Register of the Los Angeles Teachers Union Collection, 1925-1982

Collection number: MSS 047

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research

Los Angeles, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Los Angeles Teachers Union Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1925-1982

Collection number: MSS 047

Extent: 2 boxes
1 linear foot

Repository: Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Abstract: Materials pertaining to the Los Angeles Federation of Teachers and its activities primarily during the 1940s and 1950s.

Language: English.

Provenance
This collection was compiled from materials found at the Library.

Access
The collection is available for research only at the Library’s facility in Los Angeles. The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Researchers are encouraged to call or email the Library indicating the nature of their research query prior to making a visit.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Los Angeles Teachers Union Collection, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles, California.
Organizational History
The Los Angeles Teachers Union Collection is a found collection that appears to be materials collected by the Los Angeles Federation of Teachers or one of its officers.

The Los Angeles Federation of Teachers [LAFT] was founded in the 1930's as Local 430 of the American Federation of Teachers, CIO [AFT]. During the McCarthy Era, the LAFT was expelled from the AFT for being too radical or "communist controlled." Several members of the union were later blacklisted including the long-time vice president, Abe Minkus, and newsletter editor Frances Eisenberg.

Scope and Content
This collection contains periodicals, clippings, and subject files. Most of the material relates to the blacklisting of its members during the McCarthy Era. There are no minutes or official union documents in the collection, except for an incomplete run of its newsletter, The Los Angeles Teacher, and one notebook of notes from meetings of the Teachers' Defense Committee.

Arrangement
The collection is divided into two series: 1. Subject Files, and 2. Periodicals.

Title: Frances Robman Eisenberg: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1928-1995
Physical Description: 4 boxes and 1 oversize box
Title: Abraham Minkus Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1945-1983
Physical Description: 4 boxes
Title: Florence Sloat Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1959-1991
Physical Description: 1 box
Title: Thomas Fagan Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1989-1990
Physical Description: 3 folders, 5 audio cassettes
Title: Greg Goldin Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1977
Physical Description: 1 box, 15 audio cassettes
Title: Ellen Chase Verdries Collection (Interviews/Paper): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1992-1996
Physical Description: 1 (half) box
Title: Jean Benson Wilkinson Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1953-1955
Physical Description: 1 folder
Title: Dorothy Doyle Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers In Los Angeles,
Date: 1986
Physical Description: 1 audio tape
Title: Clipping Collection: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,
Date: 1967-1982
Physical Description: 1 folder

Physical Description: 11 folders
Scope and Content Note
This series contains hearing transcripts, handwritten notes, correspondence, photocopies, legal documents, and clippings. Of special note is the photocopy of the transcripts from the Canoga Park High School Hearing on the "subversive" tendencies of teachers Blanche Bettington and Frances Eisenberg, and the Teachers' Defense Committee Meeting Notes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Los Angeles Federation of Teachers, 1948-1957, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Canoga Park High School Hearing - Blanche Bettington and Frances Eisenberg, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>Dilworth Act, 1955, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Michael Kiwolsky - Handwritten Notes [by Minkus?], n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Florence Sloat - Suspension, 1959, 1962, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6-1/7</td>
<td>Teachers’ Defense Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>1954-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>Meeting Notes, 1959-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Clippings</td>
</tr>
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<td>2/2</td>
<td>1933, 1947-1959</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td>1961-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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</table>

### Series 2. Periodicals, 1939-1980

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes an incomplete run of the LAFT’s newsletter, *The Los Angeles Teacher* (1946-1956), and the earlier (and later) *The Union Teacher*. Also included are publications of the California Teachers Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others. The Miscellaneous Periodicals folder includes copies of *The Nation*, and publications of the NEA [National Educational Association], the Federation against Test Oath Legislation, the Affiliated Teacher Organizations of Los Angeles [ATOLA], the Humanists, and the like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>The California Teacher [California Federation of Teachers], 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>The Los Angeles Teacher [Los Angeles Federation of Teachers, Local 430] -- incomplete run, 1946-1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>The Open Forum [American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California], 1954, 1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>The Union Teacher [Los Angeles American Federation of Teachers] -- scattered issues, 1939-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Publications, 1951-1980</td>
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