

McClellan Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

In 1957 the U. S. Senate established an eight-member bipartisan Select Committee to study the problem of racketeering in the field of labor-management relations. Senator John L. McClellan was elected chairman by the committee members. The formal name of the committee was the United States Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field, however, it was commonly known as the McClellan Committee.

McClellan stated that the type of labor racketeering the Committee was investigating included conspiring and other vices. McClellan also declared that the purpose of the Committee was to discover if existing law was being upheld or if new laws were needed.

PLACES TO START IN THE McCLELLAN COLLECTION

Box 235

Select Labor Committee (1958), Folder 8

This folder contains correspondence from and to constituents and colleagues about the investigations and findings of the Committee. In some of the responses, McClellan gives details about the broad responsibilities of the Committee and the difficulties both he and the committee had. Some of the letters included news clippings, press releases and political cartoons.

Box 236

Labor Committee (1957-1958), Folders 7a-7f

These folders contain correspondence from and to constituents and colleagues about the investigations and findings of the Committee.

Box 237

Labor Committee (1958), Folder 2

This folder contains correspondence from and to constituents and colleagues about the investigations and findings of the Committee. Many of the letters discuss Walter Reuther, the Kohler Strike, unions in Russia, Jimmy Hoffa or McClellan's 1958 Labor Bill (S. 3618). Other types of materials include but are not limited to magazine and newspaper articles, petitions and telegrams.

Box 244

Cyrus Ching – Organizational picketing (1958), Folder 3

This folder contains correspondence from Cyrus Ching as well as his notes from a meeting he had with McClellan about proposed legislation in the labor-management relations field. The folder also contains the booklet *International Security the Military Aspect*.

Box 246

Legislation: Labor, 1959, Folders 7a-7f

These folders contain constituent correspondence concerning various bills addressing the labor-management problems that Congress was trying to solve in the 1950s. Specific bills mentioned include S. 1137 (written by McClellan), S. 1046 and H. R. 8003. In addition to letters there are news clips, magazine articles and petitions.

Box 245

Legislation: Labor, 1959, Folders 1-10

These folders contain constituent correspondence concerning various bills addressing the labor-management problems that Congress was trying to solve in the 1950s. Specific bills mentioned include S. 1137 (written by McClellan), S. 505, S. 748 and H. R. 4474. Some letters concentrate on the activities of the McClellan Committee.

OTHER COLLECTIONS

- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Walter Sheridan Oral History Interview—RFK #3, 3/23/1970

Includes Sheridan's description of his position as special assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his investigations of Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters.

- State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Clark R. Mollenhoff Papers

Contains recordings (1958) of the McClellan Committee hearings on the UAW-Kohler cases.

- Karl E. Mundt Library, Dakota State University, Karl E. Mundt Papers

Includes correspondence with McClellan. Finding aid available.

OTHER RESOURCES

Print

Crime Without Punishment

John L. McClellan (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1962)

Records the investigations of crime and corruption by the Senate committee under McClellan's chairmanship.

The Enemy Within: The McClellan Committee's Crusade Against Jimmy Hoffa and Corrupt Labor Unions

Robert F. Kennedy (Harper, 1960)

This book describes "...the threat that the mob posed and explains the responses of Congress, the committee and Kennedy."

The McClellan Committee Hearings, 1957

Prepared by the Publisher's Editorial Staff (The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., 1958)

"A day-by-day report of the Senate Select Committee's investigation of labor racketeering and other abuses in the labor-management field, fully indexed and keyed to the official record of the hearings."

Online

Guide to Senate Records: Chapter 18 1946-1968

<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/chapter-18-1946-1968.html#18E-7>

Sections 18.165-18.171 give a short summary of the Select Committee, how McClellan was involved in its creation, the investigations it conducted, and the records accumulated as a result of its work.

John Little McClellan

<http://law.jrank.org/pages/8503/McClellan-John-Little.html>

This site gives the highlights of McClellan's professional life and of the work of the McClellan Committee.

Landrum-Griffin Act

<http://www.uaw.org/other/lmrda.cfm>

The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) provides a full-text version of the act on this website.

Landrum-Griffin Act

<http://law.jrank.org/pages/8069/Landrum-Griffin-Act.html>

This site describes the history of the act as well as giving a brief interpretation.

Additional resources can be found at public and university libraries under call numbers in the **300s** of the Dewey Decimal Classification System and in the **HD, HV, J** and **KF** sections of the Library of Congress Classification System. Useful sources may also be found under the following Library of Congress Subject Headings:

Criminal law—racketeering.

Crime syndicates.

Labor-management relations.

Organized crime—United States.