Birmingham. These minutes provide documentation of this group's activities, at least on a yearly basis, between 1952 and 1964, when it was disbanded.

Size: linear feet/foot (4 boxes)

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared by: Robert G. Corley (1977) and Jacob Palmer (2003)

| File Number: | Description: |
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| 16.1.1 | Officers, Directors, and Members, May 8, 1951, 1950-1951, and undated (6 pages). |
| 16.1.2 | Constitution and By-laws, February 1950 to August 18, 1950 (15 pages). Contains original draft and changes made. |
| 16.1.3 | Minutes and Related Documents -- Executive Committee Meetings, July 7, 1950 - March 30, 1951 (5 pages). |
| 16.1.4 | Minutes and Related Documents -- Board Meetings, July 20, 1950 and January 31, 1951 (5 pages). |
| 16.1.5 | Minutes and Related Documents -- Opening Meeting, September 26, 1950 and Annual Meeting, May 8, 1951 (11 pages). |
| 16.1.6 | Reports and Correspondence to the President, W.J. Cabaniss, September 13, 1950 - May 1, 1951 (25 pages). Included are reports on Armed Forces Activities Committee (later Birmingham Service Organization), Adult Education Division, and the Family and Child Welfare Division. |

Correspondence from Florence S. Adams, executive director of the Community Chest, includes a blind copy of letter defending creation of the Inter-racial Committee against criticism from Eugene "Bull" Connor.

16.1.7 Annual Reports and Related Documents, 1939-1940 through 1961-1962 (50 pages).

Separation sheet regarding Annual Reports on microfilm, 1939-1962.

Annual Report, May, 1955.

Annual Report, 1956-1957.

"Report of Charles F. Zukoski, Jr. to Jefferson County Coordinating Council Membership on Retiring from Three Years as President," May, 1957.

"A Five Year Audit," 1960(?), typewritten carbon copy of a slide presentation on the Jefferson County Citizens Survey.

16.1.8 Executive Director's Working Draft, Program and Budget Proposals, July 1, 1950 (37 pages).

Includes proposed budget 1950-1951; financial report, May 1, 1949 - May 31, 1950; division reports; report of the Executive Director; and program suggestions.

16.1.9 Miscellaneous Memoranda, Correspondence and Reports, August 18, 1950-November 4, 1960 (61 pages).

Memorandum regarding proposed constitutional amendments, August 18, 1950.

Correspondence between Harold Braun, executive director, and Robert Durr regarding the formation of the Interracial Committee (Division), September 7, 1950 and September 11, 1950.

Memorandum regarding opening meeting for the 1950-51 Council year, September 19, 1950. This memorandum refers to sudden resignation of Harold Braun.

Agenda, Council meeting, September 26, 1950.

List of potential nominees for Interracial Committee, December 5, 1950.

Report on Council activities prepared by Roberta Morgan, executive director, November 4, 1960.

Two reports on budgeting, Summer, 1957 and September, 1957.

- 16.1.10 Scrapbook -- City of Birmingham, Welfare Department, Social Service Confidential Exchange, November 12, 1922 - March 19, 1942 (13 pages).
- 16.1.11 Scrapbook, May (?) 1948 - November 21, 1968 (79 pages).

Clippings are divided according to subject matter as follows: Jefferson County Coordinating Council, including the Community Service Council; Jefferson County Survey; Interracial Committee; Service to the Aged; Health Council; and Family Counseling.
- 16.1.12 Scrapbook -- Surplus Food Commodity Program, September 3, 1960 - July 16, 1963 (45 pages).

Note: A duplicate record of the Jefferson County Coordinating Council of Social Forces Papers is contained on microfilm (Drawer 1, 1.1).
- 16.2.13 Interracial Committee: Organization and Rules of Procedure, and Lists of Officers and Members, April 24, 1951 - 1956(?) (28 pages).
- 16.2.14 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Organizational Meetings, October 18, 1950 - September 18, 1951 (24 pages).

Included September 18, 1951 meeting in this group because the committee and its subcommittees are still defining goals and purposes.
- 16.2.15 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Executive Committee Meetings, May 1, 1951 - February 2, 1956 (26 pages).

Many of the key issues confronting Interracial Committee are covered in these meetings.
- 16.2.16 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Nominating Committee Meetings, December 28, 1953 - December 19, 1955 (7 pages).

Latter meetings reflect difficulty in securing chairman for 1956.

- 16.2.17 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Quarterly Meetings, May 16, 1952 - December 20, 1955 (24 pages).
- Includes reports of important subcommittee work.
- 16.2.18 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Annual Meetings, January 10, 1952 - February 22, 1955 (19 pages).
- 16.2.19 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Meetings of the Community Chest - Red Cross Executive Committee, Coordinating Council Board of Directors, and Interracial Committee, April 2, 1956 - April 13, 1956 (7 pages).
- All three items deal exclusively with decision by government agencies (Community Chest-Red Cross Executive Committee and Coordinating Council Board of Directors) to dissolve Interracial Committee.
- 16.2.20 Interracial Committee: Minutes and Related Documents -- Miscellaneous Minutes and Reports, June 23, 1953- March 2, 1956 (6 pages).
- Report of the Interracial Committee to annual meeting of the Jefferson County Coordinating Council, June 23, 1953.
 Notes of a meeting regarding proposed Institute of Race Relations, September 3, 1954.
 Notes on conference with Dr. Luther Foster, President, Tuskegee Institute, regarding Institute on Race Relations, October 15, 1954.
 Minutes, Special Call Meeting, Interracial Committee, March 2, 1956, to approve resolution calling for maintenance of law and order and deploring use of force to settle differences.
- 16.2.21 Interracial Committee: Correspondence, July 17, 1950- March 21, 1952. (16 pages)
- Correspondence deals mainly with the organization

of the Interracial Committee and the search for an executive secretary. There are also interesting items on the Housing and Police Subcommittees.

16.2.22 Interracial Committee: Executive Secretary Progress Reports, January 15, 1953 - August 12, 1953 (22 pages).

16.2.23 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Daycare, September 17, 1951 - October 12, 1955 (17 pages).

16.2.24 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee on Employment Relations, May 31, 1955 - November 23, 1955 (3 pages).

This group was able to do little more than study the problem.

16.2.25 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Hospital Facilities, February 5, 1952 - November 9, 1955 (7 pages).

Most of this subcommittee's work focuses on the admission of Negro doctors to the Jefferson County Medical Society, and the related concerns about permitting Negro doctors to practice in area hospitals.

16.2.26 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Housing, July 31, 1951- September 15, 1955 (12 pages).

Concern was primarily development of new Negro residential areas.

16.2.27 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Negro Police, January 17, 1952 - January 6, 1956 (24 pages).

Minutes reflect difficulty in persuading city officials to hire Negro police, although evidence gathered by subcommittee demonstrated extensive use and acceptance of Negro police by other Southern cities. Included is draft of the pamphlet on Negro police prepared by subcommittee.

- 16.2.28 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on personnel, September 28, 1951 - December 28, 1953 (9 pages).
- Work centered on securing full-time Negro Executive Secretary to handle day to day operation of the Committee.
- 16.2.29 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Recreation, September 18, 1951 - October 31, 1955 (21 pages).
- Minutes show the lack of recreational areas and facilities to have been a major problem in Negro communities.
- 16.2.30 Interracial Committee: Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee Minutes -- Subcommittee on Transportation, May 28, 1954 - December 20, 1955 (6 pages).
- Matters discussed include bus segregation ordinance and separate elevators.
- Note: A duplicate record of the Interracial Committee Papers is contained on microfilm (Drawer 1, 1.2)
- 16.3.31 Jefferson County Survey Committee: Correspondence, December 20, 1950 - January 24, 1952 (29 pages).
- Included are two letters which serve as minutes of Survey Committee meetings. Correspondence deals largely with getting survey organized and obtaining a qualified person to conduct it.
- 16.3.32 Jefferson County Survey Committee: Minutes and Related Documents, January 31, 1951 - October 29, 1954 (48 pages).
- Included are a report on preliminary recommendations for a survey, Steering Committee minutes, copies of correspondence which serve as minutes, recommendations of the Technical Committee, and reports on two local orphanages.

- 16.4.1 Birmingham Service Organization: Minutes and Related Documents -- Board of Directors, November 28, 1950 - October 22, 1952 (22 pages).

The Birmingham Service Organization was created to provide recreation and entertainment for armed service personnel visiting or stationed in Birmingham. It was a member agency, but not a division, of the Coordinating Council. File includes organizational material and the constitution of the BSO.

- 16.4.2 Birmingham Service Organization: Minutes and Related Documents -- Executive Committee, January 25, 1952 - November 11, 1954 (4 pages).

- 16.4.3 Birmingham Service Organization: Minutes and Related Documents -- Annual and Other meetings, January 9, 1952 - February 13, 1964 and undated (98 pages).

- 16.4.4 Birmingham Service Organization: Correspondence -- Virgil Rice, chairman, January 12, 1955 - January 19, 1956 (5 pages).

- 16.4.5 Birmingham Service Organization: Bulletins, undated (2 pages).

Bulletins offer recreational information and provide a map of downtown Birmingham.

