AUSTIN LeROY "ROY" CRAMER COLLECTION Finding Aid

Compiled by Kelly Francis-Love

Museum of South Texas History Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives Edinburg, Texas

2022



Founded in 1967 as the Hidalgo County Historical Museum

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SUMMARY

Size	13 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Hidalgo County, Texas; Lower Rio Grande Valley;
Inclusive Dates	1925-1965
Bulk Dates	1940-1959
Languages	English and Spanish
Summary	Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer's work in the citrus industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas and his interest in education, migrant workers, water conservation, and the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico concerning the source and use of water are documented in this collection.
Access Restrictions	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
Reproduction Note	Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by the Museum of South Texas History), when available.
Copyright	Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.
Related Collections	Clarence Johnstone collection of Engleman Gardens materials and photographs; George S. Wright Engleman Gardens project collection
Preferred Citation	Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	D:34 RGDOC 548, E:2 RGDOC 262, 263, E:3 RGDOC 264-265, J:1 RGDOC 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, J:2 RGDOC 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

A.L. (Austin LeRoy – aka: Roy) Cramer was born to Isaiah Thomas and Amanda Josephine Bengston Cramer on March 1, 1892, in Willmar, Minnesota. Cramer graduated from Willmar High School in 1910 and attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1910 to 1912. He married Clara Foss from Grafton, North Dakota, on December 25, 1916, in Shelby, Montana.

The Cramers moved to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in1918 where Cramer worked for the J.C. Engleman Company, also known as the Engleman Products Company and Engleman Gardens. John Clodo Engleman, Jr. established the company in 1926 when he dedicated 11,000 acres to the citrus industry. Cramer became the manager of the company in 1927 and worked in that capacity until 1968.

Water for the agriculture industry was a problem in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cramer worked to help resolve it by serving as president of the Hidalgo County Water Improvement District 6 in Elsa, Texas; president of the Valley Water Conservation Association; and chairman of the Rio Grande Valley Water Committee. In 1957 Governor Price Daniel appointed Cramer to the Water Planning Committee for Texas. Cramer represented Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming when he worked on the treaty between the United States and Mexico. Cramer appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as the head of the Valley delegation in support of the treaty. Ratification of the treaty by the United States in 1945 led to the construction of Falcon Dam, Amistad Dam and Anzalduas Dam on the Rio Grande.

Engleman Gardens employed thousands of Mexican workers during Cramer's tenure as manager. As a result Cramer worked with Ciudad Reynosa authorities to establish guidelines for Mexican workers in South Texas. The guidelines provided legal protection for the workers by stipulating number of hours, salary, and length of work contacts.

Other professional organizations to which Cramer belonged were the South Texas Canners Association (president 1943-1944) and the Texas Canners Association (president in 1945).

Cramer's other civic duties included serving as president and member of the board of trustees of the Edinburg Consolidated School District; as a member (1944-1945) of the board of directors of the College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, Texas; and as president (1952-1957) of the board of regents for the four-year Pan American Regional College. In addition he was a member of the Edinburg Rotary Club for 28 years; an advocate for the Knapp Memorial Methodist Hospital in Weslaco, Texas; and a member of the board of stewards of the First Methodist Church of Edinburg.

The Cramers had four daughters: Carolyn Hope who married Robert H. Kern of McAllen, Texas; Phyllis Elaine who married George Smith Wright of Albuquerque, New

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Mexico; Janet who married H. Sam Jones of McAllen, Texas; and Alice Lee who married Francis E. Knapp of Brownsville, Texas. A.L. Cramer died in Elsa, Texas, on February 17, 1969.

Bibliography:

Trueba, Enrique T. "Austin LeRoy Cramer: A Leader in the Citrus Industry" in *The New Americans: Immigrants and Transnationals at Work.*

http://books.google.com/books?id=ozAti10L2IIC&pg=PA19&lpg=PA19&dq=a.+l.+cramer+engleman+gardens&source=bl&ots=BQHJb8pBDF&sig=7_WCtfcTvA8UVh_yZNm_wF9_12ME&hl=en&sa=X&ei=n5_NUeeVKYGHyAHBg4HgDQ&ved=0CCwQ6AEwA_A#v=onepage&q=a.%20l.%20cramer%20engleman%20gardens&f=false. Accessed June 28, 2013.

Gabe 1. "Universidad de la Vida." *RGV Academic*. RGVISION. http://www.rgvacademic.com/?p=3294. Accessed July 3, 2013.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer's work in the citrus industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas and his interest in education, migrant workers, water conservation, and the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico concerning the source and use of water are documented in this collection. Types of materials included in the collection are correspondence such as letters, telegrams, and post cards; educational reports, policies, meeting minutes, and agendas; conference programs; handwritten notes; financial reports; brands and trademarks; court decisions; commission and committee reports; international, national, and state legislation; and maps and charts. Items of special interest include a photocopy of a plat for Las Mesteñas Ranch Lot 15, a Pan American catalog (1952-1953) in Spanish, the statement of Charles G. Woodbury to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, "Aviso Importante al Comite Consejero con Relacion al Programa Agricola para los Trabajadores Migratorios," and a 1941 newspaper advertisement describing the new innovation of buying produce by the pound at retail stores. Materials pertaining to the Treaty Between the United States of America and Mexico for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande are also found in the collection.

The series of the collection include correspondence; speeches; Rotary Club of Edinburg, Texas; academic institutions, citrus operations; Bracero/migration/labor; projects; water control; climatological date; and ephemera. When possible riginal order was maintained.

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LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. Correspondence
- II. Speeches
- III. Rotary Club of Edinburg, Texas
- IV. Academic institutions
- V. Citrus operations
- VI. Bracero/Migration/Labor
- VII. Projects
 - a. Minerals (sulfur and tin)
 - b. WPA
 - c. IBW
- VIII. Water control
 - a. Water studies
 - b. Texas Water Conservation Association
 - c. Bills, treaties, reports
- IX. Climatological Data
- X. Ephemera

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Correspondence

The correspondence series includes letters, reports, telegrams, news clippings, and postcards. The major subjects addressed by the documents are water conservation, commission and association business, water related state and federal legislation, irrigation, conference reports, Mexican agricultural workers, Engleman Products Company business, dam construction, tidewater barriers, development of Mexico just south of the Rio Grande, the water treaty with Mexico, frost damage to crops, ledger for Donna (Texas) Irrigation District, citrus industry concerns, and fundraising for Valley Medical Center. Personal correspondence addressed the value of a tract of land in Hidalgo County, Texas.

II. Speeches

The speeches contained in this series include a radio address on water conservation by Cramer and a report on rights on impounded water by John D. McCall.

III. Rotary Club of Edinburg, Texas

This series contains programs for meetings, correspondence, a constitution template, and bulletins.

IV. Academic institutions

The academic institutions with which Cramer was involved include Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District, Edinburg Regional College (later known as Pan American College and now called The University of Texas Pan American), and Texas A&M. The documents found in the series include policies, correspondence, board meeting agendas, financial reports, copies of state legislation, campus publications, Pan American College's "Working Together" project, Pan American College board of regents documents, education proposals, and Pan American Catalog (1952-1953) in Spanish.

V. Citrus operations

The citrus operations series contains correspondence, citrus related organization documents, conference programs and agendas, letters of recommendation, handwritten notes, meeting notices, Florida citrus fruit grades, transportation fee rate sheet, financial reports, Mexican fruitfly quarantine documents, news clips, and a statistical bulletin from Florida. The folder containing Safeway Stores Incorporated documents includes 1944 and 1947 policies, bulletins, news clips, an employees' monthly magazine, and a 1941 newspaper advertisement describing the new innovation of buying produce by the pound at retail stores. Items of note in the series

are a copy of the statement of Charles G. Woodbury to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations and a copy of the Office of Price Administration Revised Price Regulation 13.

VI. Bracero, migration and labor

Mexican agricultural workers are the focus of this series. Materials found here include court decisions, a Mexican prepared contract template, commission and committee reports, correspondence, information about meetings for agricultural employers, handwritten notes, Congressional bills, meeting reports, application forms to import agricultural workers from Mexico, membership lists of committees, meeting minutes, work contracts, and steps for employers wishing to hire Mexican agricultural workers. Items of interest include a list of Mexicans under contract; a list of Mexican labor recruiters; and correspondence pertaining to workers who died, became ill, or left employment. Topics covered in the materials are wages, agricultural labor recruitment, wetback labor, Mexican immigration quotas, contracts, and the Mexican Agriculture Labor Program.

VII. Projects

The topics covered in this series include the minerals sulphur and tin, irrigation and canals, and work projects. The documents contained here are reports, analyses of Congressional hearings, memorandums, maps, a project proposal and application, and a project cost estimate work sheet.

VIII. Water control

This series pertains to water studies as well as water legislation on international, national, and state levels. Items documenting the actions of water related organizations are also found here. Other subjects covered by these materials include water storage, dams, water problems, water reclamation, water conservation, Indian Pueblo water rights, Texas legislative activities, and irrigation. Types of materials include maps and charts, correspondence, financial reports, minutes and meeting notices, releases and distribution compacts, an appointment book, reports, resolutions, drafts of legislative bills, acts of Congress including the water treaty with Mexico, statements to the public by Judge Oscar C. Dancy, and newspaper clippings. The March 16, 1944, issue of the *Congressional Record* is in this series.

IX. Climatological Data (1925-1948)

This series contains "Climatological Data" produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau for 1925-1947 along with the Annual Summary for 1948.

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X. Ephemera

The items in this series include a 1959 game bird guide, an unused temporary crossing card, a photocopy of the biography of John C. Engleman, Jr., a sale ad for a house on Monte Cristo Road, a photocopy of the plat for Las Mesteñas Ranch Lot 15, the Texas Legislative Service for May 18, 1960, a list of water districts for several Texas counties for 1949, and "Programs to Effectuate a Long-range Policy of Abundance" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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INDEX TERMS

Bentsen, Lloyd Millard, Jr., 1921-2006 Dancy, Oscar Cromwell, 1879-1971 Shivers, Robert Allan, 1907-1985 Swallow, C. H., 1868-1957

Engleman Products Company
International Boundary and Water Commission
Lower Rio Grande Water Committee
National Reclamation Association
Processed Citrus Fruit Industry Advisory Committee
Safeway Stores
Six States Committee
Texas Water Conservation Association
Water Conservation Association of the Lower Rio Grande Valley
Work Projects Administration (WPA)

Dams

Falcon Reservoir (Mexico and Tex.)
Mexican fruitfly regulations
Presa Falcón (Mexico and Tex.)
Water districts—Texas—Lower Rio Grande Valley.

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CONTAINER LIST

(D:34) RGDOC 548

2002.053 A.L. Cramer family papers (scans)

F. Guajardo

Commencement program: 1909 Willmar High School

Austin LeRoy Cramer genealogy, undated

Letter to A.L. Cramer of Elsa, Texas, from Lyndon B. Johnson of Washington, D.C., November 1, 1957

Official invitation to the presidential inauguration of Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

- (E:2) RGDOC 263 Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer collection
- (E:2) RGDOC 262 Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer collection
- (E:2) FOLDER 1 Austin LeRoy "Roy" Cramer collection (original documents that have been photocopied)
- (E:3) RGDOC 264, 264A-E Austin LeRoy Cramer collection
- (E:3) RGDOC 265, 265A-B Austin LeRoy Cramer collection

(J:1)	RGDOC 1053.	A.L.	Cramer	Collection
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 1993.134.002.001: A.L Cramer
 (1938-1939)

 1993.134.002.002: C.E. Swallow; Alamo,Tx.
 (1939,1943-1950, undated)

 1993.134.002.003: A.L. Cramer
 (1940-1941)

 1993.134.002.004: R.B. McLeaish- Lower RGV Planning Board
 (1944-1945)

 1993.134.002.005: A.L. Cramer
 (1947-1949)

 1993.134.002.007: A.L. Cramer
 (1947-1948, 1950-1951)

1993.134.002.007; A.L. Cramer (1947-1948, 1950-1951) 1993.134.002.008; Engleman Gardens Association (1948-1949) 1993.134.002.009; Engleman Gardens- Elsa, Tx. (1949-1950) 1993.134.002.010; Personal (1957) 1993.134.003.001; Texas A&M, Extension Program (1946-1947)

1993.134.003.002: Edinburg Regional College, now UTRGV (1951-1952, undated)

1993.134.003.003: Pan American College, Board of Regents, (1952-53,1955-56,1961-62) now, UTRGV

1993.134.003.004: Edinburg Consolidated Independent School (1953)
District

1993.134.003.005: Pan American College, now UTRGV, (Undated) Working Together

1993.134.004.001: Safeway Stores (1941, 1944-1948)

1993.134.004.002: Processed Citrus Fruit Industry Advisory (1945-1947)

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(J:1) RGDOC 1054 A.	L. Cramer Collection
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1993.134.004.003: Reports (1946,1948,1950-1951)

1993.134.004.004: Recommendations (1947-1948, 1950)

1993.134.004.005: Organizations (1947, 1951)

1993.134.004.006: Inspections (1948-1951)

1993.134.004.007: National Canners Association (1948, undated)

1993.134.004.008: Mexican Fruitfly Regulations (1948, undated)

1993.134.004.009: Growers Administrative Committee, (1957)

Statistical Bulletin No. 32, Florida

1993.134.005.001: World War II (1944)

1993.134.005.002: U.S. Department of Immigration & (1947)

Naturalization, U.S. Department of Justice

1993.134.005.003: Legislation- HB2102 (1947)

1993.134.005.004: Clippings from El Paso Herald Post (1947)

1993.134.005.005: Correspondence (1947, 1949-1950)

1993.134.005.006: "History" (1947)

1993.134.005.007: International Conferences (1947, undated)

1993.134.005.008: Local Conferences (1947, undated)

1993.134.005.009: Contracts (1947, undated)

1993.134.005.010: Unions (1947, undated)

1993.134.005.011: Procedures (1949)

1993.134.005.012: Reports- "Migratory Labor in American (1951)
Agriculture;" and "President's Commission

on Migratory Labor"

1993.134.005.013: General (Undated)

1993.134.006.001: International Boundary Water Commission (1939-1940)

1993.134.006.002: Works Projects Administration (WPA) (1942)

1993.134.006.003: Minerals- Sulphur & Tin (Undated)

(J:1) RGDOC 1055 A.L. Cramer Collection

1993.134.007.001: Water Charts & Maps (1936,1940,1949, undated)

1993.134.007.002: Statements to the Public by Oscar C. Dancy, (1937-1938)

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Cameron County Judge

1993.134.007.003: Water Conservation Association of Lower (1937-1940) RGV,Board Meeting Minutes

1993.134.007.004: Water Works Protection, The Barret Company (1938)

1993.134.007.005: Non-Resident Patrons, Valley Water Districts (1940, undated)

1993.134.007.006: Six States Committee, United States-Mexico Water Treaty

1993.134.007.007: Water Treaty Amendments (1944)

1993.134.007.008: Six States Committee, United States-Mexico (1944)

Water Treaty- Statement Supporting

Ratification

1993.134.007.009: News Stories of the RGV Water Problems (1944)

1993.134.007.010: Resolutions (1944-1945, undated)

1993.134.007.011: Analysis- Water Treaty (1944,1955, undated)

1993.134.007.012: Local Water Reclamation (1944, 1957, undated)

1993.134.007.013: Brief Outlining S.B. 168 & H.B. 403 (1945)

Dealing with Waters of the Rio Grande

below Fort Quitman, Tx.

1993.134.007.014: Treaty Between USA-Mexico (1946)

1993.134.007.015: National Reclamation Association (1948, 1950-1951)

1993.134.007.016: Activities Underway/Completed by Agencies (1949)

of the Department of Interior in Connection

with the Development of Texas

Water Resources

(J:1) RGDOC 1056 A.L. Cramer Collection

1993.134.007.017: 1st Annual Report of the Upper Colorado (1950,1953)

River Commission

1993.134.007.018: U.S. Supreme Court Case- Texas v. (1953)

New Mexico, et al.; Indian Pueblo

1993.134.007.019: Rules, Regulations, and Modes of Procedures (1953)
- Board of Water Engineers, Tx.

1993.134.007.020: Water Supply and Texas Economyan Appraisal of the Texas Water Problem

1993.134.007.021: Falcon Releases & Distribution Compacts (1953-1954)

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1993.134.007.022: Falcon Releases & Distribution Compacts (1953-1954)

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1993.134.007.023: Falcon Releases & Distribution Compacts (1953-1954)

1993.134.007.024: Program- Water Law Conference on Riparian (1954) & Appropriative

1993.134.007.025: Summary of Conference on Texas Water Problems & Possible Solutions (1954)

1993.134.007.026: Storage/Dams (1956)

1993.134.007.027: Lower RGV Water Committee, (1957-1958)
-Lobby Correspondence

(J:1) RGDOC 1057 A.L. Cramer Collection

1993.134.007.028: LRGV Water Committee- Lobby (1958-1959)

Correspondence, 1 of 2

1993.134.007.029: LRGV Water Committee- Lobby (1958-1959)

Correspondence, 2 of 2

1993.134.007.030: Water Supply Limitations on Irrigation (1964-1965)

from the Rio Grande in Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties- Texas Water Commission Bulletin 6413 & 6413A

Dunctin 0413 & 0413/1

1993.134.007.031: The Water Situation in the LRGV of Texas (1965)

1993.134.007.032: Publications- Briefs; Six States Committee, (Undated)

United States- Mexico Water Treaty; Vol. 1

1993.134.007.033: Publications- Briefs; Six States Committee, (Undated)

United States-Mexico Water

Treaty; Vol. 2

1993.134.007.034: Publications- Briefs; Six States Committee, (Undated)

United States- Mexico Water

Treaty; Vol. 3

(J:1) RGDOC 1058 A.L. Cramer Collection

1993.134.008.001: Texas Water Conservation Association (1937-1940)

of the LRGV

1993.134.008.002: Statements & Receipts (1940-1943)

1993.134.008.003: TWCA of the LRGV; Accounts- Canal (1940-1943)

Banking Company Elsa, Tx

1993.134.008.004: Statements (1940-1943)

1993.134.008.005: Collections (1940-1944)

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1993.134.008.006: Minutes, Meeting Notices, By-Laws	(1940-1944)
1993.134.008.007: LRGV	(1942-1949)
1993.134.008.008: Newspaper Clippings	(1943-1946)
(J:1) RGDOC 1059 A.L. Cramer Collection 1993.134.008.009: TWCA- History	(1943)
1993.134.008.010: River Valley Authorities- 1 of 2	(1943-1946)
1993.134.008.011: River Valley Authorities- 2 of 2	(1943-1949)
1993.134.008.012: TWCA of the LRGV- 1 of 2	(1943-1949)
1993.134.008.013: TWCA of the LRGV- 2 of 2	(1943)
1993.134.008.014: WCA of the LRGV- US Congressional Record	(1944)
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1993.134.008.016: Correspondence- 1 of 2	(1944-1946)
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1993.134.009.001: U.S. Senate Water Treaties	(1944-1948)	
1993.134.009.002: U.S. House Bill No. 541- Creating the LRGV Authority	(1951)	
1993.134.009.003: LRGV Committee	(1956)	
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1993.134.009.005: LRGV Water Committee -2 of 2	(1956-1958)	
1993.134.009.006: Texas Legislative Service -02/18/1957- 04/15/1957	(1957)	
1993.134.009.007: Texas Legislative Service - House Daily Reports , 1 of 2	(1957)	
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1993.134.009.011: Texas Legislative Service -05/08/57-05/17/57	(1957)	
(J:2) RGDOC 1065 A.L. Cramer Collection 1993.134.010.001: T.L.S- Senate Daily Reports -01/08/57-03/07/57, 1 of 2	(1957)	
1993.134.010.002: Texas Legislative Service -01/08/57-03/07/57, 2 of 2	(1957)	
1993.134.011.001: Rotary Club of Edinburg, Tx.	(1960-1961)	
1993.134.012.001: Water Conservation	(1949, 1954)	
1993.134.013.001: Ephemera	(1947, 1949, 1960, undated)	
(J:2) RGDOC 1066 A.L. Cramer Collection 2022.056.001: Bulletin #5- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1935)	
2022.056.002: Bulletin #7- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1937)	

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2022.056.003: Bulletin #8- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1938)	
2022.056.004: Bulletin #10- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1940)	
2022.056.005: Bulletin #12- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions		(1942)
2022.056.006: Bulletin#13- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1943)	
2022.056.007: Bulletin#14- Flow of the Rio Grande and Tributary Contributions	(1944)	
2022.056.008: Message from the President of the U.S.	(1944)	
regarding Treaty with Mexico Relating to the Utilization of the Waters of certai	n Rivers	
2022.056.009: 6 th Intermediate Report of the Select Committee to Investigate Executive Agencies House Representatives 78 th Congress		
2022.056.010: Treaty with Mexico Relating to the Utilization of the Waters of Certain Rivers	(1945)	
2022.056.011: IBWC Water Bulletin #15- Flow of the Rio Grand and Tributary Contributions	e	(1945)
2022.056.012: Congressional Record- May 2 nd	(1946)	
2022.056.013: Congressional Record- May 3 rd	(1946)	
2022.056.014: Labor- Management Relations Act		(1947)
2022.056.015: Hearings Before the Committee on Un-American Activities House of Representatives 80 th Congress 1 st Session	n	(1947)
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