

The office of the Commissioner of Labor was created by the 1915 Nevada Legislature as Chapter 203, Statutes of Nevada, 1915 (NRS 607). The Commissioner's duties were to foster, promote, develop, and enforce laws designed to protect the men, women, and children who comprise the working population of Nevada; to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment. Specific duties included the gathering of statistics related to workers in thirteen industrial categories (mining, manufacturing, transportation, etc); determining prevailing wage scales for public works; collecting unpaid wages; enforcing eight-hour work days; licensing private employment agencies; enforcing laws related to employment of women and children; monitoring employment of migrant laborers; and if requested by the governor, serving as a mediator for labor disputes. The Commissioner is also the Director of Apprenticeship in Nevada.



Figure 1: Migrant field workers harvesting onions near Overton, Nevada, 1959. Courtesy of Nevada State Archives. LAB-0015.

The 1993 Nevada Legislature created the Department of Business and Industry (B&I) as part of a reorganization of the executive branch of state government. The office of the Labor Commissioner was incorporated as one of twenty-nine units of Business and Industry but the responsibilities remained much the same as previously. The Labor Commissioner is appointed by the Director of B&I; the Commissioner's office is in Carson City with a branch office in Las Vegas (established in 1943). The office also consists of a Deputy Director, eight investigators, and nine support staff.

Records Description Dates: 1918 - 2003; bulk 1932-1993 Volume: 9 cu. ft..



Figure 2: Migrant labor mother hauling water for her family while living in the open air near Overton, Nevada, 1959. Courtesy of Nevada State Archives. LAB-0007.

The collection of the Nevada Labor Commissioner consists of records created and received in the administration of the office. The variety of records reflects the variety of responsibilities of the office: arbitration of labor claims, agreements and disputes; the determination of wage rates/scales in all Nevada counties; enforcement of labor laws; and granting of licenses to private employment agencies. The types of records include correspondence, reports, and censuses of various kinds of businesses/labor organizations. There are a fair number of reports and correspondence related to labor for the construction of Boulder Dam, including the employment of Blacks, and reports and photos documenting the humanitarian relief of migratory farm laborers in the Las Vegas area in 1959. Also included are minutes of the Nevada Apprenticeship Council, 1977-1996, in both paper and audio formats; and a series of photographs of migrant labor living conditions near Overton, 1959.

Labor Commissioner - Records

1918-2003

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (AF OF L-CIO), NEVADA 1959-1961 LABCOM-0002 010

AGING, COMMITTEE ON, CORRESPONDENCE 1959-1961 LABCOM-0002 019, 038-039

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS, LIST OF MEMBERS 1963 LABCOM-0001 002

APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL, MEETING AUDIO TAPES, FEBRUARY 10 1982 – AUGUST 14, 1986 LABCOM-0009

APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL, MINUTES (TRANSCRIPTIONS) 1977-1996 LABCOM-0008 002-009

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS (AGC), SOUTHERN NEVADA AND AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (AF OF L) AGREEMENT 1948 LABCOM-0001 015

AGC AND AF OF L AGREEMENT 1950-1951 LABCOM-0001 018, 020

BIENNIAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY OF LOCAL LABOR UNIONS 1958-1960 LABCOM-0002 016

BLOOD, L.T., INVESTIGATION INTO, APPOINTMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, COMPLAINTS, VETERANS AND MIGRANT LABOR REPORTS 1929-1937 LABCOM-0003 043-047

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY IN STATE GOVERNMENT 1959-1961 LABCOM-0002 042

BUDGET NARRATIVE 1960 LABCOM-0002 043

CHILD LABOR LAW, COMPLAINTS, CORRESPONDENCE 1960 LABCOM-0002 018

CHILD LABOR LAW, CORRESPONDENCE 1959 LABCOM-0003 015

CHILD LABOR LAW, CORRESPONDENCE 1963-1964 LABCOM-0005 030

CLIPPINGS, SETTINGS FOR PREVAILING WAGE HEARINGS 1947 LABCOM-0003 014

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGENT ELECTION 1959 LABCOM-0003 016

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, KENNECOTT COPPER MINING COMPANY AND UNITED STEEL WORKERS 1971 LABCOM-0008 001

CORRESPONDENCE, GENERAL 1935-1938, 1959 LABCOM-0003 019-020, 049

CORRESPONDENCE, GENERAL 1946, 1948-1949, 1964 LABCOM-0005 025-026, 035

CORRESPONDENCE, GENERAL 1962 LABCOM-0002 046

CORRESPONDENCE, GEORGE S. JOLLY, COMMISSIONER 1959-1962 LABCOM-0002 020-021

CORRESPONDENCE, GOVERNOR'S 1959 LABCOM-0003 021

CORRESPONDENCE, GOVERNOR'S 1962 LABCOM-0002 047

CORRESPONDENCE, GOVERNOR'S 1963 LABCOM-0001 001

CORRESPONDENCE, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU 1962-1963 LABCOM-0001 004

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CORRESPONDENCE, PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES 1946-1948 LABCOM-0002 049

CUMMINGS, PHIL, DEPUTY LABOR COMMISSIONER 1961 LABCOM-0002 044

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL LABOR UNIONS 1960-1962 LABCOM-0002 041

DRUMM, A.D., JR., VIOLATION OF 8-HOUR WORKDAY 1931-1932 LABCOM-003 042

ELECTION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, RENO DISPOSAL AND TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS UNION LOCAL 533 1959 LABCOM-0003 018

EMPLOYMENT OF NEGROES AT BOULDER DAM 1933 LABCOM-0003 038

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS 1961-1962 LABCOM-0002 045

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS 1963 LABCOM-0005 031

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT, FEDERAL WAGE AND HOUR LAW 1959 LABCOM-0002 006

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WAGE, HOUR AND PUBLIC
CONTRACTS DIVISION 1960 LABCOM-0001 009

FINN, RAYMOND R., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CORRESPONDENCE 1959 LABCOM-0003 017

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED 1959-
1961 LABCOM-0002 004, 015, 033

INVESTIGATION OF UNION COMPLAINTS AGAINST L.F. DECKLEMAN, MANAGER OF NATIONAL
UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICE IN ELY 1934 LABCOM-0003 040

INVESTIGATION OF UTAH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, EMPLOYMENT OF NEVADANS 1932
LABCOM-0003 039

LABOR CLAIMS FILED, REPORTS 1939-1949 LABCOM-0005 027

LABOR CLAIMS FILED, REPORTS 1959-1961 1959 LABCOM-0002 007, 036, 048

LABOR CLAIMS FILED, REPORTS 1963-1964 LABCOM-0005 028-029

LABOR CLAIMS, CASES PENDING FOR EXTRAS ON MOVIE CREW FOR MISFITS 1960
LABCOM-0002 037

LABOR COMMISSIONER FORMS AND CIRCULARS 1918 LABCOM-0003 051

LABOR COMMISSIONER OFFICE STRUCTURE 1959 LABCOM-0002 002

LABOR COMMISSIONER, EAGLE LOGO FOR BIENNIAL REPORT 1960-1962 LABCOM-0002 040

LABOR DISPUTE, CULINARY WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 226 AND BARTENDERS LOCAL UNION
NO. 165 VS SILVER SLIPPER CORPORATION 1962 LABCOM-0002 009

LABOR DISPUTES 1959 LABCOM-0001 037

LABOR DISPUTES, AMERICAN POTASH AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION VS UNIONS 1959
LABCOM-0003 022

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LABOR DISPUTES, BOULDER DAM 1933, 1935 LABCOM-0003 037

LABOR DISPUTES, MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE 1960-1962 LABCOM-0002 022-024

LABOR DISPUTES, MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE 1963 LABCOM-0001 005

LABOR DISPUTES, MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE 1964 LABCOM-0005 032

LABOR DISPUTES, TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL NO. 631 VS TANNER MOTOR TOURS AND THE VEGAS TRANSIT COMPANY 1960 LABCOM-0002 025

LABOR DISPUTES, STRIKES, MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE 1959 LABCOM-0001 035

LABOR DISPUTES, WHITE PINE METAL TRADES COUNCIL VS KENNECOTT COPPER COMPANY 1963-1965 LABCOM-0001 003

LABOR LAWS, SUPPLEMENT MATERIAL 1959-1960 LABCOM-0002 027

LAS VEGAS OFFICE MANAGER, APPLICANTS 1930 LABCOM-0003 048

MCLAUGHLIN, JOHN H., DEPUTY LABOR COMMISSIONER 1959 LABCOM-0001 036

MIGRATORY FARM LABOR 1961 LABCOM-0002 011

MIGRATORY FARM LABOR 1962-1963 LABCOM-0001 006

MIGRATORY FARM LABOR, SOUTHERN NEVADA, LIVING CONDITIONS 1959 LABCOM-0001 038

MINIMUM WAGE LAW FOR WOMEN 1964 LABCOM-0005 033

MINIMUM WAGE LAW FOR WOMEN, COMPLAINTS, CORRESPONDENCE 1959-1963 LABCOM-0001 007; 039

MINIMUM WAGE LAW FOR WOMEN, COMPLAINTS, CORRESPONDENCE 1960-1962 LABCOM-0002 012, 028-029

NEVADA SAFETY COUNCIL, MINUTES, FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS 1959 LABCOM-0002 005

NEWS RELEASES 1959-1961 LABCOM-0002 026

NEWS RELEASES 1962-1963 LABCOM-0001 008

NORTHERN NEVADA BOARD OF TRADE 1959-1962 LABCOM-0002 001, 013, 030

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMISSION, CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES 1959-1962 LABCOM-0002 003, 014, 031-032

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMISSION, MINUTES 1964 LABCOM-0005 034

PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMISSION, PREVAILING WAGES 1963 LABCOM-0001 010

PREVAILING WAGE SCALES, VIOLATIONS, SAMPLES 1958-1959 LABCOM-0003 001

PREVAILING WAGES 1992-2000 LABCOM-0006 005-023

PREVAILING WAGES 1989-2004 LABCOM-0007 001-024

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PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, CORRESPONDENCE 1950-1961 LABCOM-0002 054-056

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, CORRESPONDENCE 1963 LABCOM-0005 036

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LICENSE NO. 1, RENO EMPLOYMENT SERVICE 1946-1948 LABCOM-0002 050

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LICENSE NO. 2, RENO EMPLOYMENT BUREAU 1946-1949 LABCOM-0002 051

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LICENSE NO. 3, LAS VEGAS EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONNEL SERVICE 1947-1949 LABCOM-0002 052

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LICENSE NO. 4, HOUSE OF RYAN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY 1947-1948 LABCOM-0002 053

QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO MINES 1960 LABCOM-0002 017

RENO AGREEMENT WITH CONTRACTORS 1942 LABCOM-0005 018

SAFETY, NUCLEAR REACTORS IN NEVADA 1962 LABCOM-0002 034

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR 1960; 1962 LABCOM-0002 035

VIOLATION OF WAGE LAWS, CONSTRUCTION OF LAS VEGAS AND ELKO POST OFFICES 1932 LABCOM-0003 041

WAGE ADJUSTMENT BOARD (WASHINGTON D.C.), DECISION 52-8709 1946 LABCOM-0003 004

WAGE CLAIMS FOR YEAR 1959 1959 LABCOM-0002 008

WAGE LEGISLATION 1923 LABCOM-0003 050

WAGE RATES 1985-1993 LABCOM-0004 001

WAGE RATES AND AGREEMENTS, OTHER TRADES AND INDUSTRIES 1951, 1953 LABCOM-0001 021

WAGE RATES AND LABOR AGREEMENTS 1946-1960 LABCOM-0001 012-019, 023, 025, 028, 030-034

WAGE RATES, BY COUNTY 1984-1993 LABCOM-0004 001-041

WAGE RATES, BY COUNTY 1945-1983, 1990-1993 LABCOM-0005 002-007, 019-024

WAGE SCALE 1938-1948 LABCOM-0003 003-013, 028-035

WAGE SCALE, BY COUNTY, CORRESPONDENCE 1939-1948 LABCOM-0005 008-017

WAGE SCALE, INCLUDES BOULDER DAM AND WPA PROJECTS, ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS, MINUTES 1937 LABCOM-0003 023-027

WAGE SCALES, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN NEVADA 1954 LABCOM-0001 026

WAGE SCALES, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN NEVADA 1961-1962 LABCOM-0005 038-041

WAGE SCALES, SOUTHERN NEVADA 1962 LABCOM-0006 001