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Francis X. Blouin, Jr., *Director*

Kenneth P. Scheffel, *Field Representative*

November 28, 1989

Chevron Conservation Awards Committee

Dear Sirs:

Because of Dr. John Tanton's distinguished career as a conservationist, our library asked him for his papers. The papers reflect his important role in virtually every major contemporary conservation effort in our state and nation. Fortunately, he saved materials on his endeavors. They constitute a valuable historical source which we are delighted to have preserved here.

Sincerely,


Kenneth P. Scheffel

KPS:kmc

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS
BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

JOHN TANTON (1934-)

PAPERS, 1960-1994
15 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The collection was the gift of Dr. Tanton (Donor No. 7087) in 1984. Periodic additions are expected.

ACCESS: The collection is open to research.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Photographs and slides located in box 8.

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PROCESSED BY: Chris Leonard, January 1985
Katherine C. Owen, November 1989.
Bentley Historical Library staff, 1990-200-.

Biography

Dr. John Tanton is an environmental, population control, and immigration reform advocate from Petoskey, Michigan. He was born in Detroit in 1934 and, eleven years later, his family moved to a farm in Huron County. He attended Michigan State College and received his bachelor's degree in 1956. He received his M.D. in 1960 and his M.S. in ophthalmology in 1964, both from the University of Michigan.

Tanton has held leadership positions with many environmental groups and agencies. These include the Sierra Club, Michigan Natural Areas Council, Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Advisory Commission, and the Environmental Fund. He has also brought independent legal actions to prevent development of wilderness areas.

Tanton has also been active in population control. He was national president of Zero Population Growth, chairman of the Sierra Club's National Population Committee, and founder of Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood Association.

In 1979, he created the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), of which he was chairman. FAIR seeks to end illegal immigration and to set a stable ceiling on legal immigration. In 1983, Tanton and Senator S. I. Hayakawa established an organization called U.S. English. It was created to combat bilingualism in the United States.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Dr. John Tanton consist of materials documenting his work as a political and environmental activist from 1960 through the 1990s. The collection is divided into the following series: Personal/Biographical; Population and Immigration Organizations and Issues; Conservation Organizations and Issues; Topical Files and Activities; and Correspondence. The collection also includes papers of John B. Trevor and John B. Trevor, Jr. given to Tanton.

Personal/Biographical contains general background material on Tanton and the various organizations in which he has been active. Included are an oral history transcript, newspaper articles, brochures, and Tanton's vita.

Population and Immigration Organizations and Issues is the series relating to Tanton's involvement with Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood, with Zero Population Growth, and with the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

The **Conservation Organizations and Issues** series brings together various conservation and environmental groups and causes. These include the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Advisory Commission, files relating to the preservation of Sturgeon Bay Dunes and Sleeping Bear Dunes, Tanton's association with the Michigan Natural Areas Council, the Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board, and the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club. In addition, there are files pertaining to the Birchwood Suit and Monroe Creek Suit documenting Tanton's involvement with environmentally-related civil suits. Legal documents comprise the bulk of these last files, though there is also included here Tanton's correspondence with attorneys, other environmentalists, and the general public.

The **Topical Files and Activities** series relates primarily to conservation organizations and issues in the period 1956-1983. Included is correspondence, published materials, and other documentation.

The **Correspondence** series dates from 1980 to 1994 and pertains to all of Tanton's organizational involvement.

Box No. Description

Personal/Biographical

Box 1

Biographical/memoir file (4 folders)
Personal (includes clippings and vita)
Miscellaneous letters
Oral history interview of John Tanton conducted by Otis Graham
Miscellaneous articles; letters to the editor
Eulogy written for Wesley Maurer, Sr., 1995
Mitchell Prize essay: "International Migration as an Obstacle to
Achieving World Stability" 1975
Chevron Conservation Award, 1990

Population and Immigration Organizations and Issues

Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood, 1965-1971
Abortion and population control
Abortion articles
Adoption
Board of Directors
Bylaws
Clippings
Congress
Correspondence (5 folders)
Department of Natural Resources
Economics
Executive Director
Family planning (Family Enrichment Bureau)
Health Department
Marriage enrichment course
Michigan Planned Parenthood Affiliates' Committee
Michigan Population Commission
Michigan Population Council
Oakley, Deborah (University of Michigan School of Public Health)
Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)
Planned Parenthood-World Population (national)
Planning and background
Pledge of social responsibility
Public affairs - region
Sterilization
Voluntary sterilization

Box 2

Zero Population Growth, 1974-1979

Agenda-Executive Committee
Board communications
Budget
By-laws
Committees
Correspondence (3 folders)
Crime
Direct Mail
Dues increase

Box No. Description

Population and Immigration Organizations and Issues (cont.)

Zero Population Growth, 1974-1979 (cont.)

Box 2 (cont.)

Economics
Equilibrium fund
Executive Director
Financial and legal
Financial statements
Goals statement
Grants, in and out
History
Immigration project proposal
International
Legal opinions/documents
Members survey
Michigan
Minutes and agendas
Minutes, Board
Minutes, Executive Committee
Only child

Box 3

People and topics to bring up with them
Planning
Population education
Population policy
Prophylactics
Reorganization
Resolutions and policy statements
Resources Committee
Sex selection
Slogans
State level projects
Tax law changes
Teen pregnancy
Unemployment/growth
Welfare
Writings
Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)
Topical files, ca. 1973-1981 (unprocessed)

Conservation Organizations and Issues

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Advisory Commission, 1967-1980

Beaver Basin
Biographies, Commission members
Correspondence, 1967-1976 (9 folders)

Box 4

Correspondence, 1977-1980 (4 folders)
Correspondence, Tanton, 1974-1975
Grand Marais Harbor

Box No. Description

Conservation Organizations and Issues (cont.)

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Advisory Commission, 1967-1980
(cont.)

Box 4 (cont.)

Miner's Basin
Minutes, 1968-1979
Printed
"An Economic Study," 1963
"A Proposal," 1966
"Master Plan," 1968
"Development Concept," 1970
"Review of Alternatives," 1980
"Assessment of Alternatives," 1980
"Draft General Management Plan," 1981
Miscellaneous (includes maps and brochures)
Publicity
Reports and Legislation

Sturgeon Bay Dunes
Topical Files, ca. 1976-1983 (unprocessed)

Sleeping Bear Dunes

Box 5

Topical Files, ca. 1972-1983 (unprocessed)

Michigan Natural Areas Council, 1960-1973
Constitutions and reports
Correspondence
Membership lists
Minutes, 1960-1963

Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board, 1972-1975
Committee composition
Correspondence
Criteria development
Fairlane
Minutes
Natural Areas Law

Sierra Club, 1968-1978
Mackinac Chapter

Box 6

Correspondence
Newsletters and mailings
Petoskey Area Group
Population Committee
Correspondence, 1968-1977 (7 folders)
Miscellaneous
Reports and proposals, 1969-1978 (2 folders)
World Population Year
Survival Committee

Box No. Description

Conservation Organizations and Issues (cont.)

Monroe Creek Suit, 1971-1975

Box 6 (cont.)

Basic documents
Clippings
Correspondence
Deeds
Expenses
Fundraising
Gleason's stream survey

Box 7

Legal documents (3 folders)
Miscellaneous

Birchwood Suit, 1972-1978

Clippings
Correspondence
Promotional (mostly brochures and newspaper ads for Birchwood)
Legal Documents (7 folders and loose materials)

Box 8

Thorne Smith
Topical Files, ca. 1983-1984
Nature Conservancy
Topical Files, ca. 1974-1983
Photographs
Monroe Creek (photos of the creek and wetlands)
Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board (group portrait)
Birchwood Farm Estates (aerial photos of development site)
Bear River
Chevron Conservation Award (Dr. and Mrs. Tanton, 1990)
Land use, Michigan (slides)
Preserve Projects
Topical Files, A-H, ca. 1980s

Box 9

Topical Files, I-Z, ca. 1980s

Topical Files and Activities, 1956 - 1983 (mainly re conservation)

Abitibi Paper Company
Agricultural Land - Michigan
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Bear River Development Commission, 1966-1973
Newspaper clippings, 1967-1974
Bear River Watershed, 1964-1967
Bottle Bill, 1969-1983
Common Cause
Conservation organizations
Consumers Power Company, 1974-1975
Craig Lake Reconnaissance Committee, 1968-1969
Electric power
Energy crisis, 1973

Box No. Description

**Topical Files and Activities, 1956 - 1983 (mainly re conservation)
(cont.)**

Box 10

Environmental Impact Statements - Michigan
 Environmental Impact Statements - other states
 Environmental Protection Act - Michigan
 Escanaba River, Middle Branch Dam - Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company,
 Tilden Project, 1972
 Fort Wilkins Natural History Association
 Grass concrete
 Harbor Springs, 1970-1971
 Hartwick Pines Natural History Association, 1969-1975
 Financial reports, 1969-1979
 Fund raising
 Legal
 Highway rest areas
 Highways
 Interstate land sales
 Land Sales Act 1972
 Land use planning
 League of Conservation Voters, 1970-1974
 Mackinac Shores Association
 Michigan Basin Geological Society
 Michigan Bell Telephone Company
 Michigan Botanical Club
 Michigan Environmental Protection Fund, 1972-1977
 Michigan Land Use, Governor's Special Commission on, 1971-1972 (2
 folders)
 Michigan Land Use Act, 1972-1979 (3 folders)
 Michigan Natural Resources Defense Committee, 1969
 Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
 Michigan United Property Owners Association
 Michigan wilderness areas
 Mineral resources
 Miscellaneous, 1976-1977
 Municipal forests
 Names, addresses - miscellaneous
 National Wildlife Federation
 Natural Resources Commission, Department of Natural Resources -
 candidacy, 1971
 Natural Rivers Act
The Northwoods Call

Box 11

Nuclear reactors
 Oil
 Opal Lake Suit, 1970-1974
 Parker Motor Freight Company, 1973
 Parking garages
 Penn-Dixie Cement Corporation - Petoskey Plant, 1956-1974
 Pesticides

Box No. Description

**Topical Files and Activities, 1956 - 1983 (mainly re conservation)
(cont.)**

Box 11 (cont.)

Petoskey (Michigan)
 Petoskey (Michigan) Public Schools - Land Use Committee, 1972-1975
 Planning and Conservation League
 Planning conservation leagues
 Political campaigns, 1973-1974
 Real estate development, 1971-1973
 Recycling, 1971-1976
 Scenic roads
 Sea Grant Program, University of Michigan
 Sewage disposal, 1969-1976
 Sewage disposal - Harbor Springs Area Sewage Disposal Authority,
 1970-1973
 Shorelands Protection Act
 Snowmobiles, 1970-1973
 Soil conservation - Michigan
 Solid waste disposal
 Tax laws
 Three Lakes Association Suit, 1973
 Transportation
 United States Association For the Club of Rome
 VISTIP (cable television)
 Walloon Lake
 West Michigan Environmental Action Council, 1970-1971
 The Wilderness Society, 1958-1971
 Zoning
 Airport, Emmet County
 Bear Creek Township, 1970-1972
 County level
 Emmet County, 1971-1981
 Federal level
 Sanitary codes
 State level, 1970-1975

Correspondence

Box 12

June 1980 - June 1983 (35 folders)

Box 13

July 1983 - June 1985 (24 folders)

Box 14

July 1985 - August 1991 (22 folders)

Box 15

September 1991-December 1994 (20 folders)