

National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78034173>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012051>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 July

Collection Summary

Title: National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) Records

Inclusive Dates: 1904-1953

Bulk Dates: 1904-1934

ID No.: MSS34173

Creator: National Child Labor Committee, U.S.

Extent: 7,000 items

Extent: 66 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 36.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78034173>

Summary: Correspondence, official records, reports, speeches, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks containing form letters, press releases, and newspaper clippings relating to the committee. Includes reports on child labor conditions in various industries and minute books and proceedings of annual meetings and national conferences.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

McKelway, Alexander Jeffrey, 1866-1918--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Organizations

National Child Labor Committee (U.S.)

National Committee on Federal Aid to Education. National Committee on Federal Aid to Education records.

Subjects

Child labor--Southern States.

Child labor--United States.

Education--United States--Finance.

Federal aid to education--United States.

Places

United States--Social conditions--20th century.

Acquisition Information

The records of the National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) were received by the Library of Congress in two groups. In 1932, Lavinia Rutherford Smith McKelway (Mrs. Alexander McKelway) made a deposit that was converted to gift in 1947. A larger group of material was given by Gertrude Folks Zimand in 1954.

Processing History

The records of National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) were housed and described in 1956. The finding aid was revised in 2012 by Jeffery Bryson. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Additional Guides

A press release on the records was issued by the Library of Congress on Apr. 25, 1955. A note on the collection appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin* (Mar. 28, 1955); and the material was described in the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 12, no. 3 (May 1955).

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these records.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [Alexander Jeffrey McKelway](#) .

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the records of the National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

Date	Event
1904	National Child Labor Committee organized at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York, N.Y.
1907	Organization chartered by act of Congress
1908	Hired photographer Lewis Wickes Hine to document child labor conditions
1912	Establishment of a Children's Bureau in U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Labor
1910-1920	Published and disseminated the photographs of Lewis Hine in support of state and federal legislation to ban most forms of child labor and promote compulsory education in all states
1938	Passage by Congress of the Fair Labor Standards Act
1964	Passage by Congress of the Manpower Development and Training Act, the Economic Opportunity Act, and the Vocational Education Act
1975	Published "Rite of Passage: Youth's Transition from School to Work," relating to youth work issues, and "Promises to Keep," on the education of migrant children and outreach to their parents and families
1979	Contributed to the founding of the National Youth Employment Coalition
1985	Initiated the Lewis Hine Awards for Service to Children and Youth

1991

Created the KAPOW program partnering elementary schools with businesses to teach young children about work

Scope and Content Note

The records of the National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) span the years 1904-1953, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1904-1934. The collection consists of reports, speeches, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks containing form letters, press releases, and newspaper clippings. Included are reports on child labor conditions in various industries and minute books of meetings of the National Child Labor Committee (U.S.) and the National Committee on Federal Aid to Education. Also in the collection are a file of general correspondence of Alexander J. McKelway, secretary for the Southern States of the National Child Labor Committee; and two letters from Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, Speeches, and Related Material, 1905-1943](#)
- [Reports of Investigation, 1904-1937](#)
- [Minutes, 1904-1945](#)
- [Proceedings of Annual Meetings and National Conferences of the National Child Labor Committee, 1905-1929](#)
- [Scrapbooks and Printed Matter, 1907-1953](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-1A	<p><u>Correspondence, Speeches, and Related Material, 1905-1943</u> Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, other printed matter, and miscellaneous material concerning child labor conditions and the child labor amendment. Unsorted.</p>
BOX 2-5	<p><u>Reports of Investigation, 1904-1937</u> Reports on investigations of child labor conditions in various states and locales. Unsorted.</p>
BOX 6-9	<p><u>Minutes, 1904-1945</u> Minute books and minutes of meetings of the National Child Labor Committee and the National Committee on Federal Aid to Education. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 10-13	<p><u>Proceedings of Annual Meetings and National Conferences of the National Child Labor Committee, 1905-1929</u> Accounts of meetings. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 14-65	<p><u>Scrapbooks and Printed Matter, 1907-1953</u> Form letters used by the National Child Labor Committee, press releases on special events and child labor issues and conditions, and newspaper clippings. Organized by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-1A	Correspondence, Speeches, and Related Material, 1905-1943 Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, other printed matter, and miscellaneous material concerning child labor conditions and the child labor amendment. Unsorted.
BOX 1	Alexander J. McKelway File, 1905-1912, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	1916, Mar. 27, Statement, Alexander J. McKelway, before Interstate Commerce Commission
BOX 1	1916, "Child Labor Programs and Projects," pamphlet
BOX 1	1931, (?) Fuller, Raymond G., Speech, Child Labor
BOX 1	1917, Apr. 17, Payson Smith to Massachusetts Board of Education (Copy)
BOX 1	1915, May 11, Oral Testimony, Alexander J. McKelway (3 folders)
BOX 1	1934, Jan. 27, and Nov. 8, Franklin .D. Roosevelt to Courtenay Dinwiddie, General Secretary, NCLC
BOX 1	1911, Roosevelt, Theodore, two addresses at Birmingham, Ala., "The Conservation of Childhood"
BOX 1	1938, Sept. 4, "Democracy in Danger," Nicholas Murray Butler, Printed Address
BOX 1	1943, Sept. 30, "International Trans-Ocean Air Transport and the Domestic Airlines, Pamphlet, W. A. Patterson
BOX 1	1909, Jan. 24, Boynton, M. P., Sermon on Child Labor, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 1	1918, Dec. 17 , State Public Welfare Conference, Oklahoma City, Okla.
BOX 1	Child Labor Amendment Conferences, Organization Associated for Ratification (6 folders)
BOX 1	"Shall Charitable Societies Relieve Family Distress"
BOX 1A	Governors' Messages Relative to the Child Labor Amendment (3 folders)
BOX 1A	Maryland Canneries
BOX 1A	1906
BOX 1A	1909
BOX 1A	Massachusetts, 1911, Cranberries
BOX 1A	Maine, Sardine Canneries, 1911
BOX 1A	South, Oyster Industry, 1911
BOX 1A	Maine, Sardine Cannery, 1911
BOX 1A	Cranberries
BOX 1A	Wisconsin, 1915, Sugar Beets
BOX 1A	Georgia, Canning, 1915
BOX 1A	Colorado, Wisconsin, Beets, 1915
BOX 1A	Mississippi, Canneries, 1916
BOX 1A	Colorado, 1916, Sugar Beets
BOX 1A	Missouri, 1916, Agriculture

Correspondence, Speeches, and Related Material, 1905-1943

Container	Contents
BOX 1A	Connecticut, 1917, Tobacco
BOX 2-5	Reports of Investigation, 1904-1937 Reports on investigations of child labor conditions in various states and locales. Unsorted.
BOX 2	Gulf Coast Canneries, 1913
BOX 2	Michigan, Canning
BOX 2	New Jersey, 1911, Cranberries (2 folders)
BOX 2	California, Canneries, 1913
BOX 2	Wisconsin, 1913, Cranberries
BOX 2	Florida, Oyster Industry, 1911
BOX 2	Maryland, 1913-1915, Agriculture
BOX 2	Maryland, Strawberries, 1913
BOX 2	Mississippi, Oyster Canneries, 1914
BOX 2	New Jersey, 1914, Agriculture
BOX 2	Louisiana, Shrimp Canneries, 1914
BOX 2	New York, Buffalo, Cannery, School Children, 1910
BOX 2	Colorado, Sugar Beets, 1915
BOX 2	New Jersey, 1914, Cranberries
BOX 2	New Jersey, 1915, Cranberries
BOX 2	California Canneries, 1915
BOX 2	Delaware, Berry Picking and Canning
BOX 2	South, Oyster, Canneries, 1916
BOX 2	Michigan, 1917, Agriculture
BOX 2	New Jersey, Cranberries
BOX 2	Maryland, Oyster and Crab Work, 1937
BOX 3	Illinois, Glass Factories, circa 1904
BOX 3	West Virginia, Glass Factories, Child Labor, 1908
BOX 3	Mississippi, Cotton Mills, 1908
BOX 3	Virginia, Cotton Mills, 1908
BOX 3	Georgia, Cotton Mills, 1908
BOX 3	Alabama, Cotton Mills, 1910
BOX 3	New Jersey, Glass Factories, 1909, Child Labor
BOX 3	Rhode Island and New Hampshire, Child Labor, 1909
BOX 3	Illinois, Child Labor, 1910
BOX 3	Illinois, Glass Factories, 1910
BOX 3	Indiana, Child Labor, 1910
BOX 3	Florida, Cigar Industry, Child Labor, 1911
BOX 3	Georgia, Cotton Mills, 1909
BOX 3	Illinois, Child Labor, 1912, Factories
BOX 3	Mississippi, Cotton Mills, 1911 (Including Photographs)
BOX 3	Mississippi Cotton Mills, 1912
BOX 3	Georgia, Child Labor, 1913, Mills
BOX 3	Alabama, Mills, 1913
BOX 3	Massachusetts, Textiles, 1913

Reports of Investigation, 1904-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Pennsylvania Glass Factories, 1912-1913
BOX 3	The Glass Industry, 1911
BOX 3	Mississippi, Child Labor, 1913, Mills
BOX 3	New York, Candy Industry, 1913
BOX 3	New Jersey, Uniforms, 1917
BOX 3	Georgia, Child Labor, 1913, Mills
BOX 3	New York, Hat Factories, 1913
BOX 3	Maryland, Cork Industry, 1913
BOX 3	Georgia, Cotton Mills, 1915
BOX 3	New Jersey, Glass Factories
BOX 3	New York, Textiles, Child Labor, 1913
BOX 3	Indiana, Furniture, 1923 (2 folders)
BOX 3	South Carolina, Child Labor, 1912 (2 folders)
BOX 3	South Carolina, Cotton Mills and Child Labor
BOX 3	Texas, Hosiery
BOX 3	Texas, Child Labor, Mills, 1913
BOX 4	New York, Newsboys, 1913
BOX 4	Interview with Mr. Crummy, Superintendent, Newsboys Home Club, New York City, 1913, Mar. 11
BOX 4	Illinois Child Labor, 1916
BOX 4	South, 1913, Delinquency
BOX 4	Ohio
BOX 4	New York, Tenement Homework, 1915
BOX 4	Pennsylvania, Coal, 1916
BOX 4	Pennsylvania Education, Regulations re Employment of Minors
BOX 4	Mississippi, Child Labor, 1913-1914
BOX 4	Mississippi, 1913-1914
BOX 4	Georgia, Pellegra, 1914
BOX 4	Mississippi, Child Labor, 1916
BOX 4	Connecticut, 1914, Messengers
BOX 4	Virginia, Child Labor, 1914
BOX 4	Virginia, Night Messengers, 1913
BOX 4	Virginia, Child Labor, 1911
BOX 4	Vermont, Street Trades, 1916
BOX 4	New Jersey, Street Trades, 1912
BOX 4	New Jersey, Mines, 1913
BOX 4	New York, Tenement Homework, 1913
BOX 4	Mississippi, 1914
BOX 4	New York City, Flower and Feather Industry, 1934
BOX 4	Newark, N.J., Tenement Homework, 1923
BOX 4	Lancaster, Pa., Tenement Homework, 1923
BOX 4	Pennsylvania, Coal Mines, 1911
BOX 4	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Night Messengers, 1910
BOX 4	Pennsylvania, Coal, 1912
BOX 4	Kentucky, Night Messengers, 1913

Reports of Investigation, 1904-1937

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Connecticut, Bowling Alleys, 1914
BOX 4	Patterson, N.J., Tenement Work, 1922
BOX 4	Passaic, N.J., Tenement Homework, 1933
BOX 4	Jersey City, N.J., Tenement Homework, 1922
BOX 4	West Virginia, Messenger Service, 1914-1915
BOX 4	New York City, Newsboys Home Club, 1915
BOX 4	Maryland, Mines, 1906
BOX 5	Exhibits and Financial Statements from Twentieth to Forty-Seventh Meeting, 1908, Oct. 29-1916, Mar. 1916 (5 folders)
BOX 5	National Child Labor Committee, Papers and Reports Presented at Board of Trustees and Finance Committee Meetings, 1908, Oct. 29-1910, Sept. 30 (14 folders)
BOX 6-9	Minutes, 1904-1945 Minute books and minutes of meetings of the National Child Labor Committee and the National Committee on Federal Aid to Education. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6	1904, Apr.-1906, Apr., First to Tenth Meeting
BOX 6	1906, Oct. 24-1908, Apr. 29, Eleventh to Nineteenth Meeting
BOX 7	1908-1911
BOX 7	1912-1913
BOX 7	1914-1915
BOX 7	1916-1917
BOX 7	1918-1919
BOX 7	1920-1921
BOX 8	1921-1926, May
BOX 8	1926-1930, Oct.
BOX 9	1930, Nov.-1935, Oct.
BOX 9	1935, Nov.-1945, Oct.
BOX 10-13	Proceedings of Annual Meetings and National Conferences of the National Child Labor Committee, 1905-1929 Accounts of meetings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 10	1st (1905)
BOX 10	2nd (1906)
BOX 10	5th (1909)
BOX 11	7th (1911)
BOX 11	8th (1912)
BOX 11	9th (1913)
BOX 12	10th (1914)
BOX 12	11th (Part II, 1915)
BOX 12	12th (1916)
BOX 13	13th (1917)
BOX 13	14th (1918)

**Proceedings of Annual Meetings and National Conferences of the National Child Labor Committee,
1905-1929**

Container	Contents
BOX 13	20th (1924)
BOX 13	25th (1929)
BOX 14-65	Scrapbooks and Printed Matter, 1907-1953 Form letters used by the National Child Labor Committee, press releases on special events and child labor issues and conditions, and newspaper clippings. Organized by topic or type of material.
BOX 14	Form Letters Used
BOX 14	1907-1911
BOX 15	1915-1922
BOX 16	Press Releases
BOX 16	General
BOX 16	1912-1913, June
BOX 17	1913, Oct.-1914, Mar.
BOX 18	1914, Mar.-Sept.
BOX 18	1912-1914
BOX 19	1914, Oct.-1915, Feb.
BOX 20	1915, Mar.-1915, Sept.
BOX 21	1915, Sep.-1916, Mar.
BOX 21	1916, Apr.-Sept.
BOX 22	1916, Oct.-1917, Mar.
BOX 23	1917, Apr.-Sept.
BOX 23	1917-1918
BOX 24	1917, Nov.-1918, Oct.
BOX 25	1918, Oct.-1919, Sept.
BOX 26	1919-1920, Oct.
BOX 27	1920, Oct.-1921, Sept.
BOX 28	1920, circa Aug.
BOX 28	1921-1922, July
BOX 29	1922, Oct.-1924, Nov.
BOX 30	1922, May-1925, Jan.
BOX 31	1924-1927, Oct.
BOX 32	1927, Oct.-1932 Apr.
BOX 33	1932, May-1934, Sept.
BOX 34	Child Labor Day
BOX 34	1907-1917
BOX 35	1924-1926
BOX 36	1929-1930
BOX 37	1931
BOX 38	1932
BOX 39	1933
BOX 40	1934
BOX 41	Child Labor Amendment, 1934-1936
BOX 42	Newspaper Clippings on Child Labor
BOX 42	1915
BOX 42	1918-1920

Scrapbooks and Printed Matter, 1907-1953

Container	Contents
BOX 42	1927-1928
BOX 43	1927-1928
BOX 43	1929-1930
BOX 44	1933-1934
BOX 45	1933-1939
BOX 46	1934-1937
BOX OV 47	1935 (Oversize)
BOX 48A-48B	Cartoons on Child Labor, 1912-1920
BOX 49	Newspaper Clippings on Committee Conferences
BOX 49	7th (1911)
BOX 49	8th (1912)
BOX 50	9th (1913)
BOX 51	10th (1914)
BOX 52	11th (1915)
BOX 53	12th (1916) Including Miscellaneous Clippings
BOX 54	12th (1916)
BOX 54	13th (1917)
BOX 54	14th (1918)
BOX 54	9th National Conference (1920)
BOX 55	Newspaper Clippings on Child Labor Amendment, 1934-1938
BOX 56	Newspaper Clippings on the Catholic Citizens' Committee for the Child Labor Amendment, 1936
BOX 57	Child Labor Conditions in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania
BOX 57	New York Investigating Committee, 1912-1913
BOX 58	New Jersey Conditions; Pittsburgh, Pa., Conditions, 1918-1919
BOX 59	Various Topics
BOX 59	Street Trades, 1932
BOX 59	Night Messengers, 1909-1910
BOX 60	Poetry on Child Labor, 1913-1922
BOX 60	Doctors on Child Labor, 1920-1930
BOX 61	Chronological File of Newspaper Clippings on Child Labor
BOX 61	1926-1928
BOX 62	1929-1931
BOX 63	1932
BOX 64	1933
BOX 65	Miscellaneous Clippings, 1924-1953