



## Synopsis

During the 1950s and 1960s, labor leaders Harold Gibbons and Ernest Calloway championed a new kind of labor movement that regarded workers as "total persons" interested in both workplace affairs and the exercise of effective citizenship in their communities. Working through Teamsters Local 688 and viewing the city of St. Louis as their laboratory, this remarkable interracial duo forged a dynamic political alliance that placed their "citizen members" on the front lines of epic battles for urban revitalization, improved public services, and the advancement of racial and economic justice. Parallel to their political partnership, Gibbons functioned as a top Teamsters Union leader and Calloway as an influential figure in St. Louis's civil rights movement. Their pioneering efforts not only altered St. Louis's social and political landscape but also raised fundamental questions about the fate of the post-industrial city, the meaning of citizenship, and the role of unions in shaping American democracy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Speaking as a retired second generation Teamster (and former shop steward in a large distribution center in New Jersey) I found the revelatory nature of this work to be sensational. The near canonization of the principals in the story through the telling of their struggles kind of makes me wish I could return to my father's time in the union to align somehow with these men in their quest for a better society through a better Union focus on the other sixteen hours of our day. Powerful

scholarship in a gripping narrative. Well done Mr. Bussel--congratulations on your more than excellent effort.

I haven't finished reading the book yet but as I was a very close personal friend of Gibbons, I am very happy that it is about time his story was told. He loved his Union more than anything and we would actually miss planes if he was in a conversation with a local union truck driver LOL. He always cared deeply about his members and the things they wanted from their Union. There is another book coming out shortly by Gordon Burnside. It is on Gibbons and has a bit more of his personal life along with his Union activities. I cannot wait to read that one either as I gave the author information to fill out some of the sections in the seventies. I will add more to this review once I finish this book. Amazing after all these years these men who worked so hard will finally get credit that they deserve. Keith Payne

An epic account of the most important undertold story in Labor history outlining a uniquely successful experiment in social justice unionism.

Fascinating history of the union activists who worked to make their organization a community partner.

Needed the book for a school project. Good story.

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