

National Urban League Records

A Register of the Collection in the Library of Congress Part VII

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: National Urban League Records. Part VII

Span Dates: 1900-1988

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1970-1978)

ID No.: MSS50351

Creator: National Urban League. Southern Regional Office

Extent: 12,600 items; 31 containers; 14 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: The National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, later the National Urban League, resulted from the 1910 merger of three welfare organizations in New York, N.Y. The records of the Southern Regional Office and regional affiliates include correspondence, minutes of meetings, speeches, reports, surveys, statistical data, financial and legal papers, scrapbooks, printed material, and other records relating to the programs and policies of the League and its affiliates chiefly in the field of human services and social change.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

(Search terms apply to entire collection)

Personal Names

Alston, Harry L., 1914-

Barnett, Claude, 1890---Correspondence.

Bell, William Y. (William Yancy)

Bethune, Mary McLeod, 1875-1955--Correspondence.

Coleman, Clarence D.

Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976--Correspondence.

Haynes, George Edmund, 1880-1960--Correspondence.

Hill, T. Arnold (Thomas Arnold), 1888-1947--Correspondence.

Holsey, Albon L., b. 1883--Correspondence.

Hope, John, 1868-1936--Correspondence.

Jones, Eugene Kinckle, 1885-1954--Correspondence.

Jordan, Vernon E. (Vernon Eulion), 1935-

Lee, J. R. E. (Joseph Robert Edward), 1864-1944--Correspondence.

Mays, Benjamin E. (Benjamin Elijah), 1894-1984--Correspondence.

Moton, Robert Russa, 1867-1940--Correspondence.

Nichols, Franklin O.

Parris, Guichard--Correspondence.

Puryear, Mahlon T.

Spaulding, C. C. (Charles Clinton), 1874-1952--Correspondence.

Tanneyhill, Ann--Correspondence.

Thomas, Clarence E.

Washington, Forrester B., b. 1887--Correspondence.

Wood, L. Hollingsworth (Levi Hollingsworth), 1874-1956--Correspondence.

Work, Monroe Nathan--Correspondence.

Young, Whitney M.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Atlanta School of Social Work.

National Urban League.

United States. Navy--Recruiting, enlistment, etc.

Subjects

Adoption.
African American veterans.
African Americans--Economic conditions.
African Americans--Employment.
African Americans--Social conditions.
African Americans--Southern States--Economic conditions.
African Americans--Southern States--Social conditions.
Armed Forces--Minorities.
Boycotts.
Business enterprises.
Citizenship.
Civil rights.
Community development.
Community health services.
Crime.
Depressions--1929--Southern States.
Depressions--1929.
Disaster relief.
Education.
Employees--Training of.
Health.
Housing.
Human services.
Industrial relations.
Juvenile delinquency.
Law enforcement.
Manual training.
Medical care.
Migration, Internal.
Older people.
Public welfare.
Race relations.
Segregation.
Social problems.
Social work with African Americans.
Urban renewal.
Vocational education.
Voting.
Women.
World War, 1939-1945--African Americans.
World War, 1939-1945--Veterans.

Related Names

Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976. Papers of Lester B. Granger.
Harrington, Oliver W. (Oliver Wendell), 1912- Drawings of Oliver W. Harrington.
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967. Papers of Langston Hughes (1941-1945)
Jackson, Nelson C. (Nelson Crews), 1907- Papers of Nelson C. Jackson.
Jordan, Vernon E. (Vernon Eulion), 1935- Papers of Vernon E. Jordan.
McGannon, Donald Henry, 1920- Papers of Donald Henry McGannon.
National Urban League. Office of Washington Operations. Records of the National Urban League. Office of Washington Operations (1961-1985)
National Urban League. Southern Regional Office. Records of the National Urban League Southern Regional Office (1900-1988)
Sims, Harold R., 1935- Papers of Harold R. Sims.

Tanneyhill, Ann. Papers of Ann Tanneyhill (1931-1986)
Thomas, Jesse O., b. 1885. Papers of Jesse O. Thomas.
Young, Whitney M. Papers of Whitney M. Young.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

Part VII of the records of the National Urban League consisting of files of the Southern Regional Office was donated to the Library of Congress by the League in December 1983 and July 1989.

Processing History:

Part VII of the records of the National Urban League was organized in 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the National Urban League in these records and other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Restrictions:

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian for information concerning these restrictions.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container number, National Urban League Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1919	National Urban League established a regional office in Atlanta, Ga.

Directors:

1919-1943	Jesse O. Thomas
1943-1944	Franklin O. Nichols
1944-1946	William Y. Bell, Jr.
1946-1953	Nelson C. Jackson
1953-1958	Harry L. Alston
1958-1962	Mahlon T. Puryear
1962-1974	Clarence D. Coleman
1974-	Clarence E. Thomas

Scope and Content Note

Part VII of the records of the National Urban League consisting of files of the Southern Regional Office spans the years 1900-1988, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1970-1978. These records primarily document the latter four years of Clarence D. Coleman's tenure as regional director, 1970-1974, and the first four years of his successor, Clarence E. Thomas. Included are correspondence, office memoranda, proposals, reports, speeches, press releases, photographs, contracts, financial records, organizational charts, directories, manuals, Urban League publications and other printed matter, minutes of meetings, awards, mailing lists, and other original and secondary materials. The records in Part VII are an addition to the records of the Southern Regional Office that were donated to the Library by the national office in 1966 and 1979 and processed as Part I of the records of that office. Part I, covering the period 1912-1979, was described in a separate register and now forms Part VI of the records of the National Urban League.

The Southern Regional Office, founded in 1919, was the oldest of the five administrative regions of the National Urban League and encompassed the largest geographical area. Its records comprising Part VII are broad in scope, reflecting the overall mission of the regional office to provide technical assistance and support services to local affiliates, to organize new Urban League affiliates, and to influence public and private policies on issues of concern to Urban League constituents. Through correspondence, memoranda, and reports, the records of Part VII also document the implementation of an organizational plan for Urban League regional offices that was recommended by the national office in a 1969 management study. For the most part, the records of Part VII illustrate the variety and expanse of special projects undertaken by the affiliate offices of the southern region. They are organized into an [Affiliate File](#) and a [General Office File](#).

The [Affiliate File](#) includes incoming and outgoing correspondence, office memoranda, reports, financial records, printed matter, contracts, and other records of the twenty-seven affiliate offices of the southern region as well as records received from some affiliates in other regions. The files generally contain copies of publications issued by the affiliate, financial audit records created by the national office, and records of on-site evaluations made by the regional office staff. Also in the Affiliate File are contract maintenance records of local projects funded by grants from the labor education advancement program and Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA). Programming done by the affiliate offices and represented in these files covers housing, voter education, nutrition, career training, crime prevention, and other areas of social concern.

The [General Office File](#) contains incoming and outgoing correspondence, office memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, notes, statistical data, photographs, and printed matter. Included are subject files on social, economic, and political issues monitored by the regional office, such as health education, employment training, minority contracting, disaster relief, voter education, and community empowerment. There are considerable records on the labor education advancement program and the women in nontraditional jobs project. Also in the General Office File are administrative housekeeping records, such as mission statements, annual reports, financial records, and some personnel material.

Photographs in the collection document programs sponsored by the regional office and affiliate offices, including conferences, workshops, new building dedications, alumni reunions, Equal Opportunity Day dinners, black elected officials, and disaster relief work. Also included are portrait photographs of officials and staff of the Southern Regional Office, the national office, and some affiliates. A listing of the photographs and their locations in the collection is included as an appendix to the register.

By 1972, during the latter years of Clarence D. Coleman's directorship, the supervisory roles and functions of the Southern Regional Office staff partly reflected the organizational concept for regional offices that had been recommended by the national office. Three functional areas had been identified: administration, program, and project management.

The administration area encompassed general matters relating to management of regional office personnel, budgets, conference arrangements, office management, contracts, and public relations. Most of the administrative functions of the Southern Regional Office were the responsibility of Kenneth B. M. Crooks, Jr., deputy director. Diana A. Ellison was responsible for public relations and fund-raising. C. Mumford was in charge of research, and Harvey J. Kerns was responsible for new affiliate development.

Providing programs which met the needs of local affiliates by promoting community organization, education, and job opportunities was the very core of the regional office's mission and its most visible function. Under Coleman, the overall direction of programming at the Southern Regional Office was supervised by four assistant directors who reported to the deputy regional director. R. Lyle was responsible for economic development and employment. Health and welfare programs were directed by Felton S. Alexander. Education programming was coordinated by the deputy director, Kenneth B. M. Crooks, Jr. The assistant director responsible for housing programs was B. Gruber.

Project management encompassed special projects, mostly grant-funded, that were managed by the regional office and usually subcontracted to local affiliates for implementation. These included the minority officers' enrollment assistance project, Education Policy Information Center, allied health project, Rural Development Center, minority business opportunities project, Project Employ, and the labor education advancement program, among others.

In October 1974, after having served twelve years as regional director, Coleman was selected to be deputy executive director for field operations in the Urban League's national office in New York City. Clarence E. Thomas was appointed to be Coleman's successor as the new southern regional director by Urban League Executive Director Vernon E. Jordan. Thomas had been director of the Midwest Regional Office in St. Louis since 1971, and prior to that deputy director since 1965. Records of Thomas's tenure as regional director reflect several functional changes and personnel reassignments to bring the regional office further into compliance with the organizational plan that had been recommended by the national office in 1969. Kenneth B. M. Crooks, Jr., continued as deputy director. Reporting to him were four assistant regional directors: Felton S. Alexander, for health and social welfare programs; Harold E. Barrett, for economic development and employment programs; Diana A. Ellison, for research and communications; and Heman M. Sweatt, for housing programs. Crooks was responsible for education programs.

Organization of the Papers

Part VII of the collection is arranged in two series:

- [Southern Regional Office Affiliate File, 1962-1984](#)
- [Southern Regional Office General Office File, 1900-1988](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX VII: 1-18

Series

Part VII: Southern Regional Office Affiliate File, 1962-1984, n.d.

Correspondence, office memoranda, reports, financial records, printed matter, and contracts.
Arranged alphabetically by affiliate name and chronologically therein.

BOX VII: 18-31

Part VII: Southern Regional Office General Office File, 1900-1988

Correspondence, office memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, notes, statistical data, photographs, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by name or topic and chronologically therein.

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BOX VII: 6	Nov. 1978-Apr. 1979, n.d. (2 folders) Knoxville, Tenn. Sept. 1972-Mar. 1976 (7 folders)
BOX VII: 7	Mar. 1976-June 1979, n.d. (8 folders) Lexington-Fayette County, Ky. Jan. 1976-Sept. 1977

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Part VII: Southern Regional Office General Office File, 1900-1988

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Career Training and Economic Resources Department, 1980-1981, n.d.

Center for Rural Action! n.d.

Central file, n.d.

Central Regional Office, 1977-1978, n.d.

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Directories and lists, 1978-1980, 1988, n.d.

Directory of Special Projects, 1980

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Eugene K. Jones Vista Training Center, Atlanta, Ga., 1967, n.d.

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	Health Services Act, 1977
	Internships, 1979, n.d.
	Issues and answers meeting, 1977
	Job Corps Center sponsorship kit, 1977-1978, n.d.
	Jordan, Vernon E., 1973
	Labor Advisory Council, National Urban League, 1980-1981, n.d.
	Labor Department, 1977-1980
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	National Commission for Manpower Policy fellowships program, 1977-1978
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	National Youth Participant Observer Committee, 1977-1978
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	New Directions in Programming seminar, 1981, n.d.
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	Solidarity Day, 1981
	Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy, Clark College, Atlanta, Ga., 1978
	Southern Coalition for Full Employment, 1977
	Southern Regional Conference on Employment Displacement in Education, Atlanta, Ga., 1973
	Southern Regional Conference on Revenue Sharing and Executive Reorganization, Atlanta, Ga., 1971, n.d.
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