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Collection number: 226

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Hollywood Studio Strike Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1944-1985 bulk 1944-1948

Collection number: 226

Extent: 4 boxes (2 linear ft.)

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: The Hollywood studio strike began on March 12, 1945 when the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU) went on strike to protest the studios' delay in granting a contract renewal for interior decorators despite opposition from the larger, more established International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). The collection consists of materials dealing with the studio strike of 1945 and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE).

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Gift of Screen Publicists Guild, 1945.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Hollywood Studio Strike Collection (Collection 226). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

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Biography
The Hollywood studio strike began on March 12, 1945 when the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU) went on strike to protest the studios' delay in granting a contract renewal for interior decorators despite opposition from the larger, more established International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). The collection consists of materials dealing with the studio strike of 1945 and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE).

Biographical Narrative
The Hollywood studio strike began on March 12, 1945 when the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU), consisting of nine unions and nearly ten thousand workers led by Herbert Sorrell, went on strike to protest the studios' delay in granting a contract renewal for interior decorators despite opposition from the larger, more established International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). In early October 1945, CSU concentrated its pickets at Warner Brothers; a series of fights ensued and police, studio guards, and IATSE forced the strikers to retreat. At the end of October, the National Labor Relations Board ruled in favor of CSU, and the studios and IATSE gave way. In early 1946, CSU tried to negotiate a new wage contract with the studios, but disagreements lead to another strike in the summer of 1946. IASTE sent their employees to keep the studios open, provoking more armed clashes. The Screen Actors Guild and 24 other Hollywood unions denounced the strike as a jurisdictional dispute, affirming their right to cross the picket lines. CSU's failure to close the studios led to a vote in October 1947 by the painters union which broke the strike; CSU disintegrated and faded away.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of materials dealing with the Hollywood studio strike of 1945 and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE). Includes newspaper clippings from the Hollywood Sun and the Conference of Studio Unions (CSU) news, mimeographed statements to union members, correspondence, ephemera, and a copy of the IATSE proceedings with taped reminiscences of Gene Mailes.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Correspondence and ephemera.
2. National Labor Relations Board materials and union newspapers.

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

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada.
United States--National Labor Relations Board.
Motion picture industry--Employees--Labor unions--United States--Archival resources.
Strikes and lockouts--Motion picture industry--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Audiotapes.

**Related Material**

*You Don’t Choose Your Friends: the Memoirs of Herbert Knott Sorrell* [oral history transcript] / Herbert Knott Sorrell, interviewee. UCLA Oral History Department interview, 1963. Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

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**Correspondence and Ephemera Material**

**Box 1, Folder 1**

*Conference of Studio Unions.*

**Scope and Content Note**

Various printed material dealing with the C.S.U. also folder 1A (added August 1969).

**Box 1, Folder 2**

*Correspondence--Abroad.*

**Box 1, Folder 3**

*IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees).*

**Box 1, Folder 3**

*Information Bulletin.*

**Box 1, Folder 4**

*IATSE.*

**Box 1, Folder 4**

*Correspondence (Brewer, Walsh).*

**Box 1, Folder 5**

*IATSE, Local 683.*

**Box 1, Folder 5**

*Correspondence.*

**Box 1, Folder 6**

*IATSE, Local 683.*

**Box 1, Folder 6**

*Film Technician’s Daily Bulletin* November 1946-June 1947.

**Box 1, Folder 7**

*IATSE, Local 705.*

**Box 1, Folder 7**

*Correspondence.*

**Box 1, Folder 8**

*Inter-faith Council of Los Angeles.*

**Box 1, Folder 9**

*Leaflets.*

**Box 1, Folder 10**

*McKnight, Russell L.*

**Box 1, Folder 10**

*Correspondence.*

**Box 1, Folder 11**

*Manuscript material.*

**Box 1, Folder 12**

*Miscellaneous.*

**Box 1, Folder 13**

*Miscellaneous ephemera.*

**Box 1, Folder 14**

*Press Lists.*

**Box 1, Folder 15**

*Press releases.*

**Box 1, Folder 16**

*Strike trials.*

**National Labor Relations Board Materials and Union Newspapers**

**Box 2, Folder 1**

*U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour division.*

**Box 2, Folder 1**

*Correspondence.*

**Box 2, Folder 2**

*N.L.R.B.--Decorator’s Case.*

**Box 2, Folder 3**

*IATSE Disciplinary hearings, testimony typescript, pp.2424-2565.*

**Box 2, Folder 4**

*IATSE Disciplinary hearings appeal and N.L.R.B. decision.*

**Box 2, Folder 5**

*Costumer’s News.*

**Box 2, Folder 6**

*CSU News* vol.1 no.4-36, incomplete. November 1946-August 1947.

**Box 2, Folder 7**


**Box 2, Folder 8**

*Hollywood Close-up,* November 1945-July 1946. 8 numbers, incomplete.

**Union Newspapers and Miscellaneous Clippings**

**Box 3, Folder 1**


**Box 3, Folder 2**


**Box 3, Folder 3**


**Box 3, Folder 4**


**Box 3, Folder 5**


**Box 3, Folder 6**


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**Finding Aid for the Hollywood Studio Strike Collection, 1944-1985 bulk 1944-1948**
Box 3, Folder 7  
The Progressive Citizen.  
Daily Variety.  
Scattered issues and clippings.  
Miscellaneous newspapers.  
Miscellaneous clippings.  
Note  
Additional materials donated March 1985.

Box 4