

# SELECTED REFERENCES

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SECTION

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

No. 205\*

PRINCETON, NJ 08544

JANUARY, 1981

---

## BLACKS AND THE U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT SINCE RECONSTRUCTION\*\*

*Autocracy and insurgency in organized labor.* Edited by Burton H. Hall. Edison, NJ 08817. Transaction Books (P.O. Box 978). 1972. 348 pp. \$9.95, cloth; \$5.95, paper.

This interesting collection of essays explores the inner workings and problems of the labor movement and the necessity for certain union reforms. Chapter Two of the volume, entitled "White leaders and black workers," includes discussions of the history of black caucuses in the unions, the status of nonwhite workers in the garment industry of New York with special reference to the ILGWU, and areas of conflict between the special interests of blacks and the AFT.

*Black workers and organized labor.* Edited by John H. Bracey, Jr., August Meier, and Elliott Rudwick. Belmont, CA 94002. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc. 1971. 227 pp. Out of print.

An anthology of essays edited by three prominent historians.

Foner, Philip S. *Organized labor and the black worker.* New York, NY 10016. International Publishers' Co. (381 Park Ave. South, Suite 1301). 1974. 489 pp. \$4.50.

A survey of the relationship between black workers and the American labor movement. Although Foner begins his work with the arrival of the first slave in Jamestown, Virginia, the focus here is on post-Reconstruction through the early 1970s. The problems of discrimination within the unions, the development of black unions, and the role of the black worker in large labor groups are discussed at length.

Franklin, Charles L. *Negro labor unionist of New York.* New York, NY 10003. AMS Press, Inc. (56 E. 13th St.). 1968. 415 pp. (Columbia University. Studies in the Social Sciences: No. 420). \$27.50.

A reprint of the 1936 edition. The author describes the conditions of black workers in local unions in Depression-era Manhattan. Included are discussions on the historical development of unions in New York, excerpts from interviews with black unionists, and a union-by-union list of the "experiences of local unions with Negro members".

\* Prepared by Kevin Barry, Librarian, Industrial Relations Section; and William Welburn, Librarian, Afro-American Studies Collection.

\*\* Items from this list should be ordered directly from the publisher. Addresses are given in connection with each reference.

Gould, William B. *Black workers in white unions: job discrimination in the United States*. Ithaca, NY 14850. Cornell University Press (124 Roberts Place). 1977. 506 pp. \$22.50.

The author provides a scholarly legal analysis and historical perspective on race discrimination with particular emphasis on the conduct of labor unions. He traces the development of the law relating to racial discrimination and discusses the interrelationships and conflicts between civil rights and labor relations legislation. The final section of the volume, which deals primarily with the construction industry, emphasizes the importance of enforcement programs.

Hill, Herbert. *Black labor and the American legal system: race, work, and the law*. Vol. 1. Washington, DC 20037. Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. (1231 25th St., N.W.). 1977. 455 pp. \$17.50.

This volume is an interpretative history of the development of American law concerning employment discrimination and the response of employers and organized labor to legal prohibitions against job discrimination. Hill discusses the Civil Rights Act of 1866, the National Labor Relations Act, and analyzes major cases of the Fair Employment Practice Committee of World War II.

Marshall, Ray. *The Negro and organized labor*. New York, NY 10016. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (605 Third Ave.). 1965. 327 pp. Out of print.

A well-documented, objective analysis of the historical, economic, social, and political forces which have shaped union racial policies and which explain the hiatus between international officers' policy speeches and local union practices. Marshall uses data from interviews, field studies, union and civil rights organization records, and unpublished sources.

National Urban League. *Negro membership in American labor unions*. Westport, CT 06880. Negro Universities Press: affiliate of Greenwood Press, Inc. (51 Riverside Ave.). 1969. 175 pp. \$9.50.

Originally published in 1930, this work reports on the industrial status and treatment of blacks in early twentieth-century America. Using statistical and documentary materials, a picture of blacks' admission to labor unions and the exclusion policies and varying union attitudes they faced is developed. Different types of union membership and the extent to which blacks were organized in different industry groups are documented. The League also takes a look at the union status of blacks in several selected cities.

*The Negro and the American labor movement*. Edited by Julius Jacobson. Garden City, NY 11530. Doubleday and Company, Inc. (501 Franklin Ave.). 1968. 430 pp. Out of print.

Eleven authors discuss the historical and current attitude of organized labor towards the Negro. Of particular interest are the papers by Herbert Hill, "The racial practices of organized labor; the contemporary record" and "Contemporary labor's attitude toward the Negro" by Gus Tyler. The first paper surveys actual instances of discrimination, especially in the building trades and garment industry. Mr. Tyler recalls labor's longstanding fight for civil rights legislation and discusses the

structural limitations on the AFL-CIO leadership which prevents it from exercising effective control over discrimination by local unions.

"The Negro and the American labor movement: some selected chapters."

A special issue of *Labor History* (New York University, Tamiment Institute, Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012), Summer, 1969. 231 pp. \$4.75.

A special issue that includes essays, notes, and documents by Kenneth O. Porter, Paul Worthman, William Tuttle, Jr., Raymond Wolters, Herbert G. Gutman and others on various aspects of black labor history. A number of the articles were reprinted in Milton Cantor's *Black Labor in America* (Westport, CT: Negro Universities Press, 1970).

Spero, Sterling D. and Abram L. Harris. *The black worker*. New York, NY 10017. Atheneum Publishers (597 Fifth Ave.). 1968. 509 pp. \$4.95.

This classic, originally published in 1931, is one of several important works reissued in "The Studies in American Negro Life" series. It is a descriptive and analytic study of black labor's relationship to the American labor movement from slavery through the 1920s. The authors examine the effects of craft union exclusion, industrial union inclusion, and independent black unions. Other factors discussed include slavery, migration, and the rise of a black middle class. *The Black Worker* is frequently examined in conjunction with Charles H. Wesley's pioneering study *Negro labor in the United States, 1850-1925: a study in American economic history*, published in 1927. (New York, NY: Russell and Russell Publishers; a division of Atheneum Publishers, 1967).

Thompson, Mindy. *A history of the National Negro Labor Council*. New York, NY 10017. American Institute for Marxist Studies (20 E. 30th St.). 1978. 94 pp. (Occasional Papers: No. 27). \$2.25.

#### PERSONAL NARRATIVES AND LABOR UNION HISTORIES

Brazeal, Brailsford R. *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters*. New York, NY 10016. Harper and Brothers (49 E. 33rd St.). 1946. 258 pp. Out of print.

Brazeal describes the initial, troubled efforts of the Brotherhood to organize during World War I; the forces of opposition it survived into the 1920s, bargaining recognition by the Pullman Company, and the union's relations with and ultimate admission to the American Federation of Labor. The activities and special contributions of A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, Ashley Totten, Chandler Owen, and other key labor figures are discussed.

Grubbs, Donald H. *Cry from the cotton: the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the New Deal*. Chapel Hill, NC 27514. University of North Carolina Press (P.O. Box 2288). 1971. 192 pp. \$12.00

The first complete history of the sharecroppers' movement written by one sympathetic to the plight of the tenant farmer. Subjected to the worst kind of anti-union violence, the members of this interracial movement managed to conduct successful strikes. After a brief strife-torn

period of affiliation with the CIO, the union lost membership and disbanded.

Harris, William H. *Keeping the faith: A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, 1925-37*. Champaign, IL 61820. University of Illinois Press (P.O. Box 5081, Station A). 1977. 252 pp. \$12.50.

Harris' attention is given to Randolph and other local and national leaders within the Brotherhood and their role in the development of that labor group. The relationships of the group to other labor unions and to the Pullman Company are also examined.

Kester, Howard. *Revolt among the sharecroppers*. New York, NY 10016. Arno Press (3 Park Ave.). 1969. 98 pp. \$8.00.

This 1936 volume is reprinted for "The American Negro: His History and Literature" series. Kester's first-hand account effectively describes the sharecroppers movement in which leaders and members of both races struggled in behalf of poor farmers. His book contains excellent insight into the difficult conditions under which sharecroppers lived and the suppression they battled against from the planters.

Meier, August and Elliott Rudwick. *Black Detroit and the rise of the UAW*. New York, NY 10016. Oxford University Press (200 Madison Ave.). 1979. 289 pp. \$15.00.

The authors investigate the growth of black involvement in the United Auto Workers during the New Deal and analyze the evolution and transformation of race relations between blacks and organized labor in Detroit. Focusing upon the UAW's strike against Ford in 1941 and the Detroit race riot of 1943, the authors examine interactions among union leaders, black leaders, black laborers, civil rights activists, and government officials that resulted in promotion of real job equality and an expansion of pro-union sentiment in the black community.

Painter, Nell I. *The narrative of Hosea Hudson: his life as a Negro Communist in the South*. Cambridge, MA 02138. Harvard University Press (79 Garden St.). 1979. 400 pp. \$17.50.

The life and times of Hosea Hudson, a Birmingham, Alabama trade unionist and Communist Party leader, are recalled in his own words and edited by historian Nell Painter. Hudson talks freely about his employment in the Birmingham steel mills and his involvement in the Industrial Union Council and the Communist Party. Hudson's rural Alabama counterpart is Nate Shaw, who discusses the Sharecroppers' Union, his personal involvement and opinion of their efforts in his narrative, *All God's Dangers: the Life of Nate Shaw* (New York: Knopf, 1975), edited by Theodore Rosengarten.

Worthman, Paul B. "A black worker and the Bricklayers and Masons' Union, 1903." *Journal of Negro History* (Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, 1407 14th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005), October 1969. pp. 398-404. \$3.00.

Worthman has edited the text of a series of correspondence between Robert Rhodes, a black bricklayer from Indianapolis, Indiana, and the local and national offices of the Bricklayers and Masons' Union to explore a case of alleged discrimination within the Union during 1903.