

# **Tom Kahn Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2009**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010219>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2006085310>

Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Tom Kahn Papers

**Span Dates:** 1959-1992

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1963-1972)

**ID No.:** MSS85310

**Creator:** Kahn, Tom

**Extent:** 200 items ; 2 containers ; .8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Civil rights and labor activist. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches and statements, writings, notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed matter relating to Kahn's activities as a civil rights and labor activist.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Jackson, Henry M. (Henry Martin), 1912-1983.

Kahn, Tom.

Rustin, Bayard, 1912-1987.

### Organizations

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963 : Washington, D.C.)

### Subjects

Civil rights demonstrations--Washington (D.C.)

Civil rights--United States.

International relations.

Labor movement--United States.

Labor movement.

Labor--United States.

Labor.

Presidents--United States--Election--1972.

Socialism.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--1969-1974.

### Occupations

Civil rights activists.

Labor activists.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Tom Kahn, civil rights and labor activist, were given to the Library of Congress by Rachel Horowitz and Eric Chenoweith in 2006.

### Transfers

One digital versatile/video disc, three audiotapes and one compact disc, have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Tom Kahn Papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Tom Kahn in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Tom Kahn are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Tom Kahn Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>    | <i>Event</i>                                                                                                   |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1938, Sept. 15 | Born, New York, N.Y.                                                                                           |
| 1955-1957      | Attended, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y.                                                                     |
| 1956           | Joined Students for Democratic Action and the Independent Socialist League                                     |
| 1958-1959      | Assistant organizer, Youth Marches for Integrated Schools, New York, N.Y.                                      |
| 1960-1961      | Member, Committee to Defend Martin Luther King                                                                 |
| 1961           | B.A., Howard University, Washington, D.C.                                                                      |
| 1963           | First assistant to Bayard Rustin, organizer for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Washington, D.C. |
| 1964-1972      | Executive director, League for Industrial Democracy                                                            |
| 1965           | Member, National Action Committee of the Social Democrats, U.S.A.                                              |
| 1968           | Speech writer for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey                                                            |
| 1971-1972      | Chief speech writer for Senator Henry M. Jackson                                                               |
| 1972-1986      | Assistant to the president, AFL-CIO                                                                            |
| 1978           | Member, board of directors, A. Philip Randolph Institute, National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing |
| 1986-1992      | Director, Department of International Affairs, AFL-CIO                                                         |
| 1992, Mar. 27  | Died, Silver Spring, Md.                                                                                       |

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Thomas David Kahn (1938-1992) span the years 1959-1992 and include correspondence, memoranda, speeches and statements, writings, notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. The bulk of the collection, 1963-1972, consists of Kahn's speeches and statements and writings on topics such as the civil rights movement, national and international labor issues, social democracy, and international affairs. In addition, there are a number of speeches and statements that Kahn wrote for Henry M. Jackson during Jackson's presidential campaign in 1972. The papers include Kahn's civil rights work with Bayard Rustin, particularly his memoranda and notes as an assistant to Rustin while preparing for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is alphabetically arranged by type of material, subject, or name of person and thereunder chronologically.

## Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i>                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 1            | AFL-CIO, defense policy recommendations, 1987                                       |
| BOX 1            | Civil rights <i>For additional material see same container, Rustin, Bayard</i>      |
| BOX 1            | General, 1961-1968                                                                  |
| BOX 1            | March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Washington, D.C., 1963<br>(2 folders)     |
| BOX 1            | Photographs, circa 1960, 1966-1974, 1982, undated                                   |
| BOX 1            | Poland, 1981                                                                        |
| BOX 1            | Rustin, Bayard, 1959-1973, 1987<br>(2 folders)                                      |
| BOX 1            | Speeches and statements                                                             |
| BOX 1            | By Kahn, 1962, 1975, 1982-1991, undated<br>(5 folders)                              |
| BOX 1            | Written for Henry M. Jackson                                                        |
| BOX 1            | 1971                                                                                |
| BOX 2            | 1972<br>(4 folders)                                                                 |
| BOX 2            | Writings                                                                            |
| BOX 2            | About Kahn, 1992                                                                    |
| BOX 2            | By Kahn, 1960-1985, 1991<br>(7 folders)                                             |
| BOX 2            | Young People's Socialist League and Social Democrat's U.S.A., circa 1960-1962, 1973 |