
Inventory of the Robert West Beyers papers

Processed by Dale Reed.

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Processed by:

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Collection Summary

Title: Robert West Beyers papers

Dates: 1962-1969

Collection Number: 2014C42

Creator: Beyers, Robert West, 1931-2002.

Collection Size: 5 manuscript boxes (2 linear feet)

Repository: Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford, California 94305-6010

Abstract: Speeches and writings, correspondence, notes, press releases, memoranda, and printed matter, relating to work of the Council of Federated Organizations (composed of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and other organizations) in carrying out a voter registration drive among black citizens of Mississippi in 1964, involvement of Northern college student volunteers, and attendant violence.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Languages: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Robert West Beyers papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives. Material in the papers was previously a part of the New Left Collection, Hoover Institution Archives.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog Searchworks at <http://searchworks.stanford.edu/>. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in Searchworks is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Related Materials

New Left collection, Hoover Institution Archives

1931 Born, New York City

1953 B.A., Cornell University

1954-1955 Public relations director, U.S. National Student Association

1956-1961 Assistant managing editor, University of Michigan News Service
1961-1990 Director, Stanford University News Service
1964 Volunteer communications coordinator, Mississippi Summer Project
1990-1995 Volunteer associate editor, Pacific News Service
2002 Died, Palo Alto, California

Scope and Content of Collection

While Robert W. Beyers had a long and varied journalistic career as director of the Stanford University News Service and in other capacities, his papers in the Hoover Institution Archives are narrowly focused on a single episode in that career, the Mississippi Summer Project of 1964. The project was sponsored by a number of civil rights organizations, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee foremost among them, grouped together as the Council of Federated Organizations. Its goal was to secure voter registration of black Mississippians and otherwise to promote improvement of their condition in what was widely considered to be the most thoroughly segregated state in the country.

The project depended heavily on college student volunteers from the North to carry out this work. Approximately forty Stanford University student volunteers participated in the project. Beyers, taking leave from his job, joined them as volunteer communications coordinator for four weeks in June and July 1964. The project predictably elicited strong opposition from the Mississippi power structure, including local law enforcement officers. Incidents of harassment, arrest, intimidation and violence culminated in the murder of three civil rights workers. Although concrete immediate achievements of the Mississippi Summer Project were limited, it did draw national attention to the condition of blacks in the Deep South and to the broader national civil rights movement.

The collection includes correspondence, internal memoranda, circulated materials and press clippings, documenting the project from a number of perspectives. These include the Stanford University community; the Council of Federated Organizations on the scene in Mississippi; the white Mississippian response, as seen from local newspaper coverage; and the national public reaction, as reflected in national press coverage.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Civil rights--United States.

African Americans--Civil rights.

Council of Federated Organizations (U.S.)

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

Box 1

Personal File, 1963-1966.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, writings, notes and personal documents generated by Robert W. Beyers relating to the Mississippi Summer Project

Box/Folder 1 : 1

Mississippi Summer Project data sheet, 1964

Box 1

Correspondence

Box/Folder 1 : 2

1964

Box/Folder 1 : 3

1965

Box/Folder 1 : 4

Undated

Box/Folder 1 : 5

Speech material, 1964-1965.

Scope and Content Note

Drafts and notes for talks at Stanford University and in the San Francisco Bay Area about Mississippi Summer Project

Box/Folder 1 : 6

Press releases, 1963-1965.

Scope and Content Note

Drafts and final press releases for Council of Federated Organizations in Mississippi and for Stanford University News Service

Box/Folder 1 : 7	Incident reports, 1964 Scope and Content Note Draft and final reports of incidents of violence and discrimination associated with the Mississippi Summer Project. Includes interview summaries by Beyers and affidavits
Box/Folder 1 : 8 Box/Folder 1 : 9 Box 2	Mississippi notes, 1964-1966 Miscellaneous notes, undated Stanford University File, 1963-1969. Scope and Content Note Circulated materials, newsletters and radio broadcast transcripts relating to Stanford University student participation in the Mississippi Summer Project
Box/Folder 2 : 1	General, 1964-1969. Scope and Content Note Circulars, lists and newsletters emanating from the Stanford University and Bay Area community about the Mississippi Summer Project. Includes lists of participating Stanford students and newsletters of Bay Area support groups
Box/Folder 2 : 2	Luke Kabat writings, 1964 Scope and Content Note Circulated typescript and mimeographed letters by Kabat, a Stanford student volunteer in Mississippi
Box/Folder 2 : 3	KZSU (Stanford University), 1963-1965. Scope and Content Note Radio broadcast transcripts and reports about coverage of civil rights activities in the South
Box 2-3	Council of Federated Organizations File, 1963-1965. Scope and Content Note Circulars, reports, memoranda and other issuances by the Council of Federated Organizations relating to the Mississippi Summer Project
Box/Folder 2 : 4 Box/Folder 2 : 5	Prospectus, leaflets and announcement of Mississippi Summer Project, 1964 Background studies, 1963-1964. Scope and Content Note Includes "Outline for Projected Black Belt Program," "The General Condition of the Mississippi Negro," "The Mississippi Legislature" and "On Arkansas in General"
Box/Folder 2 : 6	Circulars, internal memoranda and reports relating to progress of the Mississippi Summer Project, 1964-1965
Box/Folder 2 : 7	Incident reports of violence and discrimination associated with the Mississippi Summer Project, 1964-1965
Box/Folder 3 : 1	Freedom Schools reports and circulars, 1964 Scope and Content Note Includes Southern Teaching Program report
Box/Folder 3 : 2	Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Press releases, circulars and resolutions, 1964-1965. Scope and Content Note Includes report, "Mississippi: How Negro Democrats Fared"

Box 3-5	Printed Matter, 1962-1966. Scope and Content Note Flyers, leaflets, pamphlets, printed articles, clippings and other printed matter relating to the Mississippi Summer Project and civil rights in the South
Box/Folder 3 : 3	Congress of Racial Equality issuances, 1962-1965
Box/Folder 3 : 4	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issuances, 1964-1966
Box/Folder 3 : 5	National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee issuances, 1963-1965
Box/Folder 3 : 6	Southern Christian Leadership Conference issuances, 1964-1966
Box/Folder 3 : 7	Southern Conference Educational Fund issuances, 1964
Box/Folder 3 : 8	Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee issuances, 1964-1966
Box/Folder 3 : 9	Miscellaneous civil rights organization issuances, 1964-1966
Box/Folder 3 : 10	United States government issuances (mainly by the Department of Justice), 1963-1965
Box/Folder 3 : 11	Mississippi Black Paper (documentary publication), 1965
Box/Folder 3 : 12	Sequoia (Stanford University literary magazine). Special issue focusing on the Mississippi Summer Project, 1965
Box/Folder 3 : 13	Tucker, Shirley, Mississippi from Within, 1965
Box/Folder 3 : 14	Printed miscellany, 1964-1966. Scope and Content Note Includes anti-communist circulars, special issue of Jet on Mississippi, and journal article reprints
Box 3-4	National press coverage of the Mississippi Summer Project and civil rights in the South
Box/Folder 3 : 15	1962-1963
Box/Folder 3 : 16	1964 January-June
Box/Folder 4 : 1	1964 July-August
Box/Folder 4 : 2	1964 September-December
Box/Folder 4 : 3	1965
Box/Folder 4 : 4	1966
Box/Folder 4 : 5	Undated
Box 4	Stanford and Bay Area press coverage of the Mississippi Summer Project and civil rights in the South
Box/Folder 4 : 6	1963
Box/Folder 4 : 7	1964
Box/Folder 5 : 1	1965-1966 and undated
Box 5	Mississippi press coverage of the Mississippi Summer Project and civil rights in the South
Box/Folder 5 : 2	1963
Box/Folder 5 : 3	1964 March-June
Box/Folder 5 : 4-5	1964 July
Box/Folder 5 : 6	1964 August-November
Box/Folder 5 : 7	1965-1966