

# A Finding Aid to the Community Relations Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.) Reports

## **Manuscript Collection No. 619**



#### **Collection Summary**

**Title** Community Relations Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.) Reports

**Dates** 1938-1941 **Collection Number** MS-619

Repository The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Community Relations Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.) Creator

**Extent** 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Language of the Material English

#### **Administrative Information**

#### **Biographical Sketch**

The Los Angeles Community Relations Committee (CRC) was formed in 1933. It is believed to be the first of over 100 locally organized Jewish defense organizations in the United States established during the 1930s.

The Jewish Community Relations Committees (JCRCs) were spontaneously organized in response to Hitler's rise to power in Europe and the increase of antisemitic activity by Nazis and similar racist groups in the United States. Between 1933 and 1946 the Los Angeles CRC organized an informant network and reporting system that often proved highly successful in infiltrating and exposing Nazi and other fascist and antisemitic organizations operating in the Los Angeles area, as well as these groups' national and international connections. The CRC amassed a wealth of information that it disseminated in a variety of ways, including its own News Research Service.

Leon L. Lewis, first executive secretary of the Los Angeles CRC, was a past national secretary of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation Leaque and a disabled veteran of World War I; he used his connections with veterans groups to combat fascism and antisemitism. Through Lewis's connections, the American Legion Department of California asked the CRC to prepare a background report on fascist activities in Southern California for the department to present to the House Un-American Activities Committee. chaired by Representative Martin Dies (commonly referred to as the Dies Committee).

The resulting "Summary Report on Activities of Nazi Groups and Their Allies in Southern California," was presented to the committee in September, 1938. The committee asked for more, and the CRC submitted additions to the first report in September, 1939, and January and July, 1940. The Dies Committee's own investigators also drew heavily on leads and information provided by the Los Angeles CRC, as compiled (for example) in James Steedman's report, "Glimpses from the Subversive Scene in Southern California," which he prepared for his employers on the Dies Committee in June 1941.

#### **Scope and Content**

Two reports and three supplements describing Nazi activities in Southern California from 1936-1941.

Original reports are part of a larger collection of records, including the documents on which the reports are based, of the Los Angeles Community Relations Committee housed at the Urban Archives Center in Oviatt Library at The California State University, Northridge, Calif.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

#### **Terms of Access**

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

#### **Preferred Citation**

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Community Relations Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.) Reports and the American Jewish Archives, A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-619. Community Relations Committee (Los Angeles, Calif.) Reports. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### **Provenance**

Received from the Urban Archives Center at California State University, Northridge, Calif., September

Processing Information Processed by Sharon M. Howe of the Urban Archives Center. Additional processing by Kathleen L. Spray, September 1997.

#### **Index Terms**

**Subjects** Antisemitism / Nazis / Propaganda

Personal Names Steedman, James

Corporate Names United States. Congress. House. Special Committee on Un-American Activities (1938-1944)

#### Series A. General, 1938-1941

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 1. "Glimpses from the Subversive Scene in Southern California," by James H. Steedman, 1941 June 7
- Box 1. Folder 2. "Summary Report on Activities of Nazi Groups and their Allies in Southern California": (For December 1936-September 1938) Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapters 1-4 [pp. 1-82], 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 3. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapters 5-9 [pp. 83-206], 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 4. Part 2: The Main Allies of the Nazis; Part 3: Leading Fascist Individuals and Organizations [pp. 207-348], 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 5. Supplements and Index [pp.349-431], 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 6. Exhibits, Nos. 1-33, 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 7. Exhibits, Nos. 34-66, 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 8. Exhibits, Nos. 67-96, 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 9. Exhibits, Nos. 97-109, 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 10. Exhibits, Nos. 110-123, 1938 September
- Box 1. Folder 11. Contents and Foreword, 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 12. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapters 1-2 [pp. 433-528], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 13. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapters 3-4 [pp. 529-614], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 14. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapter 5 [pp. 615-674], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 15. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapters 5-6 [pp. 675-752], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 16. Part 1: The German-American Bund. Chapter 7; and Supplement Nos. 28-38 [pp. 753-825], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 17. Supplement Nos. 39-42 and Index [pp.826-920], 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 18. Exhibits, Nos. 124-154, 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 19. Exhibits, Nos. 155-172, 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 20. Exhibits, Nos. 173-179, 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 21. Exhibits, Nos. 180-196, 1939 September 1
- Box 1. Folder 22. Part 2: The Main Allies of the Nazis. Chapters 1-2 [pp. 921-994], 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 23. Part 2: The Main Allies of the Nazis. Chapter 2 [pp. 995-1061], 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 24. Part 2: The Main Allies of the Nazis. Chapter 2 [pp. 1062-1142], 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 25. Part 2: The Main Allies of the Nazis. Chapter 2; and supplements [pp. 1143-1231], 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 26. Exhibits, Nos. 197-220, 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 27. Exhibits, Nos. 221-243, 1940 February
- Box 1. Folder 28. Part 3: Leading Fascist Individuals and Organizations [pp. 1232-1340], 1940 July

- Box 1. Folder 29. Part 3: Leading Fascist Individuals and Organizations [pp. 1341-1458], 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 30. Part 3: Leading Fascist Individuals and Organizations [pp. 1459-1555], 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 31. Part 3: Leading Fascist Individuals and Organizations [pp. 1556-1672], 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 32. Exhibits, Nos. 244-254, 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 33. Exhibits, Nos. 255-293, 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 34. Exhibits, Nos. 294-314, 1940 July
- Box 1. Folder 35. Exhibits, Nos. 315-335, 1940 July