



ArchivesSpace

# Poor People's Campaign Collection

## An inventory of Poor People's Campaign at DC Public Library

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 14, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
<b>Title:</b>	Poor People's Campaign Collection
<b>ID:</b>	119
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1968
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Linear feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Poor People's Campaign was a 1968 effort to gain economic and human rights for poor people in the United States. The event was planned by Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and carried out under the leadership of Ralph Abernathy in the wake of Dr. King's assassination. After participants presented their demands to Congress and President Lyndon Johnson a 3,000 person protest camp known as Resurrection City was constructed on the National Mall. The Campaign began on May 12, when demonstrators led by Coretta Scott King demanded an Economic Bill of Rights. Over the next few weeks nine major caravans of poor people from various cities arrived in the District. Marchers participated in a variety of activities throughout the city culminating in the June 19 Solidarity Day rally. On June 23, the demonstration's permit with the National Park Service expired and some members of Congress called for the immediate removal of the encampment. On June 24 over one thousand police officers arrived to clear the camp of its five hundred remaining residents, many of whom were arrested for refusing to vacate the site.

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## Scope and Contents

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The contents of this collection include: correspondence, flyers, memorabilia, newsletters, newspaper clippings, poems, and songs.

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## Arrangement

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Series I: Correspondence This series contains correspondence concerning activities of the Poor People's Campaign of 1968. Series II: Reports and Statements This series contains congressional reports and internal memorandums regarding the work of the Poor People's Campaign participants. Series III: Publications This series contains newsletters documenting activities at Resurrection City. Series IV: Miscellaneous This series contains brochures, programs, songs, and other items that do not pertain to any other series. Series V: Clippings This series contains newspaper clippings on the Poor People's Campaign, Resurrection City, and the funeral of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC  
[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

### Revision Description

Finding aid edited for length and clarity. 2020-03-19

### Custodial History

Various donors.

## Processing Information

General processing procedures included removing fragile newspaper clippings from cardboard scrapbook mounts and photocopying them onto acid-free paper.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Civil rights
- Demonstrations
- Mall, The (Washington, D.C.)
- Political activists

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Correspondence

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence concerning activities of the Poor People's Campaign of 1968.

Title/Description	Instances	
"A Letter to Friends from D.C. Jail", 1968	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondent Letter, 1968	Box 1	Folder 2
Letter to Judge, 1968	Box 1	Folder 3

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### Series 2: Reports and Statements

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains congressional reports and internal memorandums regarding the work of the Poor People's Campaign participants.

Title/Description	Instances	
A Report to Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1968	Box 1	Folder 4
Report of the Legislative Committee for the Poor People's Campaign, 1968	Box 1	Folder 5

William Penn Newsletter, Undated	Box 1	Folder 6
Summary of the Commission Report and Legislative before Congress, Undated	Box 1	Folder 7
Policy Statement on Poverty, Jobs, and Income, Undated	Box 1	Folder 8
Income Memorandum, Undated	Box 1	Folder 9
Action Bulletin, 1968	Box 1	Folder 10

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## Series 3: Publications

### Scope and Contents

This series contains newsletters documenting activities at Resurrection City.

Title/Description	Instances	
Newsletter, 1968	Box 1	Folder 11
True Unity News of Resurrection City, 1968	Box 1	Folder 12

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## Series 4: Miscellaneous

### Scope and Contents

This series contains brochures, programs, songs, and other items that do not pertain to any other series.

Title/Description	Instances	
Solidarity Day Programme, 1968	Box 1	Folder 13
MLK Slogans, Undated	Box 1	Folder 14
Brochures, Undated	Box 1	Folder 15
Resurrection City Songs, 1968	Box 1	Folder 16
List of Worshipers Arrested on Capitol, 1968	Box 1	Folder 17
Job Mobilization Support Sheet, Undated	Box 1	Folder 18
True Unity Resurrection Poems, Undated	Box 1	Folder 19
Flyer, Undated	Box 1	Folder 20

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## Series 5: Clippings

## Scope and Contents

This series contains newspaper clippings on the Poor People's Campaign, Resurrection City, and the funeral of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1968	Box 1	Folder 21
Clippings, Undated	Box 1	Folder 22

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