Collection Summary

Title: Leon Howard Sullivan Papers
Span Dates: 1940-2002
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1988-2002)
ID No.: MSS85101
Creator: Sullivan, Leon Howard, 1922-2001
Extent: 8,400 items; 24 containers; 9.6 linear feet; digital files
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Civil rights leader, entrepreneur, and minister. Correspondence, speeches, subject files, clippings, printed material, awards, and other papers relating chiefly to Sullivan’s work with the International Foundation for Education and Self Help.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Organizations
African-African American Summit.
General Motors Corporation.
International Foundation for Education and Self Help.
OIC International.
Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America.

Subjects
African Americans--Economic conditions.
African Americans--Relations with Africans.
African Americans--Social conditions.
Community development--Africa.
Economic assistance, American--Africa--Congresses.
Economic assistance, American--Africa.
Economic assistance, Domestic--United States.
Economic development--Africa.
Medical assistance--Africa.
Medical care--Africa.
Poverty--Africa.
Social responsibility of business.
Technical assistance, American--Africa--Congresses.
Technical assistance, American--Africa.
Unemployment--Africa.

Places
Africa--Economic conditions--1960-
Africa--Relations--United States.
Africa--Social conditions--1960-
South Africa.
United States--Economic conditions--1945-
United States--Relations--Africa.
United States--Social conditions--1945-

Occupations
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Leon Howard Sullivan were given to the Library of Congress in 2004 and 2007 by Leon Sullivan’s wife, Grace Banks Sullivan.

Transfers
One VHS tape containing documentaries of notable West Virginians was transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Other Repositories
Other papers of Leon Howard Sullivan are held by the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leon Howard Sullivan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Leon Howard Sullivan are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Digital Format
Digital files were received as part of the papers of Leon Howard Sullivan. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Leon Howard Sullivan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1922, Oct. 6</td>
<td>Born, Charleston, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>B.A., West Virginia State College, Institute, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Married Grace Banks (died 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Pastor, First Baptist Church, South Orange, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>M.A., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1971  Board member, General Motors Corp.
1977  Created Sullivan Principles promoting corporate social responsibility
1988  Retired, Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.
1991  Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom
1999  Received Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Leon Howard Sullivan (1922-2001) span the years 1940-2002 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1988-2002. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, reports, personal files, program files, articles, and miscellaneous material from Sullivan’s role as president of the International Foundation for Education and Self Help (IFESH), with additional material regarding Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America. The papers are arranged in four series: IFESH, OIC, Personal Miscellany, and Digital Files.

Leon Sullivan devoted many years of his life to the Philadelphia community, serving as pastor of the Zion Baptist Church from 1950 until his retirement in 1988. In that span, Sullivan founded the Zion Non-Profit Charitable Trust in 1962, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America in 1964, the OIC International in 1969, and served on the board of directors for General Motors beginning in the 1970s, where he developed a code of conduct for companies called the Sullivan Principles.

After his retirement, Sullivan founded the International Foundation for Education and Self Help, which would extend his principles of self-help and community empowerment to Africa. Through the use of assistance programs, IFESH helped educate and train Africans in the areas of health, business, and economic development in order to reduce poverty and unemployment. As president, Sullivan began the African-African American Summit to bring together world leaders and highlight issues facing African countries. The IFESH series contains program files, reports, summit materials, contributions, and administrative files documenting the various functions of the organization.

While serving as president of IFESH, Sullivan was kept abreast of the operations of Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America. The OIC series contains information regarding OIC International, affiliates, reports, and miscellaneous administrative records. The Personal Miscellany series contains correspondence, press and news clippings, articles written by Sullivan, and assorted material concerning General Motors, South Africa, and the Sullivan Principles.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:
• International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002
• Opportunities Industrialization Centers, 1976-2001
• Personal Miscellany, 1940-2001
• Digital Files, undated
Description of Series

Container  Series

**BOX 1-12**  
**International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002**  
Program files, reports, administrative files, subject files, and news articles relating to the  
International Foundation for Education and Self Help.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**BOX 12-16**  
**Opportunities Industrialization Centers, 1976-2001**  
Program files, reports, administrative files, subject files, and news articles relating to  
Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America and OIC International.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**BOX 16-24**  
**Personal Miscellany, 1940-2001**  
Correspondence, speeches, news articles, awards, reports, and writings related to Sullivan's  
work outside of International Foundation for Education and Self and Opportunities  
Industrialization Centers.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

**Digital Files, undated**  
One 5 1/4 inch disk titled "Angola 16." Unprocessed and unavailable.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-12  | **International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002**  
Program files, reports, administrative files, subject files, and news articles relating to the  
International Foundation for Education and Self Help.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 1     | Administrative file  
Board meetings, 1991-1993  
Budgets and financial statements, 1992-1999  
(2 folders)  
Incorporation, 1983-1987  
Insurance, 1995  
African-African American Summit  
1st Summit, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 1991  
2nd Summit, Libreville, Gabon, 1993  
(2 folders)  
3rd Summit, Dakar, Senegal, 1995  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 2     | 4th Summit, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1997  
(5 folders)  
5th Summit, Accra, Ghana, 1999  
6th Summit, Abuja, Nigeria, 2001 |
| BOX 3     | Summit dinner, 2000  
(2 folders)  
Contributions, 1988-2000  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 4     | Newsletters, 1990-2002  
(3 folders)  
Printed matter, 1983-1996  
(2 folders)  
Program files  
Angola projects, 1994-1996  
(1 folder) |
| BOX 5     | Angola projects, 1994-1996  
(4 folders)  
Debt for Development, 1988-1996  
(2 folders) |
(3 folders)  
Miscellany, 1989-2000  
People's Investment Fund for Africa, 1999-2001  
(2 folders) |
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| BOX 7     | People's Investment Fund for Africa, 1999-2001  
(1 folder)  
Program updates and overviews, 1991-1995  
(2 folders)  
Proposals, 1991-2000  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 8     | Proposals, 1991-2000  
(1 folder)  
Schools for Africa, 1997-2000  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 9     | Self Help Investment Plan, 1994-1998  
(2 folders)  
Supporters of Sub-Saharan Africa, 1994-2001  
(4 folders)  
Teachers for Africa, 1992-2001  
(1 folder) |
| BOX 10    | Teachers for Africa, 1992-2001  
(4 folders)  
Reports, 1988-1999  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 11    | Reports, 1988-1999  
(2 folders)  
Subject files  
Congress, 1990-2000  
HIV/AIDS, 2000  
(2 folders)  
Literacy, 1982-1993  
Miscellany, 1992-2000  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 12    | National Student's Support Council for Africa, 1993  
Peru, 1990  
Receptions, 1991-2000  
(3 folders)  
Unesco, 1996  
World Bank, 1992-2000 |
| BOX 12-16 | **Opportunities Industrialization Centers, 1976-2001**  
Program files, reports, administrative files, subject files, and news articles relating to  
Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America and OIC International.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.  

Affiliates  
American Indian, 1994-2000 |
| BOX 13    | General file, 1991-2000  
Los Angeles, Calif., 1993-1998 |
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<td>Yakima Valley, Wash., 1996-1998</td>
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<td>Articles, 1986, 1996</td>
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<td>Conferences, 1990-2001</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1976, 1989-2000</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td><em>Essence of OIC</em>, 1996</td>
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<td>Tribute to Greatness: The Sullivan Years, 1992</td>
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1993
  (2 folders)

BOX 19
  1994
  1995
  1996
  1997
    (2 folders)
      1998
      1999
      2000
        (2 folders)

BOX 20
  2000
    (1 folder)
      2001
      Undated
      Documentary, 1994
      Finances, 1972-1996
        (2 folders)
      Funeral services, 1994-2000
      General Motors, 1971-2000
        (2 folders)

BOX 21
  General Motors, 1971-2000
    (5 folders)
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BOX 22
  Notes, undated
    (1 folder)
  Photographs, circa 1975-circa 1995
  Poems, 1940, 1989
  Press, 1990-2001
    (2 folders)
  Progress Investment Associates, 1997-2000
  Remembrances and condolences, 2001
    (2 folders)
  Solicitations, 1989-2001
    (1 folder)

BOX 23
  Solicitations, 1989-2001
    (3 folders)
  South Africa, 1978-1996
    (4 folders)

BOX 24
  Speeches, 1978-2000
    (2 folders)
    (2 folders)
  Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., 1989
  Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa., 1980-1997
  Zion Community Center, Philadelphia, Pa., 1990-1996
Zion Non-Profit Charitable Trust, 1996

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