



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Lincoln Lynch collection

ca. 1955-1991 [bulk 1961-1968]

Sc MG 812

Summary

Creator: Lynch, Lincoln

Title: Lincoln Lynch collection

Date: ca. 1955-1991 [bulk 1961-1968]

Size: 2.17 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Gift of James Lynch, January 2009.

Abstract: The Lincoln Lynch collection consists of personal and professional material. Personal papers, though limited, include a letter from his wife revealing the pressure of Lynch's position on their marriage; certificates; and a resume. The Professional papers, which make up the bulk of the collection, contain materials from his various positions, beginning with his employment at the British Overseas Airways Corp. and ending with his position at ECHO (Executive Council Housing Organizing). The majority of the professional series, however, is comprised of material related to Lynch's involvement with the Lakeview community's civil rights groups and his work at LI CORE. The Lakeview community files contain correspondence, including a lot of hate mail, some personally addressed to Lynch; flyers for meetings and demonstrations; calls to action; newsletters; and printed matter (mostly news clippings). The papers pertaining to CORE include by-laws; correspondence, statements, meeting agendas and minutes, reports, membership lists, newsletters, and printed matter (again, mostly news clippings). Some of the correspondence is from CORE members, seeking the organization's aid in their struggle against discrimination, and students, expressing interest in CORE's activities. Additionally, there are invitations for Lynch to speak, which include his speeches and notes. Much of the correspondence, however, is not from or to Lynch but from or to the national headquarters of CORE and its director, Floyd McKissick. Notable correspondents include Roy Wilkins, Adam Clayton Powell, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Innis, and Eugene T. Reed. The LI Core materials also consist of materials relating to conferences; collaborations with other community organizations such as the Rockville Center, Hempstead Economic Council, and Nassau County Legal Services; printed matter from other civil rights organizations, such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and published and unpublished writing by others about various civil rights issues. The rest of the Professional series contains limited information, mostly correspondence, about Lynch's positions after CORE; writing samples (most of which are fragments); and printed matter about Lynch (mostly news clippings). The final series, Subject files, contains printed matter (mostly news clippings) pertaining to the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, school and housing integration, and the war in Vietnam,

among others.

Preferred citation: [Item], Lincoln Lynch collection, Sc MG 812, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Transferred to Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Lincoln Lynch was one of the first chairmen of the Long Island chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Originally from Jamaica, Lynch first immigrated to England and served during World War II in Great Britain's Royal Air Force. He eventually came to the United States in 1951, settling in Long Island, where he remained for most of his life. In addition to his work with CORE, he was an officer in the New York Urban Coalition and participated in the Route 40 Freedom Rides. He also worked with local Long Island (including the Lakeview community) civil rights organizations, such as Neighbors United, which worked to bring more Black families into the area, and the United Committee for Action Now (UCAN), which focused on school integration.

Lynch was credited with bringing the civil rights movement to the suburbs, mostly through his work with Long Island CORE (LI CORE). LI CORE was originally named Levittown CORE in 1960. When it began, there were only a handful of African American residents living in the area so the organization was predominantly white and had a difficult time recruiting. Lincoln Lynch was one of the first members of color, and he became chair in 1962. Some of the projects initiated under his leadership included securing housing for Blacks in primarily white Long Island neighborhoods and fighting for school integration. Actions, which became more aggressive under his leadership, included lawsuits, pressuring public officials, pickets, demonstrations, boycotts, and sit-ins. Campaigns were launched against the local banking industry, demanding more jobs for Blacks and Puerto Ricans. Another campaign, Operation Breakthrough, which was launched with the Long Beach NAACP, dealt with the living conditions of Blacks in Long Beach. They were only allowed to live in a certain section made up of "shantytown shacks" where rents were actually higher than in other parts of the city. Two sit-ins were held at retail stores, leading to the arrest of Lynch and others. These arrests, LI CORE's first, led to three injunctions to stop further demonstrations. The charges were eventually withdrawn but the legal bill incurred threatened to bankrupt the chapter. However, Operation Breakthrough resulted in the arrests of several slumlords and the creation of a human rights commission for the area. Long Beach officials also agreed to end discrimination in housing, unemployment, and public facilities.

The next big action by LI CORE took place on Independence Day at Jones Beach, the public beach on Long Island. As part of CORE's summer of 1963 mass demonstrations throughout the NYC metropolitan area, the chapter took on employment by the LI State Park Commission. While one group demonstrated at the Park Commissioner's office, forty LI CORE members held a sit-in during which they laid down in front of moving cars on a roadway at Jones Beach. While the campaign forced the LI State Park Commission to hear its grievances, the only result was a promise to make a strong effort to find jobs for people of color.

As school started in September, LI CORE joined a coalition to fight against school segregation in the Malverne village school district. At the Davison Avenue School, Lynch showed up with four mothers and their children demanding that they be enrolled; Lynch and the mothers were arrested when they refused

to leave after being denied. That fall, an even more successful series of employment campaigns focused on retail shopping centers, starting with the Roosevelt Field shopping center, where few Blacks held positions. Because the company would not negotiate, LI CORE held a sit-in. By the end of November, the chapter won concessions including: two hundred temporary hires for the holiday season, 50% of which were to be kept on permanently and not in menial, non-visual positions. In March of 1964, LI CORE took on the Green Acres shopping center in Valley Stream. The shopping center agreed to hire ten Blacks and Puerto Ricans immediately and ninety more over the year. The same deal was made with the Mid-Island shopping center and followed by a campaign against the Nassau shopping center. In Riverhead, in Suffolk County, Black migrant workers from the south had been living in houses that were described in the press as shanties. LI CORE helped residents form their own group, RACE, the Riverhead Action Committee for Equality. The resulting negative attention caused Suffolk county to step up efforts to relocate the migrants into nearby adequate housing.

In 1965, the national headquarters of CORE decided to switch its focus on protesting to community organizing. At first, Lynch and LI CORE resisted but eventually they emphasized assisting local people in organizing themselves and supporting actions without necessarily being in charge. Their goals included more Black teachers in local schools, better housing, and running its own candidates for town and village election. LI CORE also was successful in getting two Blacks into the Roosevelt Fire Department but its campaign to integrate the Hempstead Fire Department slowed by the fall of 1966.

At the beginning of 1966, Lynch became the associate national director and then the first vice chairman of CORE, its second highest position. Lynch, one of the most successful practitioners of CORE's concept of non-violent direct action, urged that members of civil rights groups be permitted to defend themselves if attacked during demonstrations. He did not suggest initiating violence; he was among the first civil rights leaders to speak out against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war. He did support Black Power immediately and declared "Black Power is here to stay!"

After his tenure at CORE, Lynch worked for other organizations, including Community Board No. 9 Manhattan and ECHO (Executive Council Housing Organizing), which was part of the Episcopal Church Center. Lynch died at the age 91.

Scope and Content Note

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Arrangement: Arranged into 3 series: I. Personal; II. Professional; and III. Subject files.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Segregation
Authors, Black
Civil rights movements
Segregation in education

Occupations

Civil rights activists.
Civil rights leaders.

Names

Lynch, Lincoln
McKissick, Floyd B. (Floyd Bixler), 1922-1991
Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr., 1908-1972
Randolph, A. Philip (Asa Philip), 1889-1979
Congress of Racial Equality
Congress of Racial Equality. Long Island Chapter

Container List

Personal 1961-1988

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1961-1986
- b. 1 f. 2 Financial and insurance 1961-1963
- b. 1 f. 3 Certificates 1965
Includes certificates from the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County and Struthers Wells Corporation.
- b. 1 f. 4 Remarks for acceptance of Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Coretta Scott King, Yeshiva University 1986 May 7
- b. 1 f. 5 Resume ca. 1988
- b. 1 f. 6 Memorabilia undated
Includes drawings and a nameplate, among others.

Professional 1955-1991

Arranged into 6 subseries: 1. British Overseas Airways Corp.; 2. Lakeview community activism; 3. Long Island CORE; 4. Other; 5. Writing; and 6. Printed matter.

- b. 1 f. 7 British Overseas Airways Corp 1963-1966

Includes correspondence, a signal form, a resignation letter, and retirement information, among others.

Lakeview community activism 1960-1966
- b. 1 f. 8 Correspondence, flyers, and calls to action 1960-1965
Includes hate mail; house listings from the Real Estate Committee of Neighbors Unlimited; and materials from the Committee on Unity, Neighbors United, and United Committee for Action Now (UCAN).

Printed matter
- b. 5 f. 1 1961-1962
- b. 5 f. 2-3 1963-1966
- Long Island (LI) CORE 1955-1969

Arranged alphabetically, save for "Other organizations".
- b. 1 f. 9 Administrative 1965-1968
Includes Lynch's travel itineraries, vacation day request form, and travel receipts for reimbursement, among others.
- b. 1 f. 10 Bylaws and constitution undated
Bylaws appear to be a template.
- b. 1 f. 11 Conferences, workshops, and symposia 1966-1967
Includes an informational memo and agenda for the Black Power Planning Conference, held on September 3, 1966, in Washington, D.C., and a program for "The Urban Negro: Black Neck in a White Noose" conference at Kenyon College in February 1967 (in which Floyd McKissick participated), among others.
- b. 1 f. 12 Contact lists 1964-1967

Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 13 1962-1964
- b. 2 f. 1 1965
- b. 2 f. 2 1966 January-May
- b. 2 f. 3 1966 June-December
- b. 2 f. 4 1967-1968

Professional (cont.)

Long Island (LI) CORE (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 5 undated
- b. 2 f. 6 Fundraising 1962-1965
- b. 2 f. 7 Lynch's speeches 1963-1966
Includes typescripts for speeches that Lynch delivered at Queens College (1965), Hofstra University (1965), and the National Guardian Dinner (1966), among others. Most of the typescripts have handwritten changes and there are a few fragments.
- b. 2 f. 8 Meeting minutes, agendas, and resolutions 1962-1968
Includes minutes of the National Steering Committee, staff meeting, and a general membership meeting, among others. Resolutions adopted include commitment to non-violence and self-defense and the initiation of local and national meetings on Black Power.
- b. 2 f. 9 Membership 1963
- b. 2 f. 10 Newsletters 1961-1964
Includes an issue of *CORE-Lator*, the newsletter of the national organization, and a few issues of the *L.I. CORE Newsletter*.
- b. 3 f. 1 Notes 1965-1967
Includes handwritten and typed notes, presumably mostly by Lynch.
- b. 3 f. 2 Policies and procedures 1964-1966
Mostly includes administrative policies and procedures which focus on making L.I. CORE more efficient.
- b. 3 f. 3 Press releases and announcements 1962-1967
Includes press releases from the national office, L.I. CORE, and other local chapters.
- Printed matter
Includes printed matter for both the national office and L.I. CORE.
- b. 5 f. 4 1962-1963
- b. 6 f. 1 1964-1967
- b. 3 f. 4 Programs and position papers 1963-1968
Includes a position paper on "What CORE Means by Black Power", presented by Cecil Brown, Jr. (1966); a project overview for CORE's Target City Cleveland Project; and a statement on non-violence and self defense, among others. Also includes some calls to action.
- b. 3 f. 5 Reports and proposals 1963-1968
Includes a summary of 1962-1963 state anti-discrimination laws prepared by the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress; a report on "blockbusting" by the City Commission on Human Rights of New York (1963); and a proposal for "Self-Help through Neighborhood Leadership", submitted by the San Diego Chapter of CORE (1964), among others.
- Other organizations
Includes mostly printed matter for organizations with which L.I. CORE (or the national office) worked or organizations with similar missions. The A-U folder contains organizations represented by one or two items.
Arranged alphabetically.
- b. 3 f. 6 American Committee on Africa 1966-1967
- b. 3 f. 7 Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty 1965-1966
- b. 3 f. 8 Hammer and Steel 1965-1968
- b. 3 f. 9 Metropolitan Applied Research Center (MARC) 1967
- b. 3 f. 10 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party 1966
- b. 3 f. 11 Northern Student Movement undated
- b. 3 f. 12 National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union 1968
- b. 3 f. 13 National Day for Black Unity against the War in Vietnam 1968
- b. 3 f. 14 Political Action Programming Assembly ca. 1966-1969

Professional (cont.)

Long Island (LI) CORE (cont.)

Other organizations (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 15 Seasonal Employees in Agriculture 1967
- b. 3 f. 16 State of New York, Executive Chamber 1963-1964
- b. 3 f. 17 Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) 1963-1966
- b. 3 f. 18 United Black Front 1968
- b. 3 f. 19 United States Congress 1965-1966
- b. 4 f. 1 A-U 1964-1967
Includes Amnesty International and New York Civil Liberties Union, among others.

Writing by others

Includes writings that were presumably research materials used by the L.I. CORE office or writings sent to the office by members or other organizations.

Arranged alphabetically by author, title, or organization.

- b. 4 f. 2 Bundy, McGeorge (Ford Foundation). Address at National Urban League's Annual Banquet 1966 August
- b. 4 f. 3 Dai, Bingham. "Minority Group Membership and Personality Development" ca. 1955
- b. 4 f. 4 *Danzig, David. "In Defense of Black Power", Commentary, photocopied draft for September issue* 1966 August
- b. 4 f. 5 *Delany, Lloyd T. "A Comparison of the Individual Rorschach Method and the Group Discussion Rorschach Method as a Diagnostic Device with Delinquent and Adolescent Boys", Dissertation Abstracts reprint, vol. 20, #12* 1960
- b. 4 f. 6 Frost, David. Policy statement for Democratic Senatorial race 1966
September 13
- b. 4 f. 7 Ferguson, Herman. "Another Look at the Case of the Queens' 17" ca. 1968
- b. 4 f. 8 Fineberg, S. Andhil. "What Future Has Mount Vernon?", address at Free Synagogue, Mount Vernon, New York 1966 March 25
- b. 4 f. 9 League of Women Voters of Bellport. "Desegregating Our Schools" 1966
March
- b. 4 f. 10 Mezvinsky, Norton (American Council for Judaism). Address at National Students Association symposium on the Middle East conflict, University of Maryland 1967 August
- b. 4 f. 11 *Poussaint, Alvin F. "The White Press Distorts Race News" (subsequently published in The New York Times)* ca. 1967
- b. 4 f. 12 *The Quorum: The Hofstra University Student Journal of the Social Sciences special issue on race relations in Nassau County, New York*
1963 May
- b. 4 f. 13 *"William Worthy Reports:", The Realist* 1966 April
Inscribed by Worthy to Lynch.
- b. 4 f. 14 Poems, quotes, songs, and unknown fragments 1963-1966

Other 1983-1991

- b. 4 f. 15 Cafrasia Development Corp ca. 1983-1985
Lynch was the president of this organization whose goal it was to foster self-development in emerging African, Asian, and Caribbean nations.
- b. 4 f. 16 Community Board #9 Manhattan 1985 December
Lynch was the District Manager.
- b. 4 f. 17 ECHO (Executive Council Housing Organizing), Episcopal Church Center
1991
Lynch was the housing liaison.

Professional (cont.)

Writing 1978

- b. 4 f. 18 *"We Are Here. Deal Us In", Newsday (photocopy) 1978 June 22*
- b. 4 f. 19 **Fragments and drafts** undated
Mostly consists of typescripts with handwritten edits and notes. It is unclear if all of these writings are by Lynch, and it is possible that some of them are related to his work with L.I. CORE.
- b. 4 f. 20 **Printed matter 1962-1979**

Includes printed matter on Lynch and his involvement with L.I. CORE and other activist organizations in Long Island.

Subject files 1960-1968

Mostly includes newspaper clippings on various topics and individuals of interest to Lynch and L.I. CORE.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or individual's name.

- b. 4 f. 21 **Africa 1960**
- b. 6 f. 2 **Black power 1966**
- b. 6 f. 3 **Civil rights, general 1962-1966**
- b. 6 f. 4 **Education 1962-1966**
- b. 4 f. 22 **Labor shortage 1962-1966**
- b. 6 f. 5 **Poverty 1965-1966**
- b. 6 f. 6 **Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr 1967**
- b. 6 f. 7 **Randolph, A. Philip 1962-1966**
- b. 6 f. 8 **Rent strikes 1965**
- b. 6 f. 9 **Urban renewal 1966**
- b. 6 f. 10 **Segregation and desegregation 1960-1966**
- b. 6 f. 11 **Vietnam 1965-1968**