

P057- Robert H. (Bob) Carlin fonds

1941-1978.

5 cm. of textual records and photographs;

Biographical sketch: Robert Carlin (1901-1992) was a union member, organizer and activist who was born in Mulgrave County, Quebec, as one of a family of ten children. In the summer of 1916, he moved to Cobalt to work at Dominion Reduction Silver Mine and also signed his first union card with the Cobalt Miners Union, Local 146 Western Federation of Miners (W.F.M.). In 1919, Carlin joined the One Big Union (O.B.U.). Then, while working as a miner in Kirkland Lake, Ontario in 1936, he became a charter member of Local 240 of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (I.U.M.M.S.W.). In 1942, after being fired for union activity, Carlin moved to Sudbury where he remained for the rest of his life. In 1944, he was Worker's Delegate Advisor at that year's session of the International Labour Office. In 1942, he represented the I.U.M.M.S.W. as an Executive Council Member of the Canadian Congress of Labour (C.C.L.) and as a member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (C.C.F.). In 1949 he and the I.U.M.M.S.W were expelled from the C.C.F., when they refused to comply with the anti-communist crusade being conducted by that party. Between 1943-1952, Carlin was the Eastern Canada Director (District 8) of I.U.M.M.S.W and National Organizer for I.U.M.M.S.W. between 1956 and 1958.

Between 1943-1948, running for the C.C.F., Carlin was elected, then re-elected as a member of the Ontario Legislature representing Sudbury before going down to defeat by Welland Gemmell, a Progressive Conservative. In 1949, he ran again, also unsuccessfully, in the Federal election as a candidate for Nickel Belt on the 'Farmer-Labour' ticket. From 1962-1972 Mr. Carlin worked for the United Steelworkers of America as an International Representative. He was awarded a Centennial Medal of Canada in 1967, in recognition of his contributions to the labour movement, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Laurentian University in 1978.

Scope and content: The Robert (Bob) Carlin fonds contains a brief outline of his achievements and interests, written by wife Kay, a photocopy of a report of the Conciliation Board regarding the 1941 labour dispute in Kirkland Lake (Local 240) and the 1941 Cohen study of collective bargaining in Canada. Two photographs of Carlin when he was awarded his Honorary Doctorate in 1978 are also included.

Note: Custodial history: The fonds was donated prior to 1982 to N.O.L.I.A., the holdings of which were later transferred to the Laurentian University Archives in June 1982.

Finding aid: A preliminary list is available.

Related material: P009-NOLIA fonds; P019- Mike Solski fonds; P026- IUMMSWU Local 598 fonds, P038- USWA fonds; P048- Gilbert (Gib) Gilchrist fonds; P059- Jim Tester fonds may contain complementary information.