



Guide to the Anti-Civil Rights Ephemera Collection, 1945-1971 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

Anti-Civil Rights ephemera collection, 1945-1971 and undated

Abstract:

Assorted racist flyers, printed materials, and some manuscript ephemera produced by groups, particularly white supremacist and states' rights groups, intent on opposing civil rights legislation and desegregation efforts in the Southern United States.

Extent:

0.2 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11224

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1759k>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Anti-Civil Rights Ephemera Collection, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection contains assorted printed materials and some manuscript ephemera produced by groups, particularly states' rights groups, intent on opposing civil rights legislation and desegregation efforts in the Southern United States in the 1960s. Materials date from 1945 through 1971; the bulk of the items are from the 1960s, with some materials undated. Geographically, the collection is centered on Birmingham, Alabama, with some materials from Georgia and other regions in Alabama.

Items have been loosely foldered based on their origin or content. Groups represented include: National States Rights Party; United Americans for Conservative Government; Alabama Committee to Support Your Local Police; the Ku Klux Klan; The Southerners; and the American States' Rights Association, Inc.

The bulk of the materials contain racist and hate speech and texts promoting white supremacy and opposing integration and voting rights for Black Americans. Some items discuss Martin Luther King, Jr. and the NAACP; others are encouraging white voters to join forces in Citizens' Councils or other groups to retain power in local political organizations. Some materials relate to school integration and schools closing rather than desegregate classrooms.

There are also three transcriptions of speeches included: "The Brotherhood of Man Racket," by W. H. Amerine; an untitled speech by Hugh Morrow delivered to the Alabama legislature; and "Civil Rights Bill Denies Trial by Jury--Our Greatest Constitutional Right," by John J. Sparkman, reprinted in the Congressional Record in 1957.

Biographical/Historical

The anti-civil rights movement developed in response to federal efforts to legislate desegregation in the 1950s and 1960s. Groups involved included the National States Rights Party, the Ku Klux Klan, various white citizens councils, and others. Organizations present in this collection include the Ku Klux Klan; National States Rights Party; United Americans for Conservative Government; Alabama Committee to Support Your Local Police; The Southerners; and the American States' Rights Association, Inc.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Anti-Civil Rights Ephemera Collection was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2016 and 2023. Acquired as part of the George Washington Flowers Collection of Southern Americana.

The collection was originally assembled by L and T Press of Northampton, Mass. in 2016. Subsequent addition acquired from D. Anthem, Bookseller, Norfolk, Va. in 2023.

Processing Information

Processed by RL Staff, July 2016. Updated in May 2023.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2016-0059, 2023-0029

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Related Materials

Related Material

See also the Ku Klux Klan Collection and the Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Project Collection.

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Names and Subjects

- Civil rights movements -- Southern States
- Literature of prejudice
- White supremacy movements -- United States
- White Citizens councils
- Racism -- United States -- History
- Segregation -- Southern States
- National States Rights Party (U.S.)
- Ku Klux Klan (1915-)
- United Americans for Conservative Government

Collection Inventory

Flyers and circulars promoting states' rights or white Southern rights, 1945-1971

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Includes general states' rights ephemera as well as transcripts of three speeches: "The Brotherhood of Man Racket," by W. H. Amerine; an untitled speech by Hugh Morrow delivered to the Alabama legislature; and "Civil Rights Bill Denies Trial by Jury-Our Greatest Constitutional Right," by John J. Sparkman, reprinted in the Congressional Record in 1957. Some materials are photocopied clippings about Martin Luther King; other document the presence of The Southerners and Ku Klux Klan units.

Circulars and flyers opposing desegregation in Birmingham, Alabama, circa 1960s

Box 1

National States' Rights Party/Edward R. Fields newsletters and clippings, 1963-1964

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Newsletters self-published and circulated by Edward R. Fields for the National States Rights Party in Birmingham, Alabama, as well as correspondence from Fields soliciting funds to continue publishing The Thunderbolt.

United Americans for Conservative Government flyers, 1958-1960s

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Recruitment flyers for white-only membership to United Americans for Conservative Government. Includes a flyer explaining the law for parents seeking vouchers for their white children to attend private, segregated schools.

White Citizens Councils literature, 1956-1963,
undated

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Includes pamphlets: "The Ugly Truth about the NAACP" address by Attorney General Eugene Cook of Georgia at the Peace Officers Association of Georgia; "The Need for States Rights Councils and Citizens Councils," by Charles J. Bloch (1956). Also contains flyers about states rights in Birmingham, Alabama, and an anti-semitic flyer, "The Biggest 'Big-Lie' of All," issued by Elmore County White Citizens Council of Wetumpka, Alabama.