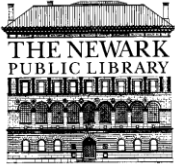


Norman-Thomas-Riot Police Records



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center
The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street, PO Box 630, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630
Phone: (973) 733-7775; Email: njreference@npl.org
URL: <http://www.npl.org/Pages/Collections/njic.html>

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Title: Norman-Thomas-Riot Police Records

Date: Jun 4, 1938 to Aug 25, 1938

Extent: .834 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Processed: Beth Zak-Cohen, 2016

Abstract: Newark Police Department records from the investigation surrounding a riot in Military Park at a speech of Socialist Norman Thompson.

Provenance: The estate of Frank X. Ebler, Sr., 1994

Preferred Citation: Norman-Thomas-Riot Records, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Photocopying of materials is limited and no materials may be photocopied without permission from library staff.

Use Restrictions

Researchers wishing to publish, reproduce, or reprint materials from this collection must obtain permission.

Processing Notes

Material was removed from report covers with metal fasteners, into archival folders. The title on these covers was copied and placed in each folder. Material in folders was kept in order of donated arrangement (it is unclear whether original arrangement was by the Newark Police department or the donor) but folders were arranged chronologically. Folder with gangster files was undated, but was placed near other gangster material. Vocabulary used in the description, i.e. "gangster" and "riot" was taken from the terminology used in the police reports and news articles.

Historical Note

On April 30, 1938 Norman Thomas tried to give a speech against Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City (charging Hague denied constitutional rights to CIO organizers). He didn't have a permit and was "deported" by police. On June 4, 1938, Thomas tried again to make the speech in Military Park in Newark. A riot broke out, as fifty men, chanted and pelted Mr. Thomas with eggs. Afterward, police conduct was widely criticized, as police were seen as lax, or helping the rioters. Members of the Socialist group who made complaints against the police included David Clendenin, Morris Milgram, Ashley Carrick, and Clara Handelman (Essex County Secretary of the Socialist Party). Several rioters were arrested and received jail terms, but police were never charged. The investigation was managed by Deputy Chief Frank E. Brex.

Scope and Content

This is material that originated with the Newark Police Department surrounding the investigation of the riot in Military Park during Norman Thomas's speech. The start of the collection is photographs from the day of the incident. The following folders contain elements of the investigation including statements, invoices,

files, transcripts, and one court docket. Of note, two petitions were signed against the speech, and the police took statements from all signees (Box 1, Folder 9 and 11). Police also took statements from many Newark gangsters (Box 2, Folder 1-2). Biographical files (often with photos) on these gangsters are also in the collection (Box 1, Folder 12). The court docket relates to one case that was pursued against rioters. The last four folders in the collection are final reports, written by Deputy Chief Frank Brex, to the Police Chief, with accompanying documents, on particular aspects of the investigation.

Access Points

Names

Thomas, Norman, 1884-1968.

Hague, Frank, 1876-1956.

Organizations

Newark (N.J.). Police Department.

Topics

Socialism – New Jersey

Socialists – New Jersey

Gangsters – New Jersey – Newark

Police – New Jersey – Newark

Riots – New Jersey – Newark

Places

Newark (N.J.) – History – 20th Century

Military Park (Newark, N.J.)

Types

Photographs

Files

Reports

Records (documents)

Documents

Bibliography

Many clippings on the incident are in in the *Newark Evening News* Morgue under “Thomas, Norman” (Ask at desk).

Separated Materials

A ledger of Frank E. Brex, who features prominently in the collection, was donated at the same time and placed in MG Nwk Police Dept.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Photographs taken by The Press 1-7	June 4, 1938
1	2	Photographs taken by The Press 8-14	June 4, 1938
1	3	Photographs taken by The Press 15-21	June 4, 1938
1	4	Photographs taken by The Press 22-27	June 4, 1938
1	5	Statements: Clara Handelman, John Palangio, Rev. William Kernan	June 13 – Jun 22, 1938
1	6	Statements: S.J. Baron, Benjamin Greenfield, Herman	June 14– July 28, 1938

		Doppelt, Irving Stern	
1	7	Statements: Beatrice Diamond, Bella Kussy, Gertrude Lubin, Grace Milgram, Mae Sackin, Jean-Netie Handelman	June 15, 1938 – June 16, 1938
1	8	Statements: Norman Thomas, Morris Milgram	June 16, 1938
1	9	“Statements and Petition” Labor protest petition against Norman Thomas meeting and statements by signees: Buckley, Carter, Condron, Crowley, Fox, Hillock, Lynch, Maso, Mazzei, Oppenheimer, Pierson, Shinn, Scholl	June 16 - June 17, 1938
1	10	Statements: Ashley Carrick and Homer Zink	June 17, 1938; July 2, 1938
1	11	“Statements and Petition” Veteran’s protest petition against Norman Thomas meeting and statements by signees: Breitkopf, Carson, Cassel, Connelly, Durkin, Durning, Freeman, Girod, Heimberg, Hoffman, Lynch, McCloskey, McGinnis, Mitchko, Ward, Minisi, Basile	
1	12	Gangster Files: Ike Diamond, Anthony Zawalik, Benjamin High, John Sasso, Charles Liss, Tonney (Anthony) Cusano, Anthony Sasso, Daniel Zimmer, Sidney Arnold, Alfonso Garafola, Eugene McMenamin, John Evangelista, John Ciccarelli, Leo Bateman	Undated
2	1-2	Gangster Statements (see: above names)	June 20 – July 16, 1938
2	3	Udansky/Cassel: statement and lineup	June 25 – June 27, 1938
2	4-5	Docket: State of New Jersey versus John Doe and Sidney Arnold (alias: Nat Arno)	July 28, 1938
2	6	Statement: Edward A. Reilly	July 29, 1938
2	7	Stenographer Invoices	August 12, 1938
2	8	General Report	August 25, 1938
2	9	Report on Complaints Against Officers by David Clendenin (incl. Off. Harris)	August 25, 1938
2	10	Report on Complaints Against Officers by Clara Handelman (incl. Off. Hampson)	August 25, 1938
2	11	Report on Complaints Against Officers by Morris Milgram and Ashley Carrick	August 25, 1938
2	12-13	Report on Actions of Deputy Chief Seebold	August 25, 1938