



New York State Archives

**New York State Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate
Seditious Activities Industrial Workers of the World Seized
Files L0030**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series contains records seized during a raid on the New York City headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Records include applications for IWW membership, correspondence, minutes of district and national meetings, speeches, lists of IWW contributors, reports, and bulletins. The series includes reports, meeting minutes, and other records of the activities in particular of the Construction Workers Union, the Marine Transport Workers Union, and the Metal and Machinery Workers Union.
Creator:	New York (State). Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities
Title:	Industrial Workers of the World seized files
Quantity:	1.2 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1918-1919
Series:	L0030

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Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

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Administrative History

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was an obvious target for the committee and for other bodies investigating suspected radical activity during the "Red Scare" period. Founded in 1905 by trade unions and leading American Socialists, the IWW sought the elimination of the wage system and the overthrow of the entire capitalist system.

The philosophies of the IWW appealed directly to unskilled, migrant, and immigrant workers who had little control or influence in government or other avenues of power in society. As the

chief advocate of revolutionary industrial unionism, the IWW came under close scrutiny by the Lusk Committee.

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Scope and Content Note

This series consists of files seized by the Lusk Committee during a raid on the IWW New York City headquarters on June 21, 1919 as part of its efforts to gather information and evidence about radical groups and individuals. The records relate to organizational, recruitment, and fund raising activities of the IWW throughout New York City, the state, and the nation.

Records include correspondence, articles, texts of articles and speeches, circulars, lists of meetings, bulletins, financial reports, applications for membership (with date, membership card number, name, address, and occupation of applicant, though many are incomplete), minutes of meetings (including the minutes of the May 1919 national IWW meeting), lists of individuals and organizations (mostly unions) affiliated with the IWW, and lists of names and addresses of IWW contributors. Anti-IWW material is also found.

The records include correspondence, articles, and receipts pertaining to IWW publications, *The Labor Defender* and *The Rebel Worker*. The series also includes reports, minutes, and other records relating to activity of the Construction Workers Union, the Marine Transport Workers Union, and the Metal and Machinery Workers Union.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Folder and microfilm roll lists are available at the repository.

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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 inter-library loan.

Microfilm: 2 rolls; 16 mm.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

This series was originally accessioned as part of boxes 16 and 18 of old collection #281, accessions -236 and -237.

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Access Terms

- Socialism--United States
- Labor
- Investigating radicalism
- Anti-communist movements--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- Labor unions and communism
- Investigating communism
- Labor unions
- Construction Workers Union
- Industrial Workers of the World
- Marine Transport Workers Union
- Metal and Machinery Workers Union