

## Labor Studies in the South

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After years of neglect, labor studies in the South have grown dramatically in recent years. Eight southern states now fund labor studies centers on the campuses of state universities, and the faculties of these and other institutions of higher learning in the region include a growing number of labor historians, labor economists, and industrial relations specialists. At last count, for example, there were nearly forty historians employed by southern colleges and universities who are actively involved in labor-oriented research projects.

The Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary, remains the only active labor archive in the South, but other depositories have shown much more interest in recent years in collecting documents related to labor and working class history. New acquisitions by the Southern Labor Archives include the non-current records of the United Furniture Workers of America, a massive collection which is already being mined by researchers, the John Ramsay Papers (a USWA staff member and southern CIO organizer), the Stetson Kennedy Papers (another CIO organizer who was also active in the civil rights movement), and the records of the ILGWU's Southeastern Region.

The Southern Labor Studies Association, an organization composed of academicians and other interested people along with those actively involved in organized labor, sponsored the third biennial Southern Labor Studies Conference in April 1980. The meeting, which was held in the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta, included several sessions related to working class history and international labor affairs. New officers elected during the 1980 meeting include: Merl E. Reed, Georgia State University, president; William Jenkins, Retail Clerks, vice president and president-elect; and Les Hough, Southern Labor Archives, secretary-treasurer. The Association now issues a periodic newsletter which might be obtained by writing Les Hough, Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University; University Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303. The proceedings of the 1978 Southern Labor History Conference are now in press and scheduled for publication during the spring of 1981. Also scheduled for release at that time is Philip Taft's last book: *Organizing Dixie: Alabama Labor in the Industrial Era*. Both volumes are being published by Greenwood Press.