NEW DEAL AGENCIES AND BLACK AMERICA
BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH SOURCES:
Microfilms from Major Archival and
Manuscript Collections

AUGUST MEIER AND ELLIOTT RUDWICK
General Editors

NEW DEAL AGENCIES
AND
BLACK AMERICA
National Archives Record Groups from which these materials are drawn are:

12 Office of Education
119 National Youth Administration
48 Department of Interior
35 Civilian Conservation Corps
183 Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service
174 Department of Labor—Office of the Secretary
9 National Recovery Administration
40 Department of Commerce
69 Works Progress Administration
**“Black Cabinet” Roster**

The “Black Cabinet” is an informal term applied to a network of black advisors and administrators of the New Deal in the 1930s. This roster of “Black Cabinet” members is drawn from the membership lists of two groups that met at different times but on a regular basis in the 1930s to discuss issues concerning blacks. The first group, set up in 1934 under the auspices of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, was called the Interdepartmental Group Concerned with the Special Problems of Negroes. The second group, organized by Mary McLeod Bethune of the National Youth Administration, was known as the Federal Council on Negro Affairs. It met from 1937 to 1939. Each entry will be marked (ID) or (FC) indicating membership in one or both of the groups. A list of white members of the Interdepartmental Group follows the “Black Cabinet” roster.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James A. Atkins (FC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Works Progress Administration</td>
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<td>Mary McLeod Bethune (FC)</td>
<td>Director, Division of Negro Affairs</td>
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<td>National Youth Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgar G. Brown (FC)</td>
<td>Advisor on Negro Affairs</td>
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<td>Civilian Conservation Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Roscoe C. Brown (FC)</td>
<td>Specialist in Health Education</td>
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<td>U.S. Public Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sterling Brown (FC)</td>
<td>Editor on Negro Affairs</td>
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<td>Federal Writer’s Project</td>
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<td>Works Progress Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ambrose Caliver (ID, FC)</td>
<td>Senior Specialist in Negro Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Office of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Craft (FC)</td>
<td>Recorder of Deeds Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constance E.H. Daniels (FC)</td>
<td>Special Assistant, Information Services</td>
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<td>Farm Security Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>James P. Davis (FC)</td>
<td>Head Field Officer</td>
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<td>Agricultural Adjustment Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles S. Duke (FC)</td>
<td>Associate Architect</td>
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<td>Joseph H.B. Evans (FC)</td>
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<td>Charles Hall (ID)</td>
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<td>Asst. Consultant on Race Relations</td>
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<td>U.S. Housing Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph R. Houchins (FC)</td>
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Materials found in this collection pertain primarily to the years between 1933 and 1940. In some instances as in the case of an individual advisor like Mary McLeod Bethune, whose relationship to the National Youth Administration extended to 1943, or Emmer Lancaster, Department of Commerce, who did not assume office until 1940, filmed records are continued into the early 1940s. But certain war-related agencies such as the Office of Price Administration (Record Group 188) that did involve black advisors like T. Arnold Hill were not filmed. In addition, although every effort has been made to incorporate each agency and department relevant to racial matters and to the lives of black people in the 1930s, it is possible that a few may have been missed. We are confident, however, that the major portion of National Archives materials which relates to the New Deal-black experience has been included.

One further point. The index guide is a good source for determining the broad categories for materials found in the various agencies. But within many of the general classifications are hidden important documents that might be passed over through only a cursory glance at the guide. For example, under the Office of Education, Negro Guidance, Miscellaneous Correspondence (Reel 1) one can find numerous letters from black educators to Ambrose Caliver and others that shed considerable light not only on the subject of “Vocational Guidance” but the state of black education in various regions of the United States during the 1930s. Likewise, under the Works Progress Administration, General Files (Reel 20), Alfred W. Smith’s reports contain quotes from letters sent to Smith and his assistants from blacks who both praised and criticized the WPA’s work in their local areas. In short, within many of the standard reports, general correspondence or press releases, one can discover important primary materials that offers insights into the black experience and the relationship of the federal government to black Americans during the 1930s.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reel Index

Reel 1
Office of Education ......................... 1
National Youth Administration ............... 1

Reel 2
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 1

Reel 3
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 2

Reel 4
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 2

Reel 5
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 3

Reel 6
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 4

Reel 7
National Youth Administration cont. .......... 5
Department of the Interior .................. 5

Reel 8
Department of the Interior cont. ............. 5
Farm Security Administration ................. 5
Civilian Conservation Corps .................. 6

Reel 9
Civilian Conservation Corps cont. ............ 6
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service .... 7

Reel 10
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 7

Reel 11
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 8

Reel 12
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 9

Reel 13
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 10
Reel 14
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 11

Reel 15
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 11

Reel 16
Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service cont. 12

Reel 17
Department of Labor—Office of the Secretary ............... 13
National Recovery Administration ............................ 13

Reel 18
National Recovery Administration cont. ..................... 13
Department of Commerce .......................... 13

Reel 19
Department of Commerce cont. .............................. 14

Reel 20
Department of Commerce cont. .............................. 15
Works Progress Administration ............................ 15

Reel 21
Works Progress Administration cont. ......................... 16

Reel 22
Works Progress Administration cont. ......................... 17

Reel 23
Works Progress Administration cont. ......................... 17

Reel 24
Works Progress Administration cont. ......................... 17

Reel 25
Works Progress Administration cont. ......................... 18
Reel Index

Reel 1

Office of Education (Record Group 12)

Negro Guidance, Alphabetical File, 1936-1937

0001 Atlanta Meeting. 151pp.
0152 Dr. Caliver. 27pp.
0216 Regional Conferences. 24pp.
0240 Miscellaneous Correspondence. 229pp.
0469 Press Releases. 21pp.
0490 Robert C. Weaver. 31pp.

Negro Guidance, Correspondence with Regional Directors

0577 Walter Chivers (2) (Selections). 104pp.
0681 Fulton G. Clark (Selections). 50pp.
0731 L.A. Potts. 18pp.
0749 James H. Robinson. 33pp.

National Youth Administration (Record Group 119)

Office of Negro Affairs, Director’s Correspondence, Reports, and Information, 1938-1941

0782 Applications (Administrative Correspondence, Memoranda, and Employment Applications). 190pp.

Reel 2

National Youth Administration continued

Office of Negro Affairs, Director’s Correspondence, Reports, and Information, 1938-1941 continued

0001 Applications. 164pp.
0165 Addresses. 177pp.
0368 Bibliographies (Selections). 20pp.
0388 Aviation (Selections). 44pp.
0432 Proposed Study Course (Selections). 55pp.
0487 Health Reports (Selections). 18pp.
0505 Proposed Negro Projects. 49pp.

Office of Negro Affairs, Director, Special Negro College Aid, 1938–1941
0554 Student Aid Bulletins and Information (Selections). 24pp.
0578 Student Aid Program (Selections). 141pp.
0719 Special Negro College Aid and Graduate Aid (Selections). 47pp.
0779 Student Aid Statistics (Selections). 29pp.

Division of Negro Affairs, Final Report, 1943
0962 Travel and Conference Reports (Selections). 37pp.

Reel 3

National Youth Administration continued

Division of Negro Affairs, Final Report, 1943 continued
0055 Inactive File, 1938: Bethune Correspondence, Reports, Travel Itineraries, and Phone Log (Selections). 47pp.

National Youth Administration, Negro Conferences, Series 117
0433 Traveling Expo of Negro Progress, November and December 1940. 85pp.
0754 To Attend a Conference, January 12–14, 1939 (Selections). 60pp.
0814 Negro Conference, January 12–14, 1939, Reports and Correspondence. 187pp.

Reel 4

National Youth Administration continued

National Youth Administration, Negro Conferences, Series 117 continued
0001 Negro Conference, January 12–14, 1939, Correspondence. 69pp.
Division of Negro Affairs, State Reports, 1936–1937, Series 119

0403 Alabama. 28pp.
0431 Connecticut. 16pp.
0447 Florida. 165pp.
0612 Georgia. 20pp.
0632 Illinois. 68pp.
0700 Kansas. 21pp.
0721 Kentucky. 17pp.
0738 Louisiana. 18pp.
0756 Maryland. 21pp.
0777 Michigan/Minnesota. 15pp.
0792 Mississippi. 17pp.
0809 Missouri. 49pp.
0858 Nebraska. 13pp.
0871 New Jersey. 88pp.
0959 New York. 22pp.
0981 North Carolina. 60pp.

Reel 5

National Youth Administration continued

Division of Negro Affairs, State Reports, 1936–1937, Series 119 continued

0106 Ohio. 54pp.
0160 Pennsylvania. 60pp.
0220 South Carolina. 22pp.
0242 Tennessee. 24pp.
0266 Texas. 14pp.
0280 Virginia/West Virginia. 6pp.

Division of Negro Affairs, State Directors' Reports, 1937–1938, Series 119

0286 Alabama. 39pp.
0325 Arkansas. 39pp.
0364 Arizona. 9pp.
0373 California. 12pp.
0385 Colorado. 5pp.
0390 Connecticut. 8pp.
0398 Delaware. 2pp.
0400 District of Columbia. 25pp.
0425 Georgia. 45pp.
0470 Illinois. 51pp.
0521 Indiana. 24pp.
0545 Iowa. 15pp.
0560 Kansas. 15pp.
0575 Kentucky. 13pp.
0588 Nebraska. 10pp.
0598 Nevada. 1p.
0599 New Hampshire. 1p.
0600 New Jersey. 145pp.
0745 New Mexico. 5pp.
0800 North Carolina. 16pp.
0816 Ohio. 32pp.
0848 Oklahoma. 30pp.
0878 Oregon. 1p.
0879 Pennsylvania. 18pp.
0897 Rhode Island. 3pp.
0900 South Carolina. 31pp.
0931 South Dakota. 15pp.
0946 Tennessee. 9pp.
0955 Texas. 19pp.
0974 Virginia. 34pp.
1008 West Virginia. 34pp.
1042 Wyoming. 9pp.

**Reel 6**

*National Youth Administration continued*

*Division of Negro Affairs, State Directors’ Reports, 1938–1939, Series 119 continued*

0001 Alabama (Selections). 139pp.
0139 Arkansas. 102pp.
0241 California. 37pp.
0315 Delaware. 17pp.
0332 Georgia (Selections). 106pp.
0438 Indiana. 101pp.
0539 Illinois. 32pp.
0571 Kansas. 3pp.
0574 Kentucky. 47pp.
0621 Louisiana. 14pp.
0635 Maryland. 69pp.
0704 Michigan. 27pp.
0731 Minnesota. 37pp.
0768 Mississippi (Selections). 54pp.
0822 Missouri. 95pp.
Reel 7

National Youth Administration continued
Division of Negro Affairs, State Directors' Reports, 1938-1939, Series 119 continued
0001 New Jersey. 155pp.
0291 Ohio. 44pp.
0335 Oklahoma. 100pp.
0435 Pennsylvania. 29pp.
0464 South Carolina. 53pp.
0517 Tennessee. 35pp.
0552 Texas. 78pp.
0630 Virginia. 81pp.
0711 West Virginia. 54pp.

Department of the Interior (Record Group 48)
Office File of Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Interior, 1933-1942
0765 Miscellaneous Correspondence, Memoranda and Enclosures relating to Negroes
[Includes: Minutes of Meeting of the Interdepartmental Group Concerned with
the Special Problems of Negroes, March 2 and 30, 1934]. 247pp.

Department of Interior, Office of Secretary, Central Classified File, 1907-1936, I-280
1012 Racial Discrimination, General File I-280, Part 1. [Includes: Minutes of Meeting of
the Interdepartmental Group Concerned with the Special Problems of Negroes,
February 7, April 18, and June 1, 1934.] 14pp.

Reel 8

Department of the Interior continued
Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary, Central Classified File, 1907-1936, I-280
continued

Farm Security Administration (Record Group 96)
Farm Security Administration, Correspondence, 1935-1942, AD 130-AD 130.02 (Cincinnati Office)
0188 Negroes, General. 91pp.
0279 All Regional Directors, Preference and Discrimination, Negroes and Veterans (Selections). 22pp.

Farm Security Administration, Correspondence, 1935-1942, AD 130.02-AD 140.01 (Cincinnati Office)
0301 Negroes, Region 1 (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania). 13pp.
0414 Negroes, Region 5 (Alabama, South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia). 100pp.
0569 Negroes, Region 7 (Nebraska). 7pp.
0576 Negroes, Region 8 (Texas and Oklahoma). 53pp.
0645 Negroes, Region 10 (Colorado). 6pp.
0657 Negroes, Region 12 (Texas). 6pp.

Civilian Conservation Corps (Record Group 35)
Civilian Conservation Corps, Division of Planning and Public Relations, General Correspondence, 1933-1942, "N"
0663 Negroes. 151pp.

Civilian Conservation Corps, Selection Division, Policy: Negro, General—Negro Question (Alabama-Wyoming)

Reel 9

Civilian Conservation Corps continued
Civilian Conservation Corps, Selection Division, Policy, Negro: General—Negro Question (Alabama-Wyoming) continued
0001 Negro Question, Alabama. 31pp.
0032 Negro Question, Arkansas. 29pp.
0061 Negro Question, California. 28pp.
0089 Negro Question, Delaware. 40pp.
0129 Negro Question, District of Columbia. 7pp.
0136 Negro Question, Florida. 9pp.
0145 Negro Question, Georgia. 43pp.
0208 Negro Question, Indiana. 11pp.
0219 Negro Question, Iowa. 54pp.
0273 Negro Question, Kansas. 11pp.
0284 Negro Question, Kentucky. 9pp.
0293 Negro Question, Louisiana. 31pp.
0324 Negro Question, Maryland. 9pp.
0333 Negro Question, Michigan. 9pp.
0342 Negro Question, Minnesota. 33pp.
0375 Negro Question, Mississippi. 11pp.
0386 Negro Question, Missouri. 45pp.
0431 Negro Question, New Jersey. 68pp.
0550 Negro Question, Ohio. 30pp.
0580 Negro Question, Oklahoma. 27pp.
0645 Negro Question, South Carolina. 13pp.
0658 Negro Question, Tennessee. 32pp.
0690 Negro Question, North Carolina. 18pp.
0708 Negro Question, Texas. 77pp.
0785 Negro Question, Virginia. 36pp.
0821 Negro Question, West Virginia. 12pp.
0833 Negro Question, Wisconsin. 7pp.

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service (Record Group 183)

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, Senior Racial Relations Specialist,
State Reports, Alabama-West Virginia

0925 Alabama State Employment Service, Correspondence. 8pp.
0933 Alabama, News Clippings. 4pp.

Reel 10

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, State Reports continued
0035 Arkansas State Employment Service, Correspondence. 8pp.
0077 California State Employment Service, Correspondence. 17pp.
0102 Connecticut State Employment Service, Correspondence. 30pp.
0132 Delaware State Employment Service, Survey. 6pp.
0175 Florida State Employment Service, Correspondence. 28pp.
0250 Georgia State Employment Service, Correspondence. 24pp.
0274 Georgia State Employment Service, Atlanta Complaints. 18pp.
0375 Illinois State Employment Service, Correspondence. 10pp.
0385 Chicago Employment Service. 9pp.
0400 Illinois State Employment Service, West Wacker Drive, Correspondence. 13pp.
0413 George Arthur (Chicago), Special U.S.E.S. Reports. 32pp.
0494 Indiana State Employment Service, Correspondence. 4pp.
0511 Kansas State Employment Service, Survey. 4pp.
0515 Topeka, Kansas, Discrimination. 9pp.
0545 Kentucky State Employment Service, Correspondence. 37pp.
0582 Kentucky State Employment Service, Complaints. 6pp.
0618 Louisiana State Employment Service, Correspondence. 27pp.
0645 New Orleans, Complaints. 10pp.
0690 Maryland State Employment Service, Correspondence. 19pp.
0709 Baltimore, Complaints. 5pp.
0729 Massachusetts State Employment Service, Correspondence. 11pp.
0765 Michigan State Employment Service, Correspondence. 18pp.
0783 Detroit, Complaints. 13pp.
0802 Mississippi State Employment Service, Correspondence. 7pp.
0866 Missouri State Employment Service, Correspondence. 48pp.
0914 Nebraska State Employment Service, Survey. 6pp.
0928 New Jersey State Employment Service, Correspondence. 10pp.

Reel 11

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, State Reports continued

0219 New York State Employment Service, Commerce and Professional Division, Josephine P. Holmes. 17pp.
0598 North Carolina State Employment Service, Surveys and Reports. 10pp.
0648 Ohio State Employment Service, Survey. 9pp.
0657 Ohio State Employment Service, Correspondence. 49pp.
0706 Ohio State Employment Service, Cincinnati, Survey. 5pp.
0711 Ohio State Employment Service, Cleveland, Survey. 38pp.
0749 Ohio State Employment Service, Columbus, Survey. 11pp.
0760 Ohio State Employment Service, Special Reports. 42pp.
0802 Ohio State Employment Service, Complaints. 3pp.
0823 Oklahoma State Employment Service, Correspondence. 7pp.
0867 Pennsylvania State Employment Service, Correspondence. 7pp.
0912 South Carolina State Employment Service, Survey. 7pp.
0919 South Carolina State Employment Service, Correspondence. 11pp.
0965 Tennessee State Employment Service, Correspondence. 9pp.
1009 Texas State Employment Service, Correspondence. 20pp.

Reel 12

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, State Reports continued
0070 West Virginia State Employment Service, Correspondence. 16pp.
U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, Correspondence with Government Agencies

0290 P.W.A. Housing Contracts, Building Trades Discrimination against Negroses, Chicago. 84pp.
0411 Wage Differentials. 101pp.
0512 Farm Credit Administration. 25pp.
0537 Eugene Kinckle Jones, Department of Commerce. 18pp.
0555 Resettlement Administration. 11pp.
0566 W.P.A., Miscellaneous Correspondence. 76pp.
0642 Dr. Lubin: P.W.A. Contracts. 31pp.
0673 Available Housing for W.P.A. 34pp.
0771 W.P.A. Workers Education. 11pp.
0782 W.P.A., Savannah, Georgia. 28pp.
0810 Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mr. Hinrichs. 60pp.
0975 The Children's Bureau. 55pp.
1030 Conciliation Service. 85pp.

Reel 13

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, Correspondence with Government Agencies continued

0001 Mr. Gompers. 9pp.
0010 Mr. Fitzgerald. 6pp.
0081 Interstate Commerce Commission. 4pp.
0258 Dr. Lubin, Correspondence. 62pp.
0320 The Secretary [Frances Perkins], Correspondence. 99pp.
0419 Tennessee Valley Authority. 21pp.
0440 Discrimination against Negroses on Tennessee Valley Dams. 24pp.
0464 Texas Centennial. 37pp.
0507 Federal Coordinator of Transportation. 27pp.
0534 Unemployment Census. 22pp.
0556 Wage and Hour Division. 27pp.
0583 Dr. Robert C. Weaver. 101pp.
U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, Administrative Records (Boxes 1395, 96, and 99) continued

0870 Automotive Industry. 55pp.

Reel 14

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley Files, Administrative Records (Boxes 1395, 96, and 99) continued

0458 Dr. Ambrose Caliver, Department of Education. 26pp.
0511 Public Forum Project: Conference of Youth Leaders, Department of Education. 69pp.
0699 Civilian Conservation Corps, Correspondence, 1934-1936. 132pp.
0849 Joint Committee on National Recovery. [Including: Reports of the Executive Secretary, John P. Davis, and Minutes of JCNR Meetings, 1934-1935.] 171pp.

Reel 15

Department of Labor—U.S. Employment Service continued

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley, Senior Racial Relations Specialist, Files, Administrative Records (Boxes 1395, 96, and 99) continued

0001 Dr. Lubin, Chicago Motion Picture Operators. 134pp.


Program of the Delaware State Conference on Employment Problems of the Negro. 4pp.

Summary of Points Made at the New Jersey Conference on Employment Problems of the Negro, February 24, 1941. 10pp.


Negroes, Information, 1941-1942. 42pp.


Fair Employment Practice Commission: Virginia, 1941-1942. 13pp.

Fair Employment Practice Commission: Region VII, 1941-1942. 90pp.

U.S. Employment Service, L.A. Oxley, Personnel Placement Files (Boxes 1380-1381*)


Applications for Employment, Preferred Lists. 7pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "A." 4pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "B." 86pp.


Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "D." 13pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "E." 4pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "F." 7pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "G." 51pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "H." 64pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "J." 18pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934, "K." 3pp.

Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934 "L." 5pp.


Correspondence regarding Employment Requests, 1934-1937, "R." 125pp.

*Three more file boxes, 1382-1384, containing additional records of L.A. Oxley's efforts to secure placement both in and out of the Federal government for Negro applicants have not been filmed. These voluminous materials are similar in scope to those filmed and were excluded to save space.
Reel 17

Department of Labor, Office of the Secretary (Record Group 174)
Department of Labor, Secretary Francis Perkins, General Subject File, 1940-1944:
Negroes

0345 Negroes, 1942. 25pp.

Department of Labor, Office Files of the Secretary, Records regarding the United States Employment Service, 1933-1939, "L-R"

0370 Lawrence A. Oxley, Special Report [Includes Oxley Progress Reports], 1937-1939. 96pp.

National Recovery Administration (Record Group 9)
National Recovery Administration, Entry 23, Classified General Files, 1933-1935 (Trays 2855-2856)

0574 Negroes, "C-D." 83pp.

Reel 18

National Recovery Administration continued
National Recovery Administration, Entry 23, Classified General File, 1933-1935 (Trays 2855-2856) continued

0200 Negro Labor. 31pp.

Department of Commerce (Record Group 40)
Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary, General Correspondence, File 88449

0231 Correspondence of the Advisor on Negro Affairs, 1933-1941. 177pp.
0408 Correspondence of the Advisor on Negro Affairs, 1942-1945. 127pp.
0581 Selected List of Books by and about the Negro, Dorothy B. Porter. 4pp.
| 0614 | Negro Aviators, 1936. 6pp. |
| 0648 | Division of Negro Affairs, Semi-Annual Report, 1941. 41pp. |
| 0689 | Division of Negro Affairs, Press Releases, 1941–1942. 15pp. |
| 0704 | Program of the First Annual Conference on the Negro in Business, April 18–19, 1941. 5pp. |
| 0709 | Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1941. 5pp. |

**Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary, General Correspondence, Files 95770 and 95781**

| 0723 | Correspondence, 1933–1934. 34pp. |

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**Reel 19**

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Reel 22

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Reel 23

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Reel 24

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