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
Extent: 24 containers
Extent: 9.6 linear feet
Extent: digital files
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mmm2004085101
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.
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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leon Howard Sullivan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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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<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>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Board member, General Motors Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Created Sullivan Principles promoting corporate social responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Retired, Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Received Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights</td>
</tr>
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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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<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>BOX 3</td>
<td>Summit dinner, 2000&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)&lt;br&gt;Contributions, 1988-2000&lt;br&gt;(5 folders)</td>
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International Foundation for Education and Self Help, 1982-2002

Container | Contents
---|---
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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|           | 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)  
           | (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  
           | (5 folders)  
           | Correspondence  
           | 1988  
           | (1 folder)  
BOX 18    | 1988  
           | (1 folder)  
           | 1989  
           | (3 folders)  
           | 1990  
           | 1991  
           | 1992  

Leon Howard Sullivan Papers
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| BOX 19    | 1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
(2 folders)  
1998  
1999  
2000  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 20    | 2000  
(1 folder)  
2001  
Undated  
Documentary, 1994  
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Funeral services, 1994-2000  
General Motors, 1971-2000  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 21    | General Motors, 1971-2000  
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(1 folder) |
| BOX 22    | Notes, undated  
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Photographs, circa 1975-circa 1995  
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| BOX 24    | Speeches, 1978-2000  
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(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

**Digital Files, undated**

One 5 1/4 inch disk titled "Angola 16." Unprocessed and unavailable.