Collection Summary
Title: Leon Howard Sullivan Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1940-2002
Bulk Dates: 1988-2002
ID No.: MSS85101
Creator: Sullivan, Leon Howard, 1922-2001
Extent: 8,400 items
Extent: 24 containers
Extent: 9.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2004085101
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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Organizations
African-American 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**
Civil rights leaders.
Clergy.
Entrepreneurs.

**Acquisition Information**
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.

**Processing History**
The papers of Leon Howard Sullivan were processed in 2016 by Michael Folkerts.

**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.

**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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<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>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Married Grace Banks (died 2011)</td>
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</table>
1945  Pastor, First Baptist Church, South Orange, N.J.
1947  M.A., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1950  Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.
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 three series: IFESH, OIC, and Personal Miscellany.

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 three series:

• International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002
• Opportunities Industrialization Centers, 1976-2001
• Personal Miscellany, 1940-2001
Description of Series

Container |
--- |
**BOX 1-12** |
Series |
**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** |
Series |
**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** |
Series |
**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.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-12</td>
<td><strong>International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002</strong>&lt;br&gt;Program files, reports, administrative files, subject files, and news articles relating to the International Foundation for Education and Self Help.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
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<td>Summit dinner, 2000 (2 folders)&lt;br&gt;Contributions, 1988-2000 (5 folders)</td>
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             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)  
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             (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  
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             Subject files  
             Congress, 1990-2000  
             HIV/AIDS, 2000  
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             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  
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Miscellaneous affiliates, 1994-2000
Yakima Valley, Wash., 1996-1998
Articles, 1986, 1996
Conferences, 1990-2001
Correspondence, 1976, 1989-2000

BOX 14

Essence of OIC, 1996
Executive board, 1989-2001
Finances, 1995-2001
(5 folders)

BOX 15

(2 folders)
Miscellany, 1990-1998
Press, 1988-2000
Reports
Annual reports, 1980-1995
Miscellany, 1989-1995
(2 folders)

BOX 16

Proposals, 1989-1998
(2 folders)

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.

Articles, 1968-1996
Assault on Literacy Program, 1989
Awards and tributes
Miscellany, 1988-2000
(2 folders)
Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1991
Tribute to Greatness: The Sullivan Years, 1992

BOX 17
Biographical information, 1988
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Correspondence
1988
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BOX 18
1988
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1989
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