Inventory of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee Records

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Collection number: See series descriptions for LP numbers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee records,
Date (inclusive): 1945-2008
Collection number: See series descriptions for LP numbers.
Creator: Assembly Industrial Relations Committee, 1945-1968
Assembly Labor Relations Committee, 1969-1976
Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Relations Committee, 1977-1978
Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs Committee, 1979-1980
Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, 1981-2013
Extent: 56 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The Assembly Labor and Employment Committee Records consist of 56 cubic feet of material reflecting the activities of the committee. Although the name of the committee changed several times, its primary mandate remained the same: to introduce and investigate legislation on issues of labor and employment.

Physical location: California State Archives
Language: English.

Access
While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], [Name of Committee] Records, LP[number]:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The State Archives received these records in accordance with California Government Code 9080(b) which requires legislative committees to transfer their records to the State Archives when they are no longer needed by the committee.

Alternative Forms of Material Available
Microfilm copies of bill files are available at the California State Archives for legislative sessions 1977-1984.

**Committee History**

The first Assembly committee dedicated to legislation relating to issues of employment was created on Saturday, January 10, 1880. On that day, Assembly Member Braunhart “moved to amend Rule Nineteen by adding a subdivision, to be numbered thirty-eight, to read: A Committee on Labor and Capital.” (Assembly Journal, January 10, 1880, p. 45). Although the name of the committee has changed several times, the basic mandate has remained the same for well over a century. In every legislative session since 1880, there has been an Assembly committee dedicated to the various issues of labor and employment.

After 1937, the committee’s mandate included specific mention of legislation pertaining to the Labor Code that had been created by Chapter 90 of the Statutes of 1937. In 1945, legislators changed the name of the committee to the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee. The committee continued to be assigned all legislation relating to employment issues. According to the 1968 Assembly Journal, HR438 stated that the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee “is assigned the subject matter in the Labor Code, uncodified laws relating to labor and industrial relations, and other matters relating to industrial relations.” (July 11, 1968, p. 5709).

In 1969, the name of the committee was again changed, to the Assembly Labor Relations Committee. According to the 1969 Legislative Handbook, HR414 stated that the committee “is assigned the subject matter in the Labor Code, uncodified laws relating to labor and industrial relations, and other matters relating to labor relations.” (August 4, 1969, p. 7394) In 1977, the Committee changed its name - but not its basic purpose - to the Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs Committee.

In 1981, legislators changed the name to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. The jurisdiction of the Labor and Employment Committee included discrimination in employment, industrial safety - including workplace dangers created by toxic substances, employment development, and public job programs.

For a complete list of standing committee chairs, please see Appendix A in Additional Information.

**Additional Information**

Appendix A: List of Committee Chairs

**Scope and Content**

The Assembly Labor and Employment Committee Records consist of 56 cubic feet of material reflecting the activity of the committee (under various names) in introducing and investigating legislation related to the California Labor Code. The records cover the years 1945 - 2010. The records are organized into the following records series: Bill Files, Hearing Files, Subject Files, Administrative Files, History Reports, Correspondence and Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) Oversight Hearing Files. Although the committee began in the 1880s, the California State Archives did not receive records from the committee until 1945, and the bulk of the records are from 1968-2008.

Among the bill files, hearing files and subject files researchers will find information on labor related topics such as safety in the workplace, unemployment, fair wages, the underground economy, and industrial accident investigations. Other subjects of particular interest to researchers may include debates on immigration reform, the handling of toxic materials, regulation of labor unions and the rights of union members - especially the rights of public employees to unionize - and the treatment of agricultural workers. Beginning in the 1960s, the committee regularly contemplated remedies to gender, ethnic or racial discrimination by employers. At the same time, the committee considered programs that would help employ women, high school drop-outs, and minorities in more fields or better paying jobs. There is considerable material available in the hearing and subject files regarding Governor George Deukmejian’s proposal to close Cal-OSHA in 1987, including many letters from union members and other constituents as well as newspaper editorials. In addition, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board Oversight Hearing Files contain reports, testimony and correspondence documenting the ALRB’s handling of labor disputes.

**Accruals**

Further accruals expected.

**Subjects**

Labor unions
Agricultural laborers
Industrial accidents
California. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Safety and health at work

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

Terry B. Friedman Papers
Richard E. Floyd Papers
Bill Greene Papers
Tom Hayden Papers
Bill Lockyer Papers
Leo T. McCarthy Papers
Wally Knox Papers
Darrel Steinberg Papers
Paul Koretz Papers
Sandre Swanson Papers
Senate Industrial Relations Committee Records

**Oral History**
Series 1 Bill Files 1967-2008

See LP numbers below

Physical Description: 669 file folders and 1 videotape

Alternative Form of Materials Available

Microfilm copies of bill files are available for the years 1977-1984 where indicated with MF before the LP number.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically bill number.

Access Information

Access to audiovisual materials requires the production of use copies.

Scope and Content Note

Bill files created by the committee may include analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements. The committee analyzed any bill affecting the Labor Code. Of particular interest are those bills relating to the regulation of Cal-OSHA, workplace safety - including the handling of toxic materials in the workplace, investigations of industrial accidents and discussions of immigration, unemployment and the underground economy. Some bills of note include AB119 (1969), a controversial “professional strikebreakers” bill; AB1533 (1975), on farm labor disputes; and AB1 (1983-1984), to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Researchers may also want to examine AB13 (1993-1994), which banned smoking in public workplaces; SB733 (1993-1994), which stated that job centers must first verify the legal residency of their clients; or AB1001 (1999-2000), which added sexual orientation to the categories of discrimination prohibited under the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Although not all of these bills passed, the bill files often indicate intense debate surrounding these issues.

Note: The California State Archives received only a few bill files for the year 1970.

Assembly Industrial Relations Committee, 1967-1969

1967: AB157-AB2369, ACR50, HR100, SB736-1491 (2ff) LP183:50-51
1968: AB158-AB805 (1ff) LP183:64
1968: AB820-AB2090, SB171-SB1070 (1ff) LP183:65
1969: AB119-AB2220 (4ff) LP183:68-71
1969: SB197-SB1192 (1ff) LP183:72
1970: AB22-AB2501 (2ff) LP183:84-85
1970: SB678, SB1033, SCR44 (1ff) LP183:84-86

Assembly Labor Relations Committee, 1971-1976

1971: AB30-AB2845, ACR101, AJR2 (3ff) LP184:1-3
1971: SB40-SB1207, SJR31 (1ff) LP184:4
1972: AB9-AB2388, ACA93 (5ff) LP184:5-9
1972: SB381-SB1499, SCR54, SCR56, SJR18 (1ff) LP184:10
1975-1976: SB1-AB1xxx (1ff) LP210:27

Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs, 1977-1980


Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, 1981-2008

1985-1986: SB11-SB2572 (9ff) LP323:23-31

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1985-1986: SB11-SB2572 (9ff) LP323:23-31
Series 1 **Bill Files 1967-2008**

See series descriptions for LP numbers.

Series 2 **Hearing Files 1958-2008**

- Physical Description: 455 file folders, 38 volumes, 77 audiotapes, 2 videotapes, photographs
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically by date of hearing.
- **Access Information**
  Access to audiovisual materials requires the production of use copies.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Hearing files for the committee may contain agendas, audiotapes, transcripts, testimony, background, and working files for regular session hearings as well as interim hearings and select joint hearings. Audiotapes and videotapes have been separated to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are in the hearing files to alert the researcher to the existence of these tapes. Also found within this series are hearing files for the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations for the years of 1995 and 1996 that were kept by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.
  Of potential interest are those files pertaining to bills such as AB607 (1959) on collective bargaining for state employees; HR245 (1961) on employment of the handicapped; AB865 (1966) on collective bargaining for hospital employees; AB1533 (1975) on collective bargaining by agricultural employees; or AB1 (1983) on discrimination based on sexual orientation. Other potentially significant hearings were held on October 28, 1997, to review amusement ride safety and on November 14, 2001, to review the impact of terrorism on California labor. In addition, researchers may want to examine hearings from the late 1970s on consumer abuse in low-income areas, licensing exams for various professions, unemployment and job creation programs. Also of interest are hearings in the late 1960s and early 1970s on protective labor laws for women, and hearings in the 1980s on workplace safety issues such as video display terminal safety.
  For a list of hearing dates and topics, see Appendix B in Additional Series Information.

**Additional Series Information**

- **Appendix B: List of Hearing Files**

Series 3 **Subject Files 1965-1990**

- Physical Description: 83 files folders, 2 volumes
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged alphabetically by subject title.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Subject Files created by the committee may include correspondence, background materials, notes, reports, newspaper clippings, and subcommittee information. Of particular note are those files related to the intense debates over the proposed shut down of Cal-OSHA under the Deukmejian Administration in 1987. Researchers may also be interested in files related to the underground economy in the construction industry, the regulation of work hazards, toxic material handling, apprenticeship programs and debates over pensions for public employees. Committee consultant files provide insight into such issues as racism in construction unions in the late 1960s, the grape strike and grape boycott of 1975 and the many debates over a labor relations law for farm workers in the 1970s and 1980s.
  For a list of Subject Files, see Appendix C in Additional Series Information.

**Additional Series Information**

- **Appendix C: List of Subject Files**
Series 4 Administrative Files 1959-1986

Physical Description: 21 file folders, 1 volume
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by topic.
Scope and Content Note
Administrative files created by the committees may include memoranda, notes, reports, schedules, rules, subcommittee information, questions for witnesses, and meeting agendas. Planning files include proposed schedules, proposed travel itineraries and potential witnesses for committee hearings. Legislative summaries may include very brief descriptions of each bill heard by the committee in any given session. These files will indicate to a researcher how the committee was organized and how it functioned.

For a list of Administrative Files, see Appendix D in Additional Series Information.

Appendix D: List of Administrative Files

LP340:731-740 Series 5 Correspondence 1997-2005
Physical Description: 10 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date.
Scope and Content Note
This committee's correspondence files consist of the Chairman's correspondence from 1997 to 2005 with state and local agencies and departments, state legislators, and constituents on subjects relating to bill hearings, bill amendments, administrative issues, information requests and constituent concerns.

Physical Description: 4 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date.
Scope and Content Note
The committee's history reports contain bill scheduling charts, hearing results, reports of standing committees, author's amendments and committee hearing action reports relating to bill histories. Committee hearing action reports include measure numbers and a description of the actions taken.
Physical Description: 38 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged by ALRB case number.

Scope and Content Note

The Agricultural Labor Relations Board Oversight Hearing Files consist of correspondence, background material, reports, and testimony documenting a charge made by the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO that San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc. had engaged in unfair labor practices. According to the charge, San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc. failed to bargain collectively in good faith and interfered with employee rights guaranteed in the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975. The origin for this matter was an election conducted among the agricultural employees of San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc., LCL Farms, Inc., and Ace Tomato Company, Inc., in which the United Farm Workers of America was selected as their representative. San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc., LCL Farms, Inc., and Ace Tomato Company, Inc. objected to the results, claiming that the United Farm Workers of America had engaged in a campaign of violence, threats of violence, property damage, and other forms of intimidation and coercion that interfered with the employees' free choice. The hearing was held on June 15, 2010, at the ALRB regional office in Visalia.

Case No. 93-CE-38-VI: San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc., 2010 (5ff) LP340:745-749
Case No. 89-RC-4-VI: San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc. Election Documents, 2010 (12ff) LP340:750-761
Case No. 89-RC-5-VI: Ace Tomato Company, Inc Election Documents, 2010 (5ff) LP340:762-766
Case No. 93-CE37-VI and Case No. 93-CE-38-VI General Compliance Records, 2010 (5ff) LP340:781-785