
Guide to the Lockheed Labor Relations Collection

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives

Title: Lockheed Labor Relations Collection

Creator: Lockheed Aircraft Corporation

Identifier/Call Number: URB.LLR

Extent: 2.84 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1942-1946

Abstract: The *Lockheed Labor Relations Collection* documents aspects of the Southern California Aircraft Industry's involvement with the National War Labor Board during World War II. The collection provides a historical summary of the West Coast Airframe Committee, as well as wage rates and job classification standards.

Language of Material: English

Historical Note:

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation is an aerospace development company known since 1995 as Lockheed Martin. The history of the company dates back to 1912 with the establishment of the Alco Hydro-Aeroplane Company in San Francisco. It was renamed the Loughhead Aircraft Manufacturing Company in 1916 and relocated to Santa Barbara. In 1926 the company moved to Hollywood and changed its name to the Lockheed Aircraft Company, then relocated to Burbank in 1928. The company changed names again in 1932 and became the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

In 1943 the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation organized a secret division of engineers under the direction of Clarence "Kelly" Johnson to develop the first American jet fighter for the U.S. Army's Air Tactical Service Command. The covert team adopted the code name "Skunk Works," after the dilapidated factory in Al Capp's comic strip, *L'il Abner*. The division has operated under different names throughout the years, including the Lockheed Advanced Development Company, Lockheed Advanced Development Projects, and Lockheed Advanced Development Programs; today it is known officially as Skunk Works and is owned by the Lockheed Martin Corporation.

As an aircraft company, Lockheed's labor and wage issues fell under the jurisdiction of the National War Labor Board during World War II. In an effort to standardize California aircraft plants, the National War Labor Board created the West Coast Airframe Committee, which included the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and was responsible for carrying out the board's directive orders. In 1946, the National War Labor Board was discontinued and labor-arbitration duties returned to the National Labor Relations Board.

Scope and Contents

The *Lockheed Labor Relations Collection* documents aspects of the Southern California Aircraft Industry's involvement with the National War Labor Board during World War II. The collection provides a historical summary of the West Coast Airframe Committee, as well as wage rates and job classification standards.

The West Coast Airframe Companies included: Boeing Aircraft Company, Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, Douglas Aircraft Company, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, North American Aviation Incorporated, Northrop Aircraft Incorporated, Ryan Aeronautical Company, Vega Aircraft Corporation, and Vultee Aircraft Incorporated.

The labor unions involved included: the International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW-CIO); the National Union, United Aircraft Welders of America; and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

The collection consists of directive orders and rulings of the National War Labor Board, correspondence, post-hearing briefs, case number briefs, union applications and petitions, and transcripts of proceedings before the board's West Coast Airframe Committee. The records are arranged alphabetically.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Lockheed Advanced Development Company.

Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Processing Information:

Holli Teltoe, 2015

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Documents

Box 1, Folder 1	Applications of West Coast Airframe Companies Orders, 1943-1946
Box 1, Folder 2	Brief of Southern California Aircraft Industry Committee, 1944 August 15
Box 1, Folder 3	Case No. 13-375-D: Southern California Aircraft Industry, et al, and United Automobile Workers, et al., 1944 November 22
Box 1, Folder 4	Copies of National War Labor Board Ruling of 1945 May 14 Extending Ruling of 1945 March 3
Box 1, Folder 5	Directive Applied to Dallas Official File, 1945 March 2
Box 1, Folder 6	Directive Clause Relative to Beginners Applied to T and O Employees, Official File, 1945 March 2
Box 1, Folder 7	Directive Order Official Copy, 1943 March 3
Box 1, Folder 8	Directive Order (Watkins Panel) Official File, 1945 March 2
Box 1, Folder 9	Executive Bulletin No. 50, 1943 April 1
Box 1, Folder 10	Exhibits Presented by Truck Drivers Union, Local 208
Box 1, Folder 11	Form 10 Application - Official File, Engineering Draftsman and Research Lab. Analyst, 1945-1946
Box 1, Folder 12	Form 10 Exhibits - Mercer's Office
Box 1, Folder 13	General Offer No. 31: Wage and Salary Rate Schedules, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 14	IAM Aircraft Admitted Official Exhibits
Box 1, Folder 15	IAM Aircraft Admitted Official Exhibits, 1944 July 18
Box 2, Folder 1	Labor's Monthly Survey, American Federation of Labor, August 1944
Box 2, Folder 2	Master - Application to WCAC for Adjustment of Duties in Applying WCAC Orders to Dallas Base, 1943
Box 2, Folder 3	Mercer, S.R. - CIO, Department 90-64, 1943
Box 2, Folder 4	Mercer, S.R. - CIO, Department 90-64, 1943
Box 2, Folder 5	Mercer, S.R. - CIO, Department 90-64, 1943-1944
Box 2, Folder 6	Mercer, S.R. - CIO, Department 90-64, 1943-1944
Box 2, Folder 7	Mercer, S.R. - CIO, Department 90-64, 1943-1944
Box 2, Folder 8	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 9	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 10	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 11	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 12	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 13	Mercer, S.R. - IAM, 1944
Box 2, Folder 14	National War Labor Board Directive Order No. 31, 1943-1945
Box 3, Folder 1	National War Labor Board Directive Order Reports, 1942-1943
Box 3, Folder 2	National War Labor Board Directive Order Reports, 1943
Box 3, Folder 3	National War Labor Board Manual of Decisions
Box 3, Folder 4	National War Labor Board, Verbatim Transcript: Executive Session - Division A, 1945 January 10, 11
Box 3, Folder 5	Post Hearing Brief for the Unions, 1944 August 1
Box 3, Folder 6	Watkins Panel Hearing Briefs and Reports, ca. 1942
Box 3, Folder 7	Watkins Panel Hearing Briefs and Reports, ca. 1942
Box 3, Folder 8	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 4
Box 3, Folder 9	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 5
Box 3, Folder 10	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 11

Box 3, Folder 11	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 12
Box 4, Folder 1	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 13
Box 4, Folder 2	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 14
Box 4, Folder 3	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 18
Box 4, Folder 4	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 23
Box 4, Folder 5	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 24
Box 4, Folder 6	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 February 25
Box 4, Folder 7	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 4
Box 4, Folder 8	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 5
Box 4, Folder 9	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 6
Box 4, Folder 10	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 11
Box 4, Folder 11	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 12
Box 4, Folder 12	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 17
Box 5, Folder 1	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 18
Box 5, Folder 2	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 19
Box 5, Folder 3	West Coast Airframe Companies, and United Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 24
Box 5, Folder 4	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 25
Box 5, Folder 5	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 March 26
Box 5, Folder 6	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 7
Box 5, Folder 7	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 13, 14
Box 5, Folder 8	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 20
Box 5, Folder 9	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 21
Box 5, Folder 10	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 27
Box 5, Folder 11	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 28
Box 5, Folder 12	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 May 29
Box 5, Folder 13	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 3
Box 5, Folder 14	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 4
Box 6, Folder 1	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 5

Box 6, Folder 2	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 10
Box 6, Folder 3	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 11
Box 6, Folder 4	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 17
Box 6, Folder 5	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 21
Box 6, Folder 6	West Coast Airframe Companies, and Automobile Workers, et al, before the National War Labor Board, 1944 June 22
Box 6, Folder 7	Wilson, R. D., Union Petitions, 1943
Box 6, Folder 8	Wilson, R. D., Union Petitions, 1943
Box 6, Folder 9	Wilson, R. D., Union Petitions, 1943-1944
Box 6, Folder 10	Wilson, R. D., Union Petitions, 1944
Folder 1	Directive Applied to Dallas Official File, 1945 March 2
Folder 2	Master Application to WCAC for Adjustment of Duties in Applying WCAC Orders to Dallas Base, 1943
Folder 3	Mercer, S. R. - CIO Department 90-64, 1943
Folder 4	Wilson, R. D. - Union Petitions, 1944