

**GUIDE TO THE  
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

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**THE RECORDS OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
MILITARISM IN EDUCATION  
1925-1940**

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## NOTE TO RESEARCHER

Researchers citing materials in this edition of the *Records of the Committee on Militarism in Education, 1925-1940* should use the following format:

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**Document Group:** DG 009

**Provenance:** Donated by the Committee on Militarism in Education, December 1940

**Size:** 48.25 linear feet

**Microfilm:** 67 reels

**Restrictions:** None

## INTRODUCTION TO COLLECTION

### History

The Committee on Militarism in Education (CME) was established in 1925 by John Nevin Sayre, Norman Thomas, and E. Raymond Wilson to combat military training requirements at public schools and universities. The CME fought to remove military training, in the form of Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), from high schools and to eliminate compulsory ROTC service at state universities. Throughout its fifteen-year existence, the CME endeavored to oppose militarism in all institutions dealing with youth, including such New Deal agencies as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Instead of military drill the CME proposed the substitution of physical education courses and the institution of courses in world citizenship. The Committee worked from its New York City headquarters, in cooperation with local groups, to educate the public about ROTC practices and attitudes. To this end the CME kept detailed information files on the ROTC, offered speakers, and circulated pamphlets. Through political channels the CME supported appropriate state and federal legislation. It also assisted students opposed to military training in gaining legal exemption through judicial processes.

Over the course of its existence the CME had two Executive Committee chairmen: John Nevin Sayre and George A. Coe, who succeeded Sayre in the late 1920s; and it had four executive secretaries: E. Raymond Wilson, succeeded in 1926 by Roswell P. Barnes, who resigned in 1928; Tucker P. Smith; and, five years later, Edwin C. Johnson. Both Wilson and Sayre continued their affiliation with the CME after leaving their key executive posts, with Sayre remaining on the Executive Committee until the CME disbanded in 1940 due to the pro-war sentiment then pervading public opinion.

The CME sent all its files to the SCPC in December 1940. The last secretary of CME made nine copies of a detailed finding list; two of these were sent to the SCPC and the others to the board members.

In September 1950 a complete examination of CME files and final sorting resulted in the elimination of duplicate, surplus and irrelevant material, and a condensation of important CME organization files, for which a new finding list was made. At this point, CME material was filed in 27 drawers. In March 1967, CME files were transferred to 113 document boxes and, in June 1968, a checklist was compiled for materials as they were arranged in the boxes. When CME records were prepared for microfilming in 1978, minor changes were made in the arrangement of materials within the boxes. In March 1984 an updated checklist was prepared to reflect these changes and is accurate for the 67 reels of microfilm that cover all of the CME files, except for six boxes of newspaper clippings. Old checklists have been retained for reference and are located in the collection folder.

### Scope and Content

The CME files hold administrative records from 1925 to 1940, including Executive Committee minutes, executive secretary's reports, financial records and statements, fund-raising letters, and address lists of donors and sympathizers.

There are files of correspondence (1925-1940) with persons, organizations, and by year. Correspondents include Devere Allen, Eunice B. Armstrong, Henry A. Atkinson, Roger N. Baldwin, Charles F. Boss Jr., Ellen Starr Brinton, Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, Carrie Chapman Catt, George A. Coe, Dorothy Detzer, Rose Dabney Forbes, Edwin C. Johnson, William Heard Kilpatrick, Winthrop D. Lane, Frederick J. Libby, Alfred D. Moore, Laura Puffer Morgan, Ray Newton, Mildred Scott Olmsted, Kirby Page,

Florence M. Pharo, Jeannette Rankin, Norman Thomas, Wellington H. Tinker, Walter W. Van Kirk, Oswald Garrison Villard, Kenneth E. Walser, E. Raymond Wilson, Theresa L. Wilson, Andrew S. Wing, and Robert Wolforth.

The CME information files cover military training and the ROTC in detail, including clippings, quotations, studies, and state-by-state files of ROTC status at universities and high schools. There are records of political campaigns that the CME undertook, such as support of the Nye-Kvale Bill and the 1940 Anti-Conscription Campaign, and records of trials in which the CME assisted. There is a large collection of anti-military training pamphlets (many published by the CME), along with some rough drafts thereof and CME periodicals; the newspaper clippings on ROTC and CME activities were not microfilmed. A small quantity of papers from Roswell P. Barnes, John Nevin Sayre, and Tucker P. Smith are also present in this collection.

For further information about the documents and material in this collection that were not microfilmed, please contact the staff of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection at 610-328-8557.

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- “America Menaced by Militarism: An Appeal to Women” (Harriet Connor Brown)
- “Military Courtesy” (Major Bernard Lentz, R.O.T.C., University of Minnesota)
- “An Announcement Relative to Military Training at DePauw University” (G. Bromley Oxnam)
- “Anti-Military Groups Win at St. Louis” (reprint)
- “The Battle Against Militarized Education Must Go On”
- “The Battle for War or Peace Is Being Fought Today in Our Schools and Colleges” (President Arthur E. Morgan, Antioch College)
- “Brass Buttons and Education” (Testimony of army officers before the House Committee on Appropriations)
- “The Breeding Place: Peace and Economic Sanity Demand Disarmament”
- “The Camel and the Arab: What College Catalogs Reveal on the Status of Military Training” (H. C. Engelbrecht)
- “The Campaign Against Military Training in Education”
- “The Campaign Against Militarism: Retrospect 1928-1929, Prospect 1929-1930”
- “Christ or War?” (Monroe T. Gilmour)
- “The Churches and Military Training in Schools and Colleges”
- “Speeches before House of Representatives (Hon. Ross A. Collins)
- “Compulsory Military Training”
- “Committee on Militarism in Education: Origin and Aims”
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- “Disarmament or Disaster? Some Things Colleges and College Students Can Do”
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“Has Military Training Real Educational Value?” (Cohen, Cox, Dewey, Kilpatrick, Speer, and Thayer)  
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                                Hamilton-Reynolds Case:  
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  John Beardsley’s actions  
  Publicity on decision
- Reel 37**    **Box 59**    Legislative Fight, 1937  
    University of California-Los Angeles and Berkeley, 1937-1940  
    California Report: “Survey of Compulsory R.O.T.C.”  
    (Morris D. Glickfield)  
    General: Correspondence, newspaper clippings, Southern California  
    Congress of Youth minutes, etc., 1933

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- Box 60** Colorado  
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- Box 61** Delaware  
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- Box 62** Illinois (*contd.*)  
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- Box 63** Indiana (*contd.*)  
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- Reel 40** Iowa (*contd.*)  
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- Box 64** Iowa (*contd.*)  
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**Box 66** Kentucky  
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- Box 69**                    Massachusetts (*contd.*)  
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- Box 73**                    New York (*contd.*)  
                                  Syracuse University  
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                                  State Legislative Drive  
                                  New York City  
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- Reel 48** New York (*contd.*)  
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- Box 75** New York (*contd.*)  
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- Reel 49** **Box 76** New York (*contd.*)  
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- Box 77** North Carolina  
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- Reel 50** Ohio  
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- Box 78** Ohio (*contd.*)  
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- Reel 51** Ohio (*contd.*)  
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- Box 80** Oklahoma (*contd.*)  
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- Reel 52** Oregon  
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- Box 81** Oregon (*contd.*)  
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Pennsylvania State College  
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- Reel 53** Pennsylvania (*contd.*)  
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- Box 82** Pennsylvania (*contd.*)  
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- Box 83** Pennsylvania (*contd.*)  
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- Reel 54** Pennsylvania C.M.E. correspondence (*contd.*)  
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- Box 85** Washington (*contd.*)  
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- TUCKER P. SMITH PAPERS**
- Box 86** Smith, Tucker P.  
Articles, correspondence  
Speeches and articles by Tucker P. Smith
- Reel 56** Speech outlines  
Research on military training: other articles, reports, statistics,  
quotations, etc.
- Box 87** Smith, Tucker P.  
Research military training (5 folders)
- Reel 57** Research (*contd.*): study outline material  
C.M.E. sample packet
- Box 88** Outlines, drafts  
Current writings  
“Breaking the War Habit” work  
Arms industry legislation  
Non-cooperation [economic, i.e., boycott]  
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Pamphlet drafts  
Leaders and speakers: name and address lists  
More pamphlet drafts
- Box 89** R.O.T.C. debates
- Reel 58** Quotes from addresses and pamphlets  
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Correspondence about Dr. Goddard  
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Conferences: literature orders, correspondence, articles

**Box 90** Tucker P. Smith speeches

**Reel 59** Tucker P. Smith speeches (*contd.*)

### NYE-KVALE CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN

Report on Nye-Kvale issue  
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Military aspects  
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**Box 91** Nye-Kvale Drive, 1937  
School survey extracts  
Minnesota (on Nye-Kvale Bill)  
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Requests to C.M.E. relating to Nye-Kvale Bill  
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**Box 92** Official correspondence (*contd.*)  
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**Reel 60** Data on Nye-Kvale Bill (*contd.*)  
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**Box 93** Nye-Kvale Bill promotion  
Editorial writing contest

**Box 94** Editorials submitted  
Inquiries about the editorial contest

### OPPOSING JUNIOR R.O.T.C. EXPANSION

Sheppard and Copeland correspondence  
R.O.T.C. extension, 1934

**Reel 61** R.O.T.C. expansion plans  
Expansion program, 1935-1936

**Box 95** Expansion program, 1937-1938  
C.M.E. correspondence with high schools on applications for  
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### STATUS OF R.O.T.C. AT HIGH SCHOOLS

Arkansas: Little Rock  
California: Redwood City, Ventura, and Monterey

**Box 96** Florida: Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, and St. Petersburg  
Illinois: Carbondale, Decatur, Downers Grove, East St. Louis,  
Peoria, Quincy, and Winnetka  
Indiana: East Chicago

**Reel 62** Kansas: Kansas City and Topeka  
Kentucky: Murray  
Louisiana: New Orleans  
Maine: Waterville  
Massachusetts: Medford, Woburn, Belmont, Salem, Fall River,  
Chelsea, Revere, Newburyport, Melrose, Stoneham, and  
Beverly

**Box 97** Massachusetts (*contd.*): Haverhill, Lynn, Lowell, and Springfield  
Michigan: Flint  
Minnesota: St. Louis Park  
Missouri: Springfield  
Montana: Great Falls  
Nebraska: Omaha  
New Jersey: Elizabeth and Rutherford, etc.  
North Carolina: Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington  
Pennsylvania: Easton and Harrisburg  
South Carolina: Columbia

**Box 98** Virginia: Norfolk  
Wisconsin: Green Bay, State Teacher's College, and Kenosha

### OPPOSING R.O.T.C. EXPANSION

**Reel 63** Ohio University expansion  
Wayne University  
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**Box 99** Rose Polytechnic Institute  
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Brooklyn College  
Queens College  
New college units  
E. C. Johnson replies to Senator Dern  
Publicity: Name and address lists  
Petition against military training, 1930  
Tactics in anti-drill fight

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### PUBLICITY

**Box 100** Student opposition to military training  
Student live contacts, Summer 1932  
Address lists:  
    General  
    Religious and farm press  
    More general  
    Contributors, 1929  
Original quotations  
R.O.T.C. publicity  
    inquiries for printing permission

**Reel 64** Requests for “Renounce”

**Box 101** “So This Is War?” distribution  
Professor Coe’s article  
Original Coe pamphlet  
Coe correspondence

**Box 102** Peace House program  
O. G. Villard luncheon  
Boston meeting, 1940  
C.M.E. luncheon meetings, 1927-1930

### JOHN NEVIN SAYRE AND ROSWELL P. BARNES PAPERS

**Box 103** John Nevin Sayre, 1928-1940  
Correspondence, papers

**Reel 65** Official documents (old), 1925-1926  
C.M.E. State Committees  
C.M.E. financial statements, 1926  
Articles  
Miscellaneous  
C.M.E. pamphlets  
Pennsylvania State Committee: addresses  
Magazine articles on military training  
C.M.E. plans and objectives  
C.M.E. minutes, Executive Board (in reverse order), 1929-1926  
C.M.E. National Committee: names, lists, correspondence  
C.M.E. pamphlets  
C.M.E. publicity ideas

“Rebuttal: Why Is There Agitation Against Military Training in  
American Schools?” (John Nevin Sayre): drafts  
C.M.E. names and correspondence

**Box 104** C.M.E. statistics, 1931

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Articles and pamphlets  
C.M.E. address lists and calling cards of sympathetic persons,  
1928-1929  
General (by state):  
Alabama  
Colorado  
Georgia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Virginia  
“Altars of Freedom” (pamphlet): source material  
American Legion’s use of post office for libelous propaganda  
Contestation of required military training  
Educators’ letter  
C.M.E. financial appeal: lists of previous contributors 1929  
C.M.E. financial records, 1928-1926 (in reverse order)  
Correspondence and article  
Free speech interference writings

### Reel 66

Incidents of propaganda and interference with free speech  
Military training, descriptions of  
Writings illustrating military training  
Military training, outlines, and questions

### Box 105

Disarmament articles and posters  
Congressional speeches and bills  
C.M.E. report on work done, 1930-1931  
C.M.E. correspondence, 1930  
C.M.E. Executive Committee minutes, 1931  
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C.M.E. Executive Committee minutes (in reverse order), 1931-1929  
C.M.E. finances, 1930-1929  
Compulsory vs. optional drill articles  
Welsh Bill  
Information  
Draft  
Correspondence  
C.M.E. Literature  
John Nevin Sayre articles  
  
Expert opinion on military training  
Conference report  
Outlines for C.M.E. publications  
Statistics, 1926-1927  
High school military training  
Notes and articles  
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Press clippings and quotations

**Box 106** Copies of C.M.E. correspondence



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**Reel 67**

Lane pamphlet material:  
Signers and rejecters  
Draft, articles, comments, and corrections  
Tentative signers  
Correspondence, re: rejection  
Original notes and letters  
Signers list  
Drafts  
Distribution  
Press payments and pamphlet expenses  
Bills paid  
Correspondence, Winthrop D. Lane

**Box 107** C.M.E. news release on Lane pamphlet  
Various articles and pamphlets  
Roswell P. Barnes pamphlet  
“Military Taking Root in Education,” manuscript and drafts