

# **Tom Kahn Papers**

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

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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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Tom Kahn in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved.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 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Photographs, circa 1960, 1966-1974, 1982, undated
BOX 1	Poland, 1981
BOX 1	Rustin, Bayard, 1959-1973, 1987 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Speeches and statements
BOX 1	By Kahn, 1962, 1975, 1982-1991, undated (5 folders)
BOX 1	Written for Henry M. Jackson
BOX 1	1971
BOX 2	1972 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	About Kahn, 1992
BOX 2	By Kahn, 1960-1985, 1991 (7 folders)
BOX 2	Young People's Socialist League and Social Democrat's U.S.A., circa 1960-1962, 1973