2013

0809: John Taylor Collection, 1969-2007

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JOHN TAYLOR COLLECTION

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Scope and Content

Mr. Taylor is an attorney from Charleston, WV that fought for the legal and labor rights of workers across the United States. The majority of the people that Taylor represented were members of unions, including both the United Auto Workers [UAW] and the United Mine Workers of America [UMWA]. Taylor’s clients fought to secure access to health benefits and the improvement of working conditions. A large portion of the collection centers on Black Lung cases in West Virginia. In 1982, Taylor and his colleagues organized a group of clients to travel to Washington, D.C. in order to attend the Black Lung Lobby.

The most important case that Taylor was involved with focused on former UMWA presidential candidate Fred Carter. Carter, a sixty-one year old resident of Kimberly, WV, was charged with impersonating a federal officer and illegally accepting money from Black Lung claimants. The former Black Lung activist was indicted in August of 1982 and faced a maximum sentence of eleven years in prison and a fine of approximately $11,000.

The materials contained in this collection are primarily personal notes and research pertaining to Taylor's cases, correspondence between his clients and office, newspaper articles, memorandums, meeting agendas, and travel receipts. Various documents, including flyers, placards, broadsides, and newsletters, relate to both labor and environmental organizations.
Folder List

Box One:

**Series 1- Environment**
Folder 1- People’s Appalachia Publications, 1970-1972
Folder 2- Ohio Valley Environment Coalition, 1999-2005
Folder 3- Arthurdale, 1992-?
Folder 4- Miscellaneous, 1996-1997

**Series 2- Race Relations**
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**Series 3- Case Briefs**
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Folder 5- Motor City Labor League Misc., 1970-1972
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Folder 11- Workers Power Publications, 1972 (Physically located in Box 3)
Folder 12- Related Newspapers, 1972 (Physically located in Box 3)

**Series 5- United Mine Workers of America**
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Box 2:

**Series 7- Fred Carter**

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Folder 6- Motion for Immediate Release, 1984
Folder 7- Civil Action (Fred Carter v. Donald Taylor), 1982

**Series 6- Black Lung**

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Folder 3- Trip Payments and Donations, 1989
Folder 4- Trip Information, 1989
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Folder 6- Upper and Lower Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association Photographs, (?)
Folder 7- Upper and Lower Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association Internal Operations, 1987-1991
Folder 8- Upper and Lower Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association, Miscellaneous Chapter Meeting Flyers, 1987
Folder 9- Upper and Lower Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association, Correspondence, 1973-1989
Folder 10- Upper and Lower Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association, Meeting Flyers, 1985-1989
Folder 11- Dissertation, 1970s(?)
Folder 12- Newspaper Articles, 1971-1984
Folder 13- Litigation, 1987
Folder 14- Fred Carter, Litigations, 1982?-1985?
Folder 8- Motion for Preliminary Injunction, 1982
Folder 9- Tactical Notes, 1982
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**Series 8 Miscellaneous**

Folder 1- 1982-2007

Box 4

**Series 9- Various Artwork and Photographs**