
Register of the Dorothy Doyle Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles, 1986

Collection number: MSS 045

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research

Los Angeles, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Dorothy Doyle Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date (inclusive): 1986

Collection number: MSS 045

Creator: Doyle, Dorothy

Extent: 1 audio cassette tape

Repository: Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research

Los Angeles, CA 90044

Abstract: Radio interview program on the Blacklisting of Los Angeles Teachers.

Language: English

Provenance

Donated to the Library by interviewer, Dorothy Doyle.

Access

The collection is available for research only at the Library's facility in Los Angeles. The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Researchers are encouraged to call or email the Library indicating the nature of their research query prior to making a visit.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Dorothy Doyle Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles, California.

Historical Context: Blacklisting and the McCarthy Era

The individual collections within the Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles Collection share a common historical framework, the Anti-Communist fervor of the Cold War Period and what is commonly referred to as the McCarthy Era. After the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in the ideological battle known as the Cold War. The identification of communists and other radicals through the use of federal and state legislative investigative committees and the punishment of those identified through firing and blacklisting comprised a successful U.S. tactic. The investigations spread from federal and other government employees to the entertainment industry, the professions, labor unions, and the private sector. The major players in these campaigns included, on the Federal level, Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). In California major players included California State Assemblyman (later State Senator) Nelson S. Dilworth, and State Senators Jack B. Tenney and Hugh M. Burns. All three served on the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California (1945) and first Tenney and later Burns chaired the [California] Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities. Of special note are the Levering (1952) and Dilworth (1953) Acts. The Levering Act made refusal to fully cooperate with any state committee grounds for firing a teacher and the Dilworth Act gave local school boards investigating authority and also required that all teachers sign an oath denying any Communist affiliation.

Biography

Educator and political activist Dorothy Doyle, a former member of the Southern California Library board, taught English at Crenshaw High School and Southwest College. Catch 222 was a KPFK (Pacifica) radio education program hosted by her political and educational colleague Jeff Horton during the 1980s. Doyle was also involved with the The Integration Project

Scope and Content

This collection consists of one audiotape of a radio program. "The Blacklist" was aired September 23, 1986 on the CATCH 222, education program on Pacifica Radio station KPFK. The program consisted of a discussion with 1950's blacklisted teachers, Florence Sloat and Ruth Bishop, and ACLU lawyer Fred Okrand. The interviewer was Dorothy Doyle.

Title: Frances Robman Eisenberg: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1928-1995

Physical Description: 4 boxes and 1 oversize box

Title: Abraham Minkus Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1945-1983

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Title: Florence Sloat Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1959-1991

Physical Description: 1 box

Title: Greg Goldin Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1977

Physical Description: 1 box, 15 audio cassettes

Title: Ellen Chase Verdries Collection (Interviews/Paper): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1992-1996

Physical Description: 1 (half) box

Title: Thomas Fagan Collection (Interviews): Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1989-1990

Physical Description: 3 folders, 5 audio cassettes

Title: Los Angeles Teachers Union Collection,

Date: 1933-1982

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Title: Jean Benson Wilkinson Papers: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1953-1955

Physical Description: 1 folder

Title: Clipping Collection: Blacklisted Teachers in Los Angeles,

Date: 1967-1982

Physical Description: 1 folder

Title: The Integration Project : The Dorothy Doyle Collection

Date: 1967-1978, n.d.

Physical Description: 7 boxes