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**Mayor Arthur J. Holland Papers  
Trenton Committee on Unity  
Trenton Council on Human Relations**

**Biography**

Arthur John Holland (24 October 1918 – 9 November 1989) was born in Trenton, and was mayor of the city 1959-1966 and 1970-1989 (his death). He had studied to become a priest, but instead attended St. Francis College in New York and then Rutgers University. In 1951, he became deputy director of public affairs for Trenton, and was elected on the Democratic ticket to the city council in 1955. He became mayor in 1959.

In 1964, he moved into the Mill Hill section of Trenton, which at that time was a majority African-American neighborhood, in a public attempt to lead the way for racial integration in the city. The move received national attention, much of it negative.

Holland lost the Democratic primary to Carmen J. Armenti in 1966. After teaching at Rutgers University for four years, he ran for mayor again and was reelected in 1970, serving until his death in 1989. He was president of the United States Conference of Mayors from 1988 to 1989, and died at Trenton's St. Francis Medical Center.

The Trenton Committee on Unity was organized in 1943 as a grassroots organization apart from city government. By the late 1940s, it had changed its name to the Trenton Council on Human Relations and continued into the period of time that Holland was mayor.

**Scope and Content Notes**

These boxes are believed to have originated with the bulk of the collection that is now known simply as The Holland Papers. At some point, these files were separated and placed together in boxes and given names. Some of the papers are in their original folders, while others have been refoldered. Original order is unknown, and the boxes do not necessarily follow a pattern. The papers have not been fully processed and some of the boxes are not full. Students from the history department at The College of New Jersey created a basic inventory of the folders in each box.

The papers of Mayor Arthur J. Holland are significant in documenting the actions of a city politician during a significant period of civil, racial, and economic unrest in a large urban community and state

## **Scope and Content Notes (cont.)**

capital. Subjects of interest to researchers include community and civic organizations in Trenton, civil rights activism in the 1960s, housing, and urban redevelopment and renewal.

## **Provenance**

Holland's wife Betty, whom he married in the early 1960s, donated these papers. Committee on Unity boxes may have come from another source.

## **Related Collections**

Mayor Arthur J. Holland Papers

Mayor Arthur J. Holland Papers – Advisory Committee on Human Rights, 1964-1965

Mayor Arthur J. Holland Papers – N.J. State Anti-Discrimination & Civil Rights Legislation

## **Box Lists**

### **Box 1 - General Files**

- Trenton Committee for Unity – Origins, Bylaws
- Fair Employment Practices Act
- Subversive Literature (contains issues concerning Anti-Semitism)
- Literature Distributed
- Law Against Discrimination – New York
- Law Against Discrimination – New Jersey
- Mercer County Council, Division Against Discrimination, 1946
- Mercer County Council, Division Against Discrimination, 1947-1949
- Correspondence, Federal Council of Churches of Christ
- Merchant of Venice

### **Box 2 - Projects**

- Housing – Literature
- Housing – Housing Memorandum, Housing Workshop
- Resolution Response to Florida Bombing, 1952
- Leadership Course on Human Relations
- Lecture Series
- Scholarships, 1945-1949
- Teen-Age Conference on Human Relations
- Brotherhood and Human Relations – Schools Initiative
- Big Meeting, 1946
- Scholarships, 1950-

### **Box 3 - Committees, Box 1**

- Civic Problems Committee, Interracial Daycare
- Administration Committee, 1945

### **Committees, Box 1 (cont.)**

- Administration Committee, 1946
- Civic Problems Committee
- Administration Committee, 1951-1952
- Civic Problems Committee, Miscellaneous Issues
- Civic Problems Committee, Restaurant Discrimination
- Civic Problems Committee, Training for Nurse's Aides
- Administration Committee, 1953
- Committee on Organizations
- Employment Committee

### **Box 4 - Committees, Box 2**

- Employment Committee, Department Store Initiative
- Education Committee, 1945
- Education Committee, 1946-1949
- Education Committee, 1950-1955)
- Education Committee, 1956-1959)

### **Box 5 - Committees, Box 3**

- Executive Committee, 1945-1946 [contains Committee of Unity Membership Pledge]
- Executive Committee, 1947-1948
- Executive Board, 1952-1953
- Executive Board, 1954-1955
- Executive Board, 1956
- Executive Board, 1957
- Executive Board, 1958-1959

### **Box 6 - School Desegregation**

- Letters from Parents on Segregated Schools, 1945
- Employment of Negro Teachers, 1937-1948
- Trenton Committee on Unity Letter for Input on School Segregation, April 1945
- Junior High School Assignments and Law
- Memo on Trenton Public Schools, May 1945
- Case Report and Timeline Trenton School Desegregation, 1945-1946
- Responses, Letter on School Segregation, 1945
- Responses, Letter on School Segregation, 1946
- Responses, Letter on Racially Mixed Teaching Staff, 1945
- Studies, Reports on School Desegregation in other Cities

### **Box 7 - Trenton Committee on Unity "Box 3"**

- Integration in Public Housing
- Housing, 1945-1955
- Housing, 1956-1959

**Box 7 (cont.)**

- Brotherhood in Action Exhibit, 1953
- Films and Recordings, 1946-1954
- Housing Advertisement Mailing
- Applicant Preparation Workshop

**Box 8 - Trenton Council on Human Relations**

- TCHR Community Services in Trenton
- TCHR Housing
  - Trenton Council on Human Relations, March 6, 1953
  - Leadership Seminar on Human Relations Self-Survey, November 25, 1955
  - Suggestions for the Organization of Citizens Advisory Committees, October 4, 1960
  - Housing Workshop for Prospective Buyers, May 1, 1965
- TCHR Organization
  - A Handbook for Member Agency Delegates and Citizen Members-At-Large, July 1950
  - Plan for Program of Organizations Committee of TCHR, October 29, 1953
  - Master List of Organization and Delegates, May 18, 1954
- TCHR Social Services
  - Study of Social Services in Greater Trenton Area, March 25, 1959
- TCHR Study of Northeast Trenton
  - A Study of Northeast Trenton, April 1958
  - Chart #1 and Chart #2
- TCHR The Trenton Negro Family, 1940 to 1950
- TCHR The Schools and The Negro Student, 1953
- TCHR Annual Reports, 1949-1960
  - TCHR Annual Report for 1949-1950
  - TCHR Annual Dinner, May 24, 1954 (2 copies)
  - TCHR Annual Dinner, May 23, 1955
  - TCHR Annual Meeting, May 22, 1956 (2 copies)
  - TCHR Annual Meeting, May 22, 1957 (2 copies)
  - TCHR Annual Dinner, May 20, 1958 (2 copies)
  - TCHR Annual Meeting, June 17, 1959 (2 copies)
  - TCHR Annual Meeting, May 24, 1960 (2 copies)

**Box 9 - Trenton Council on Human Relations****Loose booklets**

- News Articles and Editorials pertaining to de-segregation in Trenton Junior High Schools, 1945-1949
- Public Accommodations in Trenton (2 copies)
- Negro Housing in Trenton (3 copies)
- The Trenton Negro Family (2 copies)
- The Negro in the Trenton Labor Market (2 copies)
- The Schools and the Negro Student
- Community Services in Trenton

**Box 10 - Trenton Council on Human Relations, Council of Social Agencies**

- Bureau for Intercultural Education
- Council of Social Agencies, 1951-1952 [contains a paper that is a survey of social agencies' hiring practices asking if their governing bodies represent diverse populations, including those which they serve. The survey was conducted by the Trenton Committee on Human Rights and describes the agency as **“The Trenton Committee of Human Rights of the New Jersey Welfare Council.”**]
- Council of Social Agencies, 1953-1955
- Council of Social Agencies, 1956-1958
- Memorandum on Trenton Public Schools, May 1945

**Box 11 - Trenton Council on Human Relations**

- Loose Pamphlets: Report of Conference on Equality and Opportunity in Employment, 1964
- Correspondence
- “What the Jews Believe”. Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith
- B’nai B’rith Women’s Supreme Council-National Women’s Conference on Intergroup Relations, April 3-5, 1957
- Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith
- Survey, Race Relations, THRC