

Julia F. Burnham City Hospital Nurses Strike Records, 1970

COLLECTION 4

Compiled by Phyllis Ladd, Summer 2009, and Patricia Rosario, Spring 2010.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives, The Urbana Free Library, by Frances Friedman, in January 2010.

Physical Description: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)

Access: The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical/Historical Note:

On April 15, 1970, nurses at the Julia F. Burnham City Hospital, Champaign, went on strike due to grievances about working conditions, including inadequate staffing levels, salary, and the hospital administration's refusal to recognize the nurses' representation by the Illinois Nurses Association. Nursing shortages during this period gave rise to several strikes. The Burnham strike followed one that took place in 1969 in Chicago, at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and preceded a strike that occurred in Ames, Iowa in the fall of 1970.

Frances Friedman, a registered nurse at Burnham City Hospital, served as chairman of the Illinois Nurses Association unit at the hospital in the months leading up to the strike. She was a key organizer and spokesperson for the striking group.

Scope and Content Note:

Most of the material contained in the collection was generated between February and September of 1970. There are some newspaper and magazine articles from later years, indicating that Friedman continued to follow relevant issues even after the strike ended and some grievances were resolved.

The collection contains handwritten notes, agendas, correspondence (signed and unsigned), and signed petition pages that reflect the events and plans leading to and including the strike. The contents of Frances Friedman's scrapbook and notebook are included, as are typed drafts of proposals and press releases. Other materials contained in the collection are press releases, newspaper coverage from the local paper, and publications from the Illinois and American Nurses Associations.

Copies of articles from magazines, government documents, and journals attest to Friedman's research and interest in collective bargaining. Her support for teachers and school nurses with workplace grievances is reflected in a letter to the editor and documents about Urbana schools and Chicago school nurses.

Container List:

Box 1

- Folder 1 Burnham Hospital Nurses Strike - typescript of a paper by University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign graduate student, Bernice Treffler.
- Folder 2 Scrapbook - contents as organized by Frances Friedman. Includes newspaper clippings, copies of correspondence, nurses' newsletters, and telegrams.
- Folder 3 Notebook - contents as organized by Frances Friedman. Correspondence includes original signed letter from Burnham City Hospital Administrator Deems to Friedman regarding firing. Copies of correspondence signed and unsigned. Newsletters, hospital notices.
- Folder 4 Nurses' week (March 15-21, 1970) - correspondence, hospital policies and brochures, press releases, Illinois Nurses Association brochures, newspaper clipping, and journal articles.
- Folder 5 Legal documents - signed copy of letter to Illinois Nurses Association from attorney for the striking nurses, Leon Despres. Unsigned copies of claim, complaint, answer to complaint.
- Folder 6 Illinois Labor Law Commission - Illinois Nurses Association letter to Senator Harris, drafts of Friedman's statement regarding collective bargaining.
- Folder 7 Correspondence - typescript letters from Illinois Nurses Association, signed and unsigned; handwritten memos from Illinois Nurses Association; newsletter citing Frances Friedman and Burnham City Hospital events.
- Folder 8 Correspondence - one signed letter from American Nurses Association to Friedman.
- Folder 9 Correspondence - signed typescript letter to Deems, Burnham City Hospital administrator, from citizen and his signed reply; unsigned copy of letter of support for nurses to Deems.
- Folder 10 Correspondence - unsigned typescript from Illinois Nurses Association to Governor Ogilvie, also to Senator Harris. Signed copy of letter to Burnham City Hospital and to Illinois Nurses Association from Director, Dept. of Labor.

- Folder 11 Collective Bargaining - brochures of American Nurses Association, signed letter from attorney with enclosed article copy, handwritten drafts of Friedman's statement to Mayor, City Council of Champaign, copies of legislation with annotations by Friedman, handwritten notes and contact lists.
- Folder 12 Press Coverage - copy of *Urbana Courier* article about the strike, May 17, 1970.
- Folder 13 Strike Fund Contributions - letters, notes in envelopes indicating contributions by organizations and individuals.
- Folder 14 Handwritten agendas of meetings with additional lists of contacts.

Box 2

- Folder 1 Friedman's handwritten notes of various kinds.
- Folder 2 Illinois Nurses Association newsprint newsletter - regarding University of Chicago Hospitals strike outcome, 1969.
- Folder 3 American Nurses Association newsprint newsletter - contains a front-page story regarding the mass resignation of nurses in Ames, Iowa.
- Folder 4 Newsletters/Notices - including one page sheets, "Cues-U-In".
- Folder 5 Typed and handwritten drafts of press releases.
- Folder 6 Champaign-Urbana Council for Community Integration - typed, transcript of an interview with Burnham City Hospital Administrator, Deems, with signature of interviewer.
- Folder 7 Original issues of *CHART*, an Illinois Nurses Association publication, from 1970, 1971, and 1974.
- Folder 8 Illinois Nurses Association - Empty forms and brochures.
- Folder 9 United Slate - literature about the Champaign mayoral and city council candidates, February 1971.
- Folder 10 Democratic State Central Committee - copy of signed letter to the Illinois Nurses Association; typed, loose pages indicating Friedman gave statement to the Committee.

- Folder 11 Schools - copy of newspaper letter to editor from Friedman in support of striking teachers. Handwritten notes, typed information, and original signed petition pages regarding school issue.
- Folder 12 Frances Friedman's original engagement calendar for the year 1970.
- Folders 13-14 Original petitions signed by community members regarding nurses' strike.
- Folder 15 Xeroxed copies of petitions signed by community members regarding nurses' strike (Originals not available).
- Folder 16 Petitions signed by registered nurses.
- Folder 17 Petitions signed by licensed practical nurses.