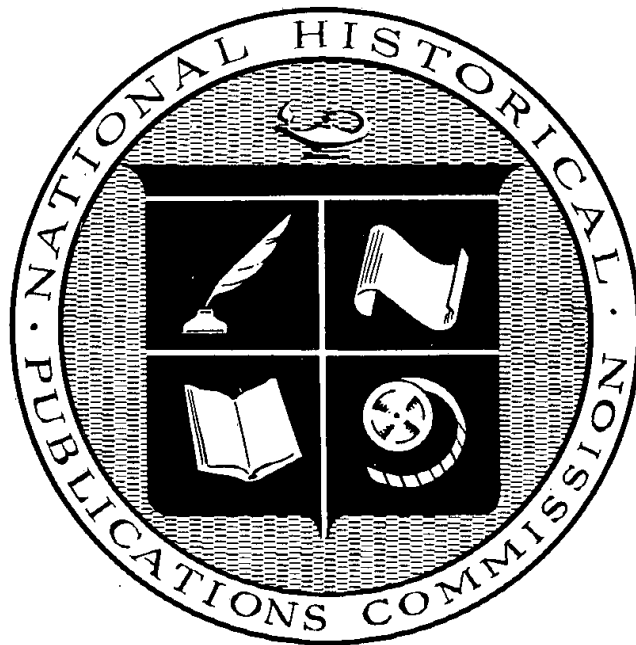


guide
to the microfilm edition
of the
**Detroit
Urban League
Papers**



The microfilm edition of the Detroit Urban League Papers meets standards established by the National Historical Publications Commission, General Services Administration, and was produced with its assistance. The Documentary Publication Program includes letterpress volumes and microfilm reproductions and is a program designed to help achieve equal opportunities for scholarship.

TO THE RESEARCHER:

This microfilm edition of the early records of the Detroit Urban League documents not only the story of the Detroit branch of the National Urban League, but also the development of the Black community in Detroit, Michigan since World War I. The manuscripts reproduced in this edition are located in the Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library of The University of Michigan.

No restrictions are placed on the use of this film for scholarly research, including the copying of individual frames in order to facilitate this research. Duplication of the whole or any significant part of this publication, however, is prohibited without the permission of the director of the Michigan Historical Collections. This permission to use and to copy selectively does not extend to the publication of any of the manuscripts. Although the Detroit Urban League papers are on deposit with the Michigan Historical Collections, actual title to the records remains with the Detroit Urban League.

It is the responsibility of an author or his publisher to secure the permission of the individual possessing literary property rights before publishing any document. These rights derive from the principle of common law that the author of an unpublished manuscript has the sole right to publish its content. Unless he transfers this right before his death, the literary property rights descend to his legal heirs regardless of the physical ownership of the manuscript itself.

The researcher should address all inquiries concerning rights and permissions to: Director, Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48105.

Citations from this microfilm publication should read: Detroit Urban League Papers (microfilm edition), Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1974.

HISTORICAL SKETCH:

The Detroit Urban League was founded in 1916 and is one of the oldest continuously active affiliates of the National Urban League. Its aim, like that of other affiliates founded during and just after World War I, was to help Negroes from the rural South adjust to life in northern industrial cities.

The League has always concentrated on social work and community organization programs rather than on reform of existing governmental structures. The Urban League does not provide legal services or involve itself directly in legal cases. Political action and litigation are left to organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Instead, the League acts as a community planning agency and presses its demands through quiet negotiations with individual employers or government officials. Equality of economic opportunity, good housing, and access to health and welfare services for Negroes are among the traditional goals of the League. On a more personal level, the League provides youngsters with career counseling and has emphasized the importance of maintaining strong family ties.

In 1910 Dr. George E. Haynes and Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin founded the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes in New York City. A year later their committee merged with two older organizations—the National League for the Protection of Colored Women and the Committee on Improving Industrial Conditions of Negroes in New York—to form the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, now simply the National Urban League.

Although in that first year the League operated only in New York City, the ultimate goal of its founders was a network of Urban League branches in all of the major cities of the United States. Since the League could not afford the financial costs of establishing these local affiliates, the role of the national office, as envisioned by both Haynes and Baldwin, was that of providing information, techniques, and the necessary trained Negro social workers.

A large number of the early affiliates were located in the South. Dependent upon local initiative and funding, most of these branches failed in the face of Southern opposition to improvements in Negro conditions. During the First World War, southern Blacks began to migrate to the northern industrial cities in large numbers. In response the National Urban League began to shift its emphasis to the establishment of branches in such major cities as Chicago, Detroit, Newark, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

Labor shortages resulting from the wartime economic boom occurred in these industrial centers and led many employers to send labor agents into the South to recruit Negro workers. Detroit, with its heavy industry and Henry Ford's famous five-dollar-a-day salaries, attracted large numbers of Negro workers. Although many employment opportunities for Negroes opened up at this time, little was done to satisfy the housing, educational, recreational, and health needs of these newcomers to the city.

By the fall of 1915 the situation in Detroit was serious enough to warrant an agency to assist newly arrived Negro workers. Eugene Kinckle Jones, executive secretary of the National Urban League, learned of the situation in correspondence with the Associated Charities of Detroit, a coordinating agent for the city's social service agencies. His trips to Detroit in November 1915 and February 1916 convinced the Charities board to support a League affiliate and to appropriate \$580.68 to cover the cost of its operation for the first four months. Jones returned to Detroit in June 1916 with Forrester B. Washington whom he had selected to head the Detroit branch.

Washington put his initial efforts into creating support for his activities and providing an effective vehicle for his programs. First, he made a survey of social conditions among Detroit's Negro population. Next, he selected members of a temporary joint committee to set policies for the new organization. He divided the membership of this executive board evenly between Negroes and Whites.

Washington then contacted all the social service agencies in Detroit to determine what kinds of work were most needed and also began a survey of the major employers in the city to see where Negroes were employed, how much they were paid, and how their pay compared with that of white employees. As soon as Washington had completed this survey, he rented an office and began the job of placing newly arrived Blacks with local employers.

Washington remained in Detroit for two years before accepting a job as District Supervisor for Michigan and Illinois in

the Division of Negro Economics, U.S. Department of Labor. John C. Dancy, a secretary in charge of industrial employment in the League's New York offices, became the new head of the Detroit branch in June 1918.

Dancy's tenure as the executive secretary of the Detroit Urban League lasted for forty-two years, until his retirement in 1960. His legacy to the League was an agency with a stable and humane administrative structure. At the time of his retirement, Dancy had seen the Urban League grow from a one-man operation with a yearly budget of less than \$6000 to a highly structured organization with a permanent staff of fifteen and an annual budget of over \$100,000.

Under Dancy's leadership, the League went through several administrative reorganizations, each designed to make the League more responsive to the needs of Negroes in Detroit. The League was formally incorporated as a separate organization in 1924, breaking its eight year old ties with the Associated Charities. In 1944 partly as a result of increased funding which came in reaction to the 1943 race riot, Dancy was able to move the League's headquarters to the spacious home on Mack Avenue originally built for the architect Albert Kahn. With this increase in space and staff, Dancy divided the League into three sections: the Administrative Department consisting of himself, his administrative assistant, and the secretarial staff; the Vocational Services Department headed by Francis A. Kornegay; and the Community Organization Department headed by William A. Price.

In his autobiography *Sand Against the Wind*, Dancy wrote wistfully of these changes: "By now we had a sizable staff and much of my time was taken up with matters of administration—a contrast to those early days when I was usually out pounding the pavements on some employment quest or errand of mercy." His belief in personal, direct action showed very clearly in his early efforts in Detroit just after World War I.

When Dancy arrived in Detroit, he saw immediately the necessity to create a highly visible focal point for the League's benevolent activities. He accomplished this with the establishment of a community center in 1919. Dancy encouraged many clubs to hold meetings in this building. In addition, a music school, dancing classes, and a baby clinic were soon located there. Two rooms were even used to provide temporary sleeping quarters for some of the recent arrivals in town.

In the early years the center had to rely primarily on volunteer workers to meet the needs of a steadily increasing number of people. Dancy himself put in many fifteen or sixteen hour days by

working at the community center in the evenings after closing up the main offices of the League.

During the war and the years immediately following, the number of Blacks in Detroit grew enormously. In 1910 less than six thousand Negroes lived in Detroit. Ten years later this figure had increased more than seven times to nearly forty-one thousand. Dancy responded to this influx by personally approaching individual employers about jobs for Negroes, making speeches to various organizations to publicize the work of the League, handling much case work involving problems which people brought to him, and even meeting trains as they arrived in the city from the South.

Dancy's success in obtaining work for his people gave him a well-deserved reputation in the Urban League movement for making great inroads into factory employment. Impressed by his work, the National Urban League held its annual conference in Detroit in 1919, the first time such a meeting had been held anywhere other than New York City. Included as part of the conference was a tour and a luncheon at the Dodge Motor Car Company.

The return of numerous veterans, followed by the depression of 1921, soon eliminated the surplus of jobs in Detroit. Unable to find work and in the absence of public welfare provisions, people turned to private charitable agencies. Some Urban League money had to be spent on just keeping people alive in the early 1920's. Even after the recovery from this depression, employment opportunities never quite improved to the pre-1921 stage.

In response to this need the Urban League budget grew steadily from 1916 until it reached a peak in 1932. Almost from the time of its founding the Detroit Urban League was dependent on the Community Fund for all of its financial support. Many members of the League's staff even served as solicitors among the Negro population of the city for the annual Community Fund Campaign. As the full effect of the depression reached the Community Fund, the monetary resources of the League and many other social service agencies declined. Not until 1944 did the Urban League budget surpass its 1932 level.

Black migration into Detroit continued apace in the 1920's and 1930's. Many of these newly arrived Blacks began to settle around Eight Mile Road. Dancy recognized the necessity for expanding services into that area despite the League's poor financial condition. The Urban League soon opened an Eight Mile Road community center in a rented school building and began construction of a new building to house the center which was completed in 1937.

Dancy initiated a new League activity in 1931. For some time he had been aware that there were no summer camps in Michigan open to Negro children. In an effort to rectify this condition he approached William J. Norton of the Children's Fund of Michigan, a large philanthropic foundation, with a plan to build a camp for Black children.

The Fund's trustees approved Dancy's idea and immediately began construction of Green Pastures Camp on Little Pleasant Lake near Jackson, Michigan. Except for clearing an area around the buildings and playgrounds, they left the site in its natural state. This sixty-eight acre camp with one thousand feet of lake frontage included fourteen buildings, each named after a famous Negro.

In the first year of its operation, six hundred children attended the camp, and over the next thirty-one years it accommodated about fifteen thousand youngsters. The Children's Fund retained title to the camp and continued to pay operating costs until 1954, when the Fund was liquidated. The Urban League operated the camp for several years after that, but rising costs forced the League to close it after the 1965 season.

Throughout his life Dancy had many personal activities which complemented his Urban League career. In 1918 Dancy helped organize Dunbar Hospital in cooperation with Negro doctors who had been denied privileges at Detroit area hospitals. He served on the board of directors of this hospital, later renamed Parkside Hospital, for many years. The hospital ceased operation in 1963.

At another time in his career Dancy served as president and treasurer of the Michigan People's Finance Corporation, a co-operative small loan organization which was started to help Detroit Negroes who needed loans. He was also a member of the committee of management of the St. Antoine Street branch of the Y.M.C.A., which was built in 1925 for use by the Detroit Negro community.

In 1922 the settlement houses and community centers in the city formed the Detroit Federation of Settlements. This group met every month to discuss problems and methods of social work. Dancy served as secretary of the Federation for seven years before becoming president for two terms in the 1930's. Among other social work organizations with which Dancy was associated were the Social Workers Club of Detroit, the Detroit Council of Social Workers, and the American Association of Social Workers.

During his long career Dancy received several important political appointments, two of them from Detroit Mayor Frank Murphy. From 1930 to 1933 he served on the Mayor's Unemploy-

ment Committee which attempted to solve some of the problems caused by the depression. In 1932 Murphy also appointed Dancy to the Board of Commissioners of the Detroit House of Correction, where he served until 1955. In a later period Governor G. Mennen Williams appointed Dancy to a committee to study racial discrimination by insurance companies.

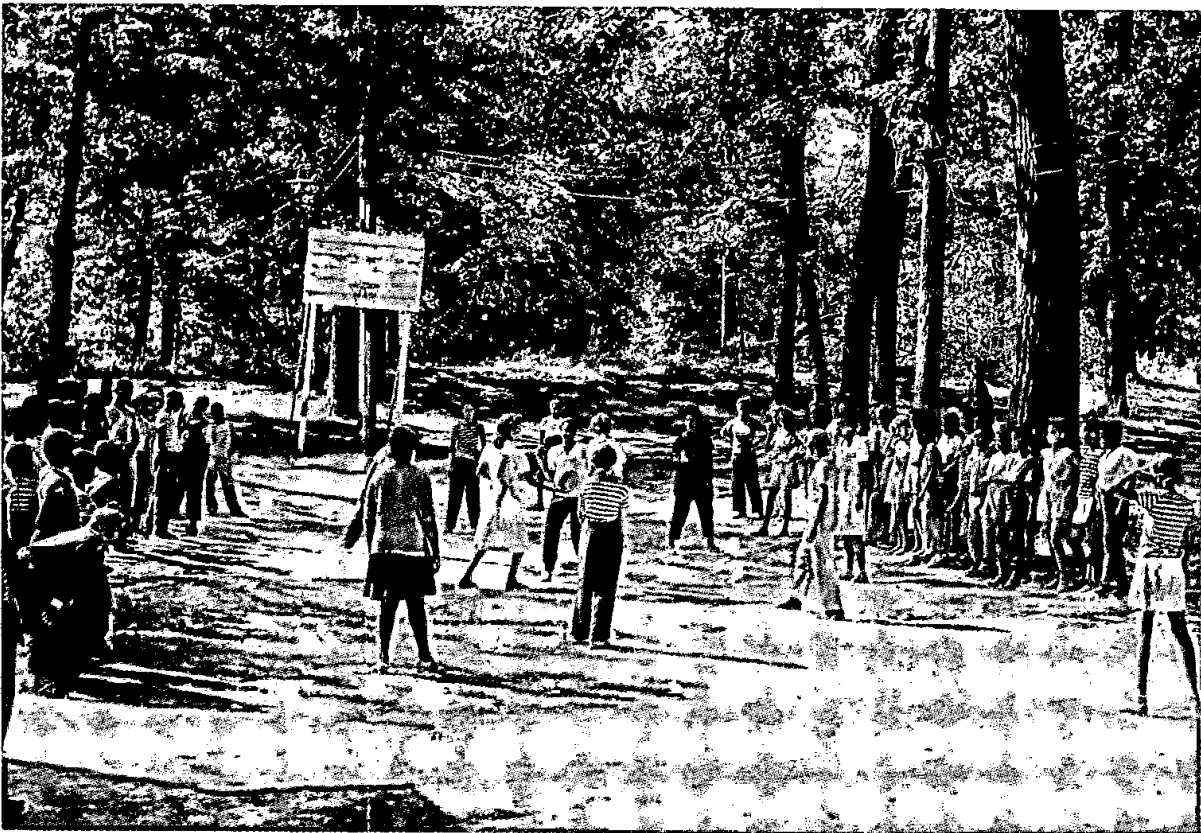
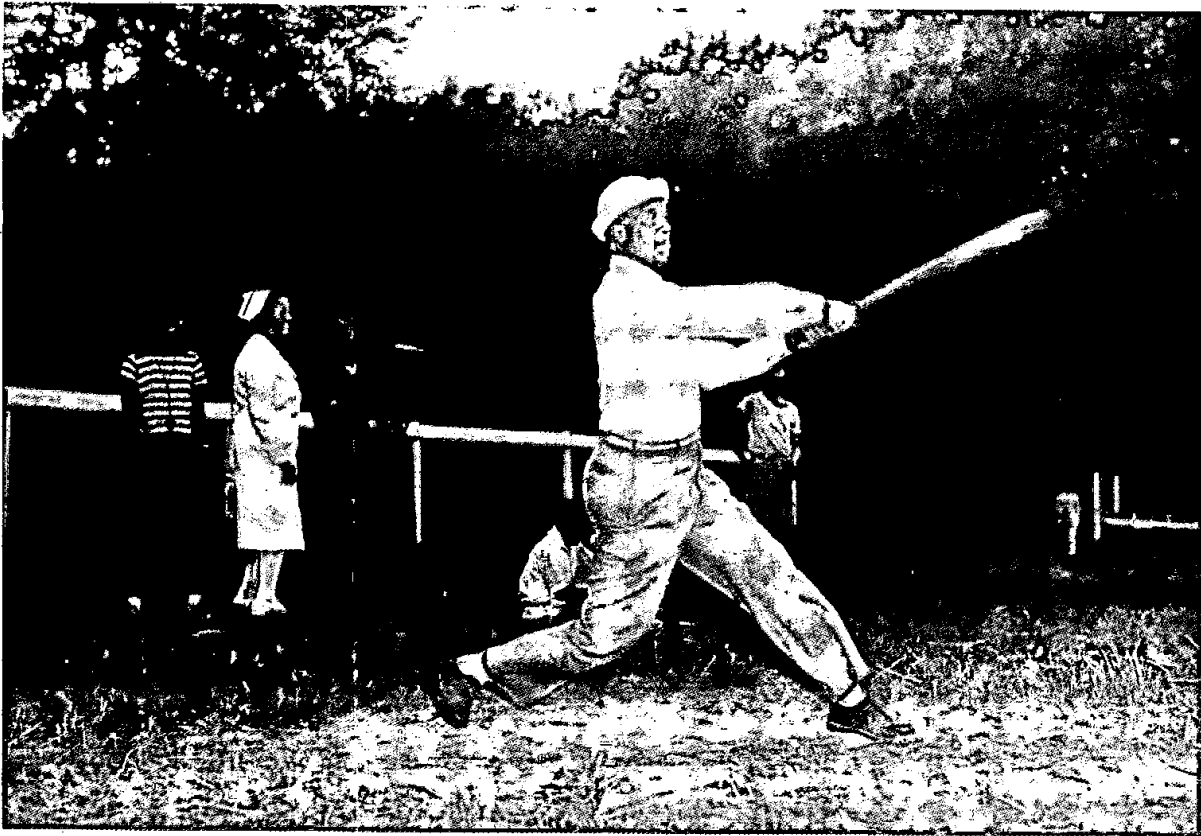
The Detroit Urban League papers are a unique blend of the personal and the institutional, each complementing the other. For forty years John Dancy was the Detroit Urban League and his personality informs its direction to this day.

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION:

During its first fifty-seven years, the Detroit Urban League retained all retired files at its headquarters. Although the location of the main offices of the League changed several times, the old records were usually transferred to the new offices rather than being destroyed.

In 1963 upon the recommendation of Mr. Charles A. Roxborough, former state senator from Detroit, the Michigan Historical Collections contacted Francis A. Kornegay, executive director of the Detroit Urban League, about the possibility of placing the League's historical records at the University of Michigan. The League signed an agreement of deposit in May of that year and twelve feet of the earliest records were immediately transferred to the Collections and processed. In 1969 the Michigan Historical Collections acquired another twelve feet of Detroit Urban League files and early in 1971 approximately fifty more feet of materials were transferred to Ann Arbor, bringing the records on file up to the year 1967.

John M. T. Chavis and William H. McNitt have described this collection in *A Brief History of the Detroit Urban League and Description of the League's Papers in the Michigan Historical Collections* (Michigan Historical Collections Bulletin No. 20, July 1971) which is available on request. A more detailed folder by folder description of the papers is given on a fifty page typed contents list. Researchers may purchase copies of this list for the cost of duplication.



John Dancy at bat and an impromptu basketball game at Green Pastures Camp

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

A complete listing of all Black history materials in the Bentley Historical Library is contained in *Black History Resources in the Michigan Historical Collections of the University of Michigan* by John M. T. Chavis and Mary Jo Pugh, which is available upon request.

The best published source on the Detroit Urban League is John C. Dancy's autobiography *Sand Against the Wind* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1966.). This book not only gives the story of the Urban League in Detroit, but also serves as an introduction to the many names of individuals and organizations which appear in the papers. Another good printed source is the fiftieth anniversary edition of the Detroit Urban League *Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 24, (1966).

One article by Dancy which is useful for the period before World War I, is "The Negro People in Michigan," *Michigan History*, XXIV (Spring, 1940), 221-240. Also available in the Michigan Historical Collections are transcripts of two interviews with Dancy. In 1960 Alex Baskin interviewed Dancy as part of a series of interviews on the 1925 and 1926 murder trials of Dr. Ossian Sweet. In 1964 Marvin Petroelje, of the Collections' staff, interviewed Dancy concerning his career with the Urban League.

Several items by Forrester B. Washington, Dancy's predecessor, are also very useful. In 1917 two of his speeches were published: "The Detroit Newcomers Greeting," *Survey*, XXXVIII (July 14, 1917), 333-335; and "A Program of Work for the Assimilation of Negro Immigrants in Northern Cities," *Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work* (Pittsburgh, 1917). A short time later he wrote an article titled "The Negro Urban League in Michigan" for the *Ann Arbor Negro Year Book, 1918-1919* (George H. Wright, editor).

In 1920 while serving as director of the research bureau of the Associated Charities of Detroit, Washington wrote "The Negro in Detroit: A Survey of the Conditions of a Negro Group in a Northern Industrial Center During the War Prosperity Period" (Unpublished report. Original in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library).

Washington returned to Detroit to conduct another study in 1926. His survey staff compiled a two volume mimeographed report titled "The Negro in Detroit" for the Mayor's Interracial Committee. The Committee produced only a few copies of this report, but the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research eventually published the recommendations of the Mayor's committee

in its periodical *Public Business*, Vol. IV, No. 3 (March 10, 1927).

A final Detroit item which Washington authored is the article "Deluxe Summer Camp for Colored Children," *Opportunity*, IX (October, 1931), 303-307. This article provides a very complete description of the Detroit Urban League's Green Pastures Camp.

One of the best published sources on the position of Negroes in Michigan just before the founding of the Detroit Urban League is Francis H. Warren (ed.), *Michigan Manual of Freedmen's Progress* (Detroit, 1915). A few years later George E. Haynes, the Director of Negro Economics of the U.S. Department of Labor, wrote the book *Negro Newcomers in Detroit, Michigan*. This book, based in large part on data gathered by Forrester B. Washington, was reprinted in 1969.

A recent scholarly study which deals extensively with the activities of the Detroit Urban League is David Levine "Expecting the Barbarians: Race Relations and Social Control, Detroit, 1915-1925" (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Chicago, 1970). Levine made extensive use of the Urban League Papers in his study. There is also information on the Detroit Urban League in Guichard Parris and Lester Brooks *Blacks in the City: A History of the National Urban League* (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1971).

The Wayne State University Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs has several valuable sources relating to the Detroit Urban League. The papers of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit contain the records of its predecessor, the Associated Charities of Detroit, which are very strong for the years 1916 and 1917 when the Detroit Urban League was just beginning its work. In addition, Jim Keeney and Roberta McBride, members of the staff of the Wayne archives, conducted interviews in 1969 and 1970 with Bernie Smith, one of the members of the first board of directors of the Detroit Urban League, and Raymond Hatcher, John Dancy's administrative assistant for the years 1942 to 1944.

The papers of the Children's Fund of Michigan, now housed in the Michigan Historical Collections, contain much information on the Detroit Urban League, Green Pastures Camp, and many other Detroit social service agencies. In addition the papers of the Historical Records Survey of Michigan located in the Michigan Historical Collections include a folder with a detailed description of some Detroit Urban League papers which have disappeared since the description was written.

Complementing the Detroit Urban League papers, the Collections has twelve feet of the files of Francis A. Kornegay, the current executive director of the Detroit Urban League, covering his activities with the League since 1944. Two feet of

records of the Grand Rapids Urban League 1943-64 and fourteen feet concerning the Muskegon Urban League 1943-63 are on file with the Historical Collections.

The files of Bishop Lewis B. Whittemore, which are part of the records of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Protestant Episcopal Church, contain much information on the Brough Community Association (forerunner of the Grand Rapids Urban League) for the years 1942-45.

The records of many affiliates of the National Urban League have either been lost over the years or remain in the possession of the local branches. Among those collections which have been placed in libraries, however, are the Chicago Urban League Papers at the library of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, the records of the Urban League of Philadelphia at the Temple University Urban Archives, the Columbus Urban League Papers at the Ohio Historical Society, and the Washington Urban League Papers at the Library of Congress.

The records of the National Urban League in the Library of Congress are another primary source. The *Bulletin* of the National Urban League (published from 1911 to 1922) and its successor *Opportunity* (published from 1923 to 1949) complement this source.

EDITORIAL PROCEDURES:

This microfilm edition includes the records of the Detroit Urban League for the years 1916 to 1950. The materials covered by this publication are from ten different series within the collection. Except for the printed material each series has been filmed in its entirety. Those materials which are reproduced here are:

1. Board of Directors File
2. Executive Secretary's General File
3. Executive Secretary's Topical File
4. Budgets and Financial Records
5. Green Pastures Camp File
6. Vocational Services Department File
7. Community Organization Department File
8. National Urban League Conference File
9. Newspaper Clipping File
10. Printed Materials File

Several types of material have been omitted from this micro-film edition. These include:

1. All materials created since 1950. Much of Dancy's correspondence for the 1950's has been lost. Fortunately, the records of the National Urban League and several of its affiliates for these more recent years are available in other libraries.
2. Green Pastures Camp Applications File (1931-65). For the most part these are routine letters from children or their parents asking about the possibility of attending the camp.
3. Job Applications and Letters of Recommendation (1925-68). This file includes letters from individuals who sought Dancy's aid in securing jobs and also copies of Dancy's letters of recommendation to employers for those seeking jobs. Most of these letters are routine.
4. Detroit House of Correction Weekly Reports File (1933-44). Dancy served on the Board of Commissioners of the House of Correction and thus received copies of all of the reports. While these are extremely valuable for studying the operation of the jail, such records show little about the Detroit Urban League.
5. Social Work Case File (1916-69). These files generally deal with the problems of specific individuals who asked for Dancy's help. They are currently closed to research use.
6. Much pamphlet material, especially those items not relating to the National Urban League, its affiliates, or the various Detroit social service agencies.

Using a 14 to 1 reduction ratio, approximately 1000 to 1200 individual documents have been reproduced on each of the thirty-five reels of this publication. Documents have been filmed in the same order in which they are found in the collection. Material on the back side of pages was filmed immediately after that on the front side.

General correspondence in this collection has been arranged in strict chronological order, but some correspondence also appears in the various topical files of the collection. Undated materials are always filmed at the beginning of series to which they belong.

The term "general file" as used in this publication denotes a chronological file including not only correspondence, but also reports, speeches, leaflets, and several other types of material. The term "topical file" denotes material which was kept in subject

files by the Detroit Urban League and has been retained in that state.

The names and subjects listed in the reel notes are by no means an inclusive list of the correspondents and the topics they discuss. No names of correspondents have been listed unless at least two or three letters appear on the reel. In the same way, subjects mentioned just once on a reel are generally not included. The numbers in brackets on succeeding pages are frame numbers and are meant to show the extent of individual sections of the collection and their locations on the reels.

REEL NOTES:

Reel 1. Board of Directors Minutes and Reports, 1916-50
[38-941]

Board of Directors General File, Undated and 1945-50
[942-1009]

Executive Secretary's General File, Undated [1010-1204]

The earliest minutes of the Board of Directors available are those from October 16, 1916. None have been saved for the monthly meetings between April 1917 and June 1919, but from 1919 to 1938 the minutes are fairly complete. With the exception of the minutes of a few meetings in 1940, there are no minutes, 1939-49. Thereafter the minutes are complete.

For some periods in which there are no minutes, the monthly and annual reports of the executive secretary have survived. These include the first monthly report of the League for June 1916 and the annual reports for 1917 and 1939-45, as well as many for years in which the minutes have been preserved.

The minutes and the executive secretary's monthly and annual reports to the Board include all policy decisions for the organization. Among the topics discussed regularly are the migration of Negroes to Detroit, budgets, staff changes, interaction with other Detroit organizations, and attempts to provide housing, recreation, employment, education, and health care for the Black citizens of Detroit. Reports usually include both statistical and narrative material. All minutes and reports for the months between October 1916 and April 1917 were copied from the papers of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit located at the Wayne State University Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs.

The General Files of both the board of directors and the executive secretary include not only correspondence, but also announcements of meetings, minutes of committee meetings, speeches, articles, and reports.

Reel 2. Executive Secretary's General File, June 1916 to June 1927 [21-1088]

This reel begins with the files of Forrester B. Washington, the first executive secretary of the Detroit Urban League, 1916-18. The remainder of the material on this reel documents John C. Dancy's first nine years as executive secretary of the League.

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary
T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations
Charles S. Johnson—editor, *Opportunity*

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

John T. Clark—Pittsburgh and St. Louis
Elmer A. Carter—Minneapolis-St. Paul
Samuel A. Allen—Boston
A. L. Foster—Chicago
Alonzo C. Thayer—Atlanta and Pittsburgh
William R. Connors—Cleveland
Forrester B. Washington—Philadelphia

Topics discussed: A 1916 survey of the employment situation for Negroes in Detroit; the annual conferences of the National Urban League (especially the 1919 conference held in Detroit); the Employer's Association of Detroit; fund raising for the defense of Ossian Sweet in his 1925 murder trial; preparations for the annual National Negro Health Week. Speeches and articles from this period include, "The Negro's War Aims" (1918), "Negro Housing" (1924), and "The Cultural Side of Detroit" (1927).

Reel. 3. Executive Secretary's General File, July 1927 to April 1930 [21-1059]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

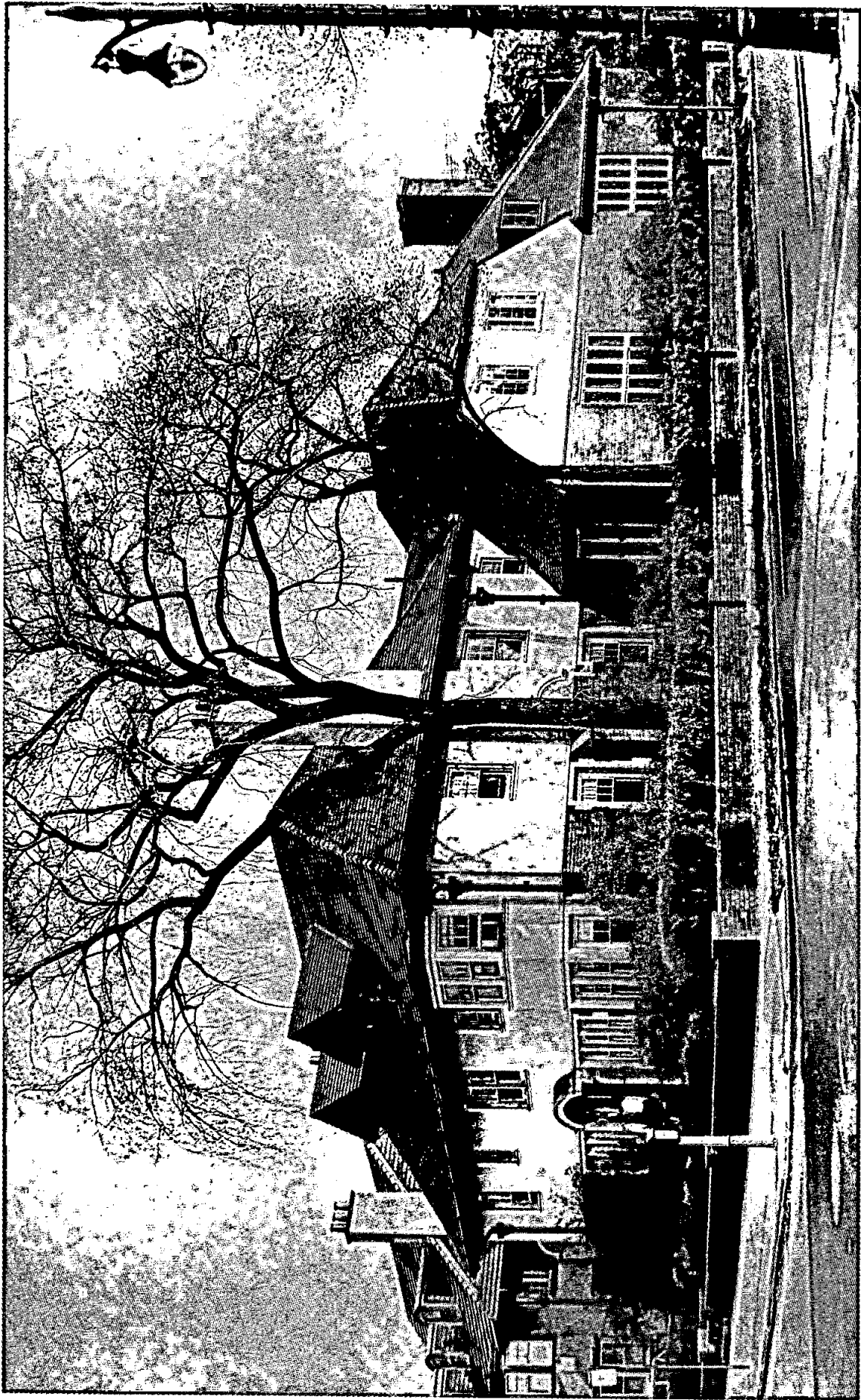
Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary
T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations
Elmer A. Carter—editor, *Opportunity*

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

William V. Kelley—Milwaukee
Alonzo C. Thayer—Pittsburgh
Nimrod B. Allen—Columbus, Ohio
Gerald E. Allen—Canton, Ohio
J. Harvey Kerns—Omaha
John T. Clark—St. Louis

Correspondents (Other):

Carter G. Woodson—editor, *The Journal of Negro History*
Claude A. Barnett—director, Associated Negro Press



Current headquarters of the Detroit Urban League

Albon L. Holsey—secretary, National Negro Business League
Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social
Work

Charles S. Johnson—director, Department of Social Science,
Fisk University

Topics discussed: The election of 1928; the initial impact of the depression upon Detroit's Black community; the appointment of Federal census enumerators in 1930; the first Vocational Opportunity Campaign, 1930.

Reel 4. Executive Secretary's General File, May 1930 to February 1932 [23-1074]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary

T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations

Elmer A. Carter—editor, *Opportunity*

Ira DeA. Reid—director, Department of Research and Investigations

Jesse O. Thomas—Southern Field Director

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

John T. Clark—St. Louis

Thomas L. Puryear—Newark

W. Robert Smalls—St. Paul

Correspondents (Other):

Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social Work

Charles S. Johnson—director, Department of Social Science, Fisk University

Albon L. Holsey—secretary, National Negro Business League

Walter White—secretary, N.A.A.C.P.

Alexander L. Jackson—president, Provident Hospital and Training School, Chicago

Topics discussed: The administration of Detroit Mayor Frank Murphy; the 1931 Vocational Opportunity Campaign; Green Pastures Camp; the Detroit Harmonica Band. Included is a copy of the report written by the New York Urban League in December 1930 entitled, "Efforts on Behalf of the Unemployed."

Reel 5. Executive Secretary's General File, March 1932 to December 1933 [23-1101]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary

T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations

Ira DeA. Reid—director, Department of Research and Investigations

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

W. Robert Smalls—Kansas City

A. L. Foster—Chicago

William R. Connors—Cleveland

Correspondents (Other):

Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social Work

Charles S. Johnson—director, Department of Social Science, Fisk University

Alexander L. Jackson—president, Provident Hospital and Training School, Chicago

W. J. Trent—president, Livingstone College, North Carolina

Topics Discussed: The Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes (sponsored by the National Urban League); the Council of Social Agencies; the Scottsboro case; Green Pastures Camp; the National Conference of Social Work, Detroit, 1933; the appointment of Mayor Frank Murphy as Governor-General of the Philippines. Included is a copy of Dancy's unpublished article, "History of the Negro Church in Michigan."

Reel 6. Executive Secretary's General File, January 1934 to March 1935 [23-1150]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

T. Arnold Hill—acting executive secretary

Jesse O. Thomas—Southern Field Director

Elmer A. Carter—editor, *Opportunity*

Lester B. Granger—business manager, *Opportunity* and secretary, Workers Bureau

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

John T. Clark—St. Louis

W. Robert Smalls—Kansas City

Clarence L. Thomas—Toledo

Paul G. Prayer—Asbury Park, New Jersey

Reginald A. Johnson—Atlanta

Edward S. Lewis—Baltimore

Correspondents (Other):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—Advisor on Negro Affairs, U. S. Department of Commerce

Alexander L. Jackson—president, Provident Hospital and Training School, Chicago

Charles S. Johnson—director, Department of Social Science,
Fisk University

Forrester B. Washington—Director of Negro Work, Federal
Emergency Relief Administration

W. J. Trent—president, Livingstone College, North Carolina

Claude A. Barnett—director, Associated Negro Press

Walter White—secretary, N.A.A.C.P.

Lawrence A. Oxley—Commissioner of Conciliations, U.S. De-
partment of Labor

Robert C. Weaver—Associate Advisor on the Economic Status
of Negroes, U.S. Department of Labor

Topics discussed: The Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes;
the Council of Social Agencies; the Community Fund; the mem-
bership drive of the local N.A.A.C.P.; the Nacirema Club (a com-
munity service organization made up mostly of veterans of World
War I). Also included is a copy of an article by Dancy entitled
“The Negro in the Recovery Program.”

Reel 7. Executive Secretary's File, April 1935 to December 1936
[23-1083]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

T. Arnold Hill—acting executive secretary

Elmer A. Carter—editor, *Opportunity*

Jesse O. Thomas—Southern Field Director

Lester B. Granger—business manager, *Opportunity* and secre-
tary, Workers Bureau

L. Hollingsworth Wood—chairman, Executive Board

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

William V. Kelley—Milwaukee

Paul G. Prayer—Asbury Park, New Jersey

R. Maurice Moss—Pittsburgh

Correspondents (Other):

Claude A. Barnett—director, Associated Negro Press

Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social
Work

Topics discussed: The election of 1936; fund raising for Fisk
University; the Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes; activi-
ties in Joe Louis' training camp before his fights with Primo
Carnera and Max Baer; attempts to secure support for Ethiopia
against invading Italian forces; the Detroit advisory committee
to the National Park Service's Waterloo Recreational Demon-
stration Project.

Reel 8. Executive Secretary's General File, January 1937 to
March 1938 [23-1129]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary
T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations
Elmer A. Carter—editor, *Opportunity*

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

A. L. Foster—Chicago
William V. Kelley—Milwaukee
J. S. Jackson—Seattle

Correspondents (Other):

Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social
Work
W. J. Trent—president, Livingstone College, North Carolina
Snow Grigsby—chairman, Detroit Civic Rights Committee
Roy Wilkins—secretary, N.A.A.C.P.
Eddie Tolan—Michigan State Director of Negro Activities,
National Youth Administration

Topics discussed: The Detroit Citizens League; the Nacirema
Club; the Waterloo Recreational Demonstration Project; the
National Youth Administration; the N.A.A.C.P. national con-
vention, Detroit 1937; the Committee for the Study of Group
Work, Council of Social Agencies. In addition there are many
letters concerning Joe Louis and his manager John Roxborough.
Numerous organizations tried to get Dancy to use his influence
with Louis to arrange personal appearances or exhibition sparring
matches to raise funds for their treasuries.

Reel. 9. Executive Secretary's General File, April 1938 to June
1941 [23-1106]

John Dancy's correspondence is very complete up to the end
of 1938. Some of his later files have been lost.

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Eugene Kinckle Jones—executive secretary
T. Arnold Hill—director, Department of Industrial Relations
Jesse O. Thomas—Southern Field Director
Lester B. Granger—business manager, *Opportunity* and secre-
tary, Workers Bureau
Warren M. Banner—director, Department of Research and
Investigations

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

A. L. Foster—Chicago
R. Maurice Moss—Pittsburgh

Correspondents (Other):

Forrester B. Washington—director, Atlanta School of Social Work

Charles S. Johnson—director, Department of Social Science, Fisk University

Topics discussed: The National Youth Administration; the Seventy-five Years of Negro Progress Exposition, Detroit, 1940; the 1941 strike against the Ford Motor Company automobile plants; the Detroit House of Correction; the activities of Joe Louis. Included is a copy of Dancy's 1941 article, "Negroes and National Defense."

Reel 10. Executive Secretary's General File, July 1941 to February 1945 [23-1110]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Lester B. Granger—executive secretary

Julius A. Thomas—director, Department of Industrial Relations

William H. Baldwin—chairman, Executive Board

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

A. L. Foster—Chicago

R. Maurice Moss—Pittsburgh

William R. Valentine—Flint, Michigan

Topics discussed: The Sojourner Truth housing project controversy, 1942; the Committee on Intercultural Understanding; attempts to open jobs in war industries to Negro workers; the 1943 Detroit race riot; the organization of an Urban League branch in Flint, Michigan; the movement for a law establishing a Fair Employment Practices Commission; the National C.I.O. Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination; the Detroit Victory Council; the activities of Joe Louis. Included is a 1943 study by the Detroit Urban League entitled, "The Victory Pattern in Public Housing."

Reel 11. Executive Secretary's General File, March 1945 to June 1947 [23-1098]

In 1945 William R. Valentine, formerly executive secretary of the Flint Urban League, became Dancy's administrative assistant. His correspondence is filed with Dancy's and fills in some of the gaps in Dancy's files.

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Lester B. Granger—executive secretary

Henry R. Luce—chairman, Urban League Service Fund Campaign, 1947

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

A. L. Foster—Chicago

Topics discussed: The Wagner-Ellender-Taft general housing bill; efforts to obtain an early release of John Roxborough (Joe Louis' manager) from prison in 1946; the Housing Legislation Information Service; the Committee on Intercultural Understanding; the Citizens Housing and Planning Council of Detroit.

Reel 12. Executive Secretary's General File, July 1947 to December 1950 [23-1143]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

R. Maurice Moss—associate executive director

Guichard Parris—director, Promotion and Publicity

Ann Tanneyhill—director, Vocational Guidance

Winthrop Rockefeller—member, Executive Board

Correspondents (Urban League affiliates):

William V. Kelley—Milwaukee

John T. Clark—St. Louis

Sidney Williams—Chicago

Alexander J. Allen—Baltimore

Arnold B. Walker—Cleveland

Correspondents (Other):

Albert E. Cobo—mayor, Detroit

G. Mennen Williams—governor, Michigan

Topics discussed: The Detroit Council of Veterans Affairs; the Urban League Service Fund Campaign, 1947; the strike against Chrysler Corporation, 1950; the City of Detroit Interracial Committee; the Detroit Council for Better Housing.

Reel 13. Executive Secretary's Topical File

American Association of Social Workers, 1932-49
[23-186]

American Red Cross, 1942-50 [187-296]

American War-Community Services, Inc., 1944
[297-341]

Baby Clinic Reports, 1921-26 [342-398]

Bethune-Cookman College Emergency Campaign,
1937 [399-424]

Bibliographies of books on Negroes [425-663]



Francis Kornegay and John Dancy with Sand Against the Wind

Charities Registration Bureau of Detroit, 1930-32
[664-753]
Community Fund Campaigns, 1929-35 [754-1065]

Reel 14. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Community Fund Campaigns, 1936-49 [23-1107]

Reel 15. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Council of Social Agencies, Undated and 1944-50
[23-483]
Detroit Council for Youth Services, 1935-49 [484-660]
Detroit Council of Social Workers, 1928-38 [661-700]
Detroit Counseling Service, 1944-50 [701-756]
Detroit Department of Public Welfare, 1933-34
[757-841]
Detroit Federation of Settlements, 1922-35 [842-1108]

Reel 16. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Detroit Federation of Settlements, 1936-50 [23-623]
Detroit House of Correction, 1943-46 [624-673]
Detroit Urban League Associates, 1943 [674-727]
Detroit Urban League Community Center, 1918-25
[728-820]
Employers' Association of Detroit, Reports on Em-
ployment, 1920-28 [821-1072]

Reel 17. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Governor's Insurance Company Discrimination
Study, 1949-50 [23-56]
Job Placement Reports, 1924-25 [57-178]
McCoy Orphanage, 1909-11 [179-192]
Mayor's Unemployment Committee, 1930-33
[193-282]
Michigan People's Finance Corporation, 1928-38
[283-591]
National Dental Association Convention, 1947
[592-627]
National Industrial Conference Board Cost of Living
Reports, 1929-38 [628-716]
National Medical Association Convention, 1949
[717-743]
National Urban League Executive Secretary's Coun-
cil, Undated and 1943-48 [744-832]

National Urban League Fellowships, 1935 [833-918]
National Urban League Merit Rating Plan for Employees, 1947-48 [919-950]
National Urban League Reports on Industry, 1926-27 [951-970]
Non-profit Corporation Reports, 1924-46 [971-1019]

Reel 18. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Parkside Hospital, 1933-50 [23-720]
Pen and Palette Club, 1926-30 [721-860]
Russian War Relief, 1942 and 1945-46 [861-919]
Selective Service, 1940-42 [920-975]
Social Workers Club of Detroit, 1930-1938 [976-1038]

Reel 19. Executive Secretary's Topical File

Speech Material [23-206]
Stay at Home Camp, 1949 [207-240]
Survey of Negro Policemen in Other Cities, 1923 [241-273]
Tuskegee Institute Fund Drive, 1925-26 [274-325]
U.S. Department of Labor Group Work Reports, 1936-38 [326-471]
Work Reports, 1921 and 1926-35 [472-1033]
Y.M.C.A., 1926-32 [1034-1101]

Reel 20. Budgets and Financial Records, 1916-35 [23-1119]

These records include information on day-to-day expenditures and also monthly and yearly reports.

Reel 21. Budgets and Financial Records, January 1936 to August 1942 [23-1081]

Reel 22. Budgets and Financial Records, September 1942 to December 1946 [23-1108]

Reel 23. Budgets and Financial Records, 1947-50 [23-1042]

Reel 24. Green Pastures Camp Reports, 1931-50 [23-763]
Green Pastures Camp General File, Undated and 1931-39 [764-1123]

No reports of Green Pastures Camp are available for the years 1932 and 1945. The General File includes correspondence, reports to the Council of Social Agencies, lists of employees of the camp,

and descriptions of camp activities. Included is extensive correspondence with William J. Norton, executive vice-president and secretary of the Children's Fund of Michigan, which financed the construction and operation of the camp. There is also correspondence reflecting the day-to-day operation of the camp, including offers to supply goods and services, and letters of inquiry from people who wanted to use the camp for meetings or to start similar camps.

Reel 25. Green Pastures Camp General File, 1940-50 [23-379]
Green Pastures Camp Budgets and Financial Records,
1931-45 [380-1133]

Reel 26. Green Pastures Camp Budgets and Financial Records,
1946-50 [23-486]
Alfred Camp File, 1941-42 [487-618]
Vocational Services Department Reports, 1944-50
[619-1110]

John Dancy served as supervising director of Alfred Camp, a camp for Negro mothers and children of families on welfare from the Alfred District of Detroit. The camp was financed by donations collected by a soliciting committee and by an appropriation from the Detroit Department of Public Welfare.

In 1944 the Detroit Urban League created a Vocational Services Department which took over all Urban League activities in the fields of employment and vocational counseling. These reports include both monthly and annual reports to the executive secretary. Annual reports are filed at the end of monthly reports for the year.

Reel 27. Vocational Services Department General File, Undated and January 1944 to August 1945 [23-1117]

Material on this and the following three reels comprise the files of Francis A. Kornegay, the vocational services secretary of the Detroit Urban League.

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Julius A. Thomas—director, Department of Industrial Relations

Guichard Parris—field secretary, Industrial Relations

Alphonse Heningburg—field secretary, Industrial Relations,
later director, Public Education

Ann Tanneyhill—secretary, Bureau of Vocational Guidance

Correspondents (Other):

George W. Crockett—executive director, U.A.W.-C.I.O. Fair Practices Committee

Topics discussed: The Detroit Council for the Physically Handicapped; the annual Vocational Opportunity Campaigns; the Detroit Public Schools; the War Manpower Commission; efforts to abolish the poll tax. Included are scattered issues of the newsletter of the Industrial Secretary's Council of the National Urban League.

Reel 28. Vocational Services Department General File, September 1945 to December 1950 [23-1048]

Correspondents (National Urban League):

Julius A. Thomas—director, Department of Industrial Relations

Correspondents (Other):

R. J. Thomas—president, United Automobile Workers

James E. Shepard—president, North Carolina College at Durham

G. Mennen Williams—governor, Michigan

Topics discussed: The Department of School-Community Relations of the Detroit Board of Education; the City of Detroit Interracial Committee; attempts to abolish the poll tax; efforts to set up a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Reel 29. Vocational Services Department Topical File

Alpha Phi Alpha Convention, 1948 [23-112]

American Red Cross, 1944-45 [113-150]

Apprenticeship, 1948-49 [151-179]

Back to School Campaign, 1949-50 [180-214]

Brewery Industry Employment Opportunities, 1950 [215-252]

Employment of Negroes in City Departments, 1944-47 [253-376]

Employment of Negroes in County Departments, 1947 [377-411]

Employment of Negroes in State Departments, 1947-48 [412-442]

Housing Contacts, 1944-45 [443-469]

Industrial Associates, 1944-45 [470-547]

Industrial Relations Committee, 1945 [548-602]

J. L. Hudson Company Employment Situation, 1947-48 [603-625]

- James E. Shepard Memorial Foundation, 1949-50 [626-664]
- Job Workshop Conference, 1945 [665-750]
- Meinzinger Art School Discrimination, 1946 [751-784]
- Milwaukee Regional Conference of Industrial Secretaries, 1945 [785-829]
- Negro Research Data, 1944 [830-925]
- Newspaper Clippings, Undated and 1944-50 [926-1047]
- Personal File (Kornegay), 1936-43 [1048-1061]
- Pilot Placement Project, 1948-49 [1062-1100]

Reel 30. Vocational Services Department Topical File

- Press Releases, Undated and 1944-50 [23-627]
- Progress Reports, 1949 [628-682]
- Shwayder Brothers, Inc., 1947 [683-748]
- Tuskegee Trade Conference, 1949-50 [749-781]
- Vocational Opportunity Campaigns, 1948-50 [782-1070]
- White Collar Survey, Undated and 1948-50 [1071-1129]

Reel 31. Community Organization Department Reports, 1947-50 [23-59]

- Community Organization Department General File, 1947-50 [60-871]
- Community Organization Department Topical File
 - Detroit Housing Commission, 1949-50 [872-1007]
 - Detroit Public Schools, 1949-50 [1008-1053]
 - Federal Housing Administration, 1950 [1054-1136]

These papers and those on the first part of the next reel comprise the files of William L. Price, the community organization secretary of the Detroit Urban League. His department handled most of the Urban League work in the areas of education, health, recreation, housing, and welfare. The general file includes much information on the Community Organization Council of the National Urban League.

Reel 32. Community Organization Department Topical File

- Housing, 1947-50 [23-204]
- Northwest Branch of the Detroit Urban League, 1947-50 [205-355]

National Urban League Conference File, 1937-48
[356-1142]

The first part of this reel completes the files of William L. Price. The national conference files, which follow, include correspondence, speeches, and records of actions taken at the meetings. There are no conference files for 1942, 1943, 1945 or 1946, but the material on some of these meetings and on meetings held before 1937 can be found in the Executive Secretary's General File for those years. Since the conferences for the years 1937 to 1941 were all held at Green Pastures Camp and hosted by the Detroit Urban League, much detailed information has been saved on those meetings.

Reel 33. National Urban League Conference File, 1949-50
[23-194]

Newspaper Clipping File, Undated and 1917-50
[195-679]

National Urban League Printed Material File, Undated
and 1916-43 [680-1196]

The National Urban League printed material consists mainly of annual reports, conference agendas, newsletters, and articles by Urban League officials.

Reel 34. National Urban League Printed Material File,
1944-50 [23-448]

Printed Material of Urban League Affiliates, 1916-50
[449-1126]

The printed material of the various Urban League affiliates consists of annual reports, newsletters, and bulletins on specific projects. Affiliates best represented include: Atlanta; Brooklyn; Chicago; Kansas City; Milwaukee; New York; Omaha; Pittsburgh; St. Louis; St. Paul; Seattle. The collection includes no materials from the years 1920-25, 1936-39, 1941-43 and 1946.

Reel 35. Printed Material Concerning Related Detroit Social
Service Agencies, 1920-50 [23-1122]

These materials include reports, newsletters, and programs of meetings for such organizations as the Detroit Community Fund, the Council of Social Agencies, and the Detroit Housing Commission. The items included here were selected from a larger file of Detroit and Michigan printed materials. The collection includes no materials from the years 1923-26, 1929, 1935 and 1939.

