

## Scope and Content

The Richard Parrish Papers (1950–1975) consist of correspondence, transcripts of speeches, minutes, and convention proceedings, articles, printed material, newspaper clippings and photographs describing the activities of labor and civil rights organizations of which Parrish was an officer or member, primarily the NALC. In addition, information about Parrish’s teaching career is included. The collection is organized into three major series: Personal Papers, National Afro-American Labor Council, and Other Organizations.

Series I, **Personal Papers (1950–1975)**, contains a limited amount of incoming personal correspondence; an article about Parrish and another by him; newspaper clippings concerning civil rights and labor issues, including specific information about the National Afro-American Labor Council and the United Federation of Teachers; and printed material and correspondence relating to Parrish’s teaching career. Information within the folders is arranged chronologically. A 1950 letter from Constance Baker Motley to the New York Teachers’ Guild on the Sweatt and McLaurin cases is included in the personal correspondence.

The **National Afro-American Labor Council (NALC)** records (1960–1975) in Series II have been divided into material on the national organization (1960–1974) and files on individual chapters (1962–1975).

The National Organization File includes correspondence, the NALC constitution, executive board minutes, material on annual conventions and conferences, and mailing lists. The correspondence, arranged chronologically, contains many letters to and from Cleveland Robinson, president of the NALC. Folders for particular conventions and conferences include main addresses by A. Philip Randolph and Robinson (1964, 1967), resolutions (1965, 1968), transcripts of the proceedings (1968, 1972), and newspaper clippings (1968). Financial information on the 1965, 1967, and 1968 conventions and the 1971 and 1972 economic conferences has been placed at the end of each folder. A notebook with financial data for the 1965 and 1968 conventions is located in the 1968 Convention folder.

The Chapter File provides some information about the chapters’ membership and activities. Information for the Baltimore and Chicago chapters is limited to one and two items, respectively. The New York City Brewery Cases folder describes the New York local’s efforts to end discrimination in the hiring and promotion practices of the brewery industry and union. The Westchester County folder shows the NALC’s involvement in improving the hiring practices at the Con Ed/Wedco Corporation Indian Point construction project.

Series III, **Other Organizations** (1957, 1963–1974) includes substantial information about the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and its New York City local, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) (1963–1974). Files for the AFT Black Caucus, AFT locals, the United Action Caucus, civil rights and printed material point out the issues besetting the union during the 1963–1974 period.

The AFT Black Caucus folder contains information about the group’s support of Angela Davis as well as a history of the organization written by Parrish. The UFT folder contains documents concerning the 1968 teachers’ strike and one newspaper clipping about the Prince Edward County, Virginia, Freedom School of 1963. The Civil Rights folder includes material relating to Freedom Schools in the Deep South, the “Racism in Education” conference of 1966, and the union’s civil rights committee. Information within each folder is arranged chronologically.

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Material in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists folder (1972–1974) describes the organization's founding and purpose, its support of George McGovern for president, and its opposition to the nomination of Peter J. Brennan, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, as secretary of labor. Documents include newspaper clippings, press releases, and articles.

The Community Teachers' Association folder (1957, 1963–1966) contains material about its after-school tutorial program in 1964. The JFK Library for Minorities folder (1970–1973) describes the purpose of the organization and lists its 1973 officers and board members, while the National Education Association (NEA) records (1973) are limited to documents opposing the merger of NEA affiliates with AFT locals and the constitution of the NEA's Official Black Caucus.

The Negro Labor Committee (NLC) folder (1968–1973) contains material about the Riverside Park housing project in West Harlem and the 1973 Frank R. Crosswaith scholarship award program; a brief biographical sketch of Crosswaith, but no correspondence or information relating to his tenure as chairman of the NLC, is included. The United Black Caucus of Teachers folder (1970–71, 1973) states some of the positions taken by the organization. And finally, the United Black Coalition for Jobs in the Construction Industry folder (1968–1972) contains material about the Con Ed/Wedco Corporation's Indian Point construction project as well as membership lists; a speech by Cleveland Robinson during the 1968 Poor People's Campaign and a transcript of testimony by Jesse Jackson, director of Operation Breadbasket, before the U.S. Department of Labor in 1969 are also included.