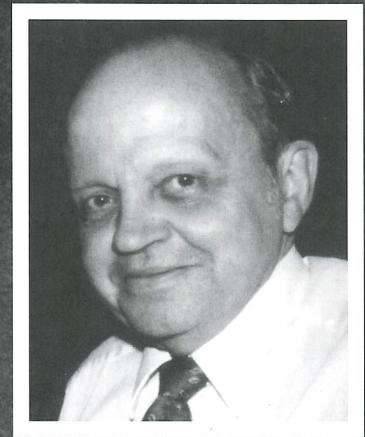


GIRARD P. "JERRY" CLARK

1924-1990



For nearly two decades, Jerry Clark was at the helm of AFSCME's Political Action Department. During this time, he dutifully stood guard, keeping union-busting, anti-worker politicians away from public office and putting his political genius to work on behalf of those candidates who pledged to stand by public employees.

A soft-spoken, brilliant man, Clark was a committed trade unionist with a devotion to fairness and decency that is rare in the pressure-cooker world of electoral politics.

"His death was a great loss to AFSCME and to all of the American labor movement," said President Gerald W. McEntee, "but it is even greater to us who knew him as a friend.

"Jerry Clark really cared about ordinary people," McEntee continued. "He really cared about the health of our democracy. And he put his warmth, decency and his ideals into everything he did.

"With his encyclopedic knowledge of political campaigns, he will be remembered most for the training programs and the phone banks and door-knocking methods he perfected over the years to turn out high percentages of voters on Election Day."

Appointed by former AFSCME President Jerry Wurf in June 1967 to be director of what was then the AFSCME Department of Education and Research, Clark had a background in the trade union movement, government and journalism. He at one time headed the International union's Legislative and Community Affairs Department.

In 1971, as part of a major reorganization of AFSCME departments, Clark became the

International's director of the newly created Political Action Department and briefly served as the director of the newly created Retiree Department in 1978 and 1979.

A native of Wisconsin and a veteran of World War II, Clark graduated from the School of Journalism of Marquette University. He was editor of the West Point (Wis.) Pilot for a brief period before joining the Kenosha (Wis.) Evening News, where he was the labor and political editor. He organized the newspaper's editorial department in 1953 as a local of the American Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO. He served as the first president of that unit and as a delegate to the guild's Midwest District Council.

Clark was president of the Kenosha County CIO Council in 1956, during which period he worked with AFSCME, organizing the Kenosha County courthouse, highway and city hall AFSCME locals.

He was named co-chairman of the statewide campaign committee for Senator William Proxmire in 1957 and served as Proxmire's top aide in Washington from 1957 to 1962.

Clark held a key post in the Wisconsin primary campaign committee for John F. Kennedy in 1960 and joined the Kennedy administration in 1963 as director of Equal Opportunity for the U.S. Defense Department.

