



New York State Archives

**New York State Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate
Seditious Activities Mass Meetings Investigation Files L0027**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series contains reports compiled by investigative staff of the Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities (known as the "Lusk Committee for its chairman Clayton R. Lusk) while attending mass meetings of suspected radical groups in New York City. Information includes date of meeting; time; sponsoring organization; attendance; ethnic makeup and political orientation of the audience; names of radical suspects in attendance; and a summary of the meeting's proceedings.
Creator:	New York (State). Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities
Title:	Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities mass meetings investigation files
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Quantity:	2 35mm microfilm roll(s)
Inclusive Date:	1918-1920
Series:	L0027

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Arrangement

Chronological by meeting date.

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Scope and Content Note

This series contains reports compiled by committee investigators attending mass meetings to gather information and evidence about suspected radical groups and individuals in New York. The reports cover meetings held between January 1918 and April 1920; most of the meetings were held in the New York City area.

The majority of the meetings were sponsored by local labor organizations or by local branches of the Socialist Party. Information on meetings includes date, place, time, sponsoring organization, estimated number of people attending, ethnic and political makeup of audience, names of individual radical suspects attending, and a summary of proceedings. The reports include either summaries or verbatim transcripts of speeches, many by prominent Socialist leaders.

August Claessens, Henry Jaeger, and Louis Weitz gave the greatest number of speeches at the meetings investigated. Claessens, Charles Solomon, Louis Waldman, Samuel A. DeWitt, and Samuel Orr were the five assemblymen prevented from being seated in the New York Assembly because of their Socialist party membership, and the controversy over their plight is documented in speeches given by them and others. Generally the speeches and rallies explained Socialist beliefs; denounced American militarism, politics, and foreign policy (including Woodrow Wilson and policies towards Mexico and India); and commented on topics of the day: Eugene Debs' imprisonment; the raid on the Rand School of Social Science; the "Soviet Ark" deportations (in which over 250 alleged radicals or illegal aliens were forcibly deported); and the illegal arrest and imprisonment of socialists.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Folder list is available at the repository.

Folder 1 contains a chronological summary of speakers and dates.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Microfilm is available for use at the New York State Archives or through interlibrary loan.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

This series was originally accessioned as box 5 of old collection #281, accessions -236 and -237.

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Access Terms

- United States--Foreign relations--India
- Socialism--New York (State)
- Anti-communist movements--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- United States--Foreign relations--Mexico
- Investigating radicalism
- Reports
- Labor unions and communism--New York (State)
- Investigating socialism
- Radicalism--New York (State)
- New York (State)--Politics and government
- DeWitt, Samuel A.
- Debs, Eugene V. (Eugene Victor), 1855-1926
- Socialist Party of the United States of America
- Weitz, Louis.
- Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.
- Claessens, August, 1885-1954.
- Waldman, Louis.
- Jaeger, Henry
- Solomon, Charles, 1889-1963.
- Rand School of Social Science
- Orr, Samuel.