



Committee for Environmental Information Records (S0069)

Collection Number: S0069

Collection Title: Committee for Environmental Information Records

Dates: 1956-1977

Creator: Committee on Environmental Information (Saint Louis, Mo.)

Abstract: The Committee for Environmental Information Records contain bylaws, meeting minutes, correspondence, and scrapbooks, documenting the organization's efforts to collect, evaluate, and make available to the public information concerning nuclear tests and weaponry and the uses of nuclear energy. Subjects of interest include the Baby Tooth Survey, a project spearheaded by the Committee for Environmental Information (CEI) from 1958 to 1968 to collect the Deciduous teeth of children to study the effects of radioactive fallout.

Collection Size: 11.6 cubic feet
(439 folders, 4 photographs, 1 microfilm roll)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Committee for Environmental Information Records* (S0069); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

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Historical Note:

In 1958, a group of concerned scientists and citizens formed the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information to collect, evaluate, and make available to the public, information concerning nuclear tests and weaponry and the uses of nuclear energy. Founding members included Dr. Theodore Lentz, a noted peace activist; Edna Gellhorn, former president of the League of Women Voters of St. Louis; and renowned author and environmentalist Barry Commoner. The group later changed its name to the Committee for Environmental Information (CEI) in May 1967 to reflect its expanded interests in collecting and disseminating facts and informed opinions about various topics, including air and water pollution, solid waste recycling, pesticides, and chemical warfare.

CEI's first significant project was the Baby Tooth Survey. The project began in 1958 with a funding grant from the United States Public Health Service to collect the deciduous teeth of children in the St. Louis metropolitan region to test them for absorption of Strontium 90, a radioactive isotope produced by nuclear fission. The ten-year study revealed that infants born in 1957 absorbed fourteen times more Strontium 90 than children born before 1949, the result of atmospheric nuclear testing by the United States government. The Baby Tooth Survey influenced other states as well as Canada, Germany, and Japan to conduct studies based on the St. Louis Baby Tooth Survey and contributed scientific information about the effects of radioactive fallout.

During its existence, CEI disseminated environmental information to the public through various means. In 1958, CEI published *Nuclear Information*, to disseminate environmental information to the public; the name changed to *Scientist and Citizen* in 1964, and finally *Environmental Magazine* in 1969. CEI also developed a Speakers' Bureau that provided qualified speakers on various environmental topics for schools, conferences, and social gatherings. In conjunction with the Speakers' Bureau and other CEI projects, members also provided testimony at public hearings on legislation and civic projects such as the construction of the Calloway County nuclear power plant and laws providing for recyclable bottles and cans.

Other CEI projects included *Environotes*, a newspaper column featured in local and national labor journals. A grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Environmental Information in 1973 enabled CEI to develop and publish a series of teaching units on environmental issues for use in high schools. The national education laboratory CEMREL assisted CEI in producing the units, which were highly used in St. Louis-area high schools. CEI also produced public service announcements for broadcast and conventions and conferences on water quality, solid waste, and other environmental concerns.

By 1977, financial contributions to CEI began to wane and an expected grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare failed to materialize. Because its expanded

operations could not withstand such financial setbacks, CEI ceased operations in November 1977.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 10 series with 19 subseries:

Organization and Administration

- History
- Membership
- Personnel
- Committee minutes
- Organizational correspondence
- Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Technical Division Meeting Minutes
- Annual Meeting Correspondence
- Chronological files

Funding and Finances

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and Financial Statement
- Fundraising correspondence
- Grant applications and proposals
- Correspondence with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Baby Tooth Survey

- Local Correspondence and Organizational Papers
- Non-Local Correspondence

Speakers' Bureau

- Bureau Correspondence
- Speakers Vitae and Correspondence

Environmental Issues

Educational Activities

- General Educational Activities
- High School Teaching Units

Other Environmental Organizations

Publications

General Environmental Topics

Scrapbooks

Scope and Content Note:

Organization and Administration

The History subseries contains bylaws, correspondence, narrative histories, press releases, and tax papers documenting the founding and history of the Committee for Informational Information (CEI). Items of interest include a 1973 prospectus for upgrading CEI's education programs, and a manual written by Walter C. Bauer, titled "Physical and Biological Effects of Radiation." The materials in this subseries date from 1956 to 1977 and are arranged in the order that they were received.

The Membership subseries contains membership lists, inquiries, solicitations, information requests, and correspondence, pertaining to the maintenance and growth of CEI's membership. Topics of interest include requests for educational materials on environmental issues and a request from Lawyer Robert Head, asking CEI to testify as an expert witness in a legal Intervention against the Louisiana Power and Light Company for a defective power plant design. The materials in this subseries date from 1959 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Personnel subseries contains Personnel policies, job descriptions, correspondence, staff applications, as well as volunteer information, and requests. Also in this subseries are personal files on notable employees. Topics of interest include the personal files of scientific director Kevin Shea and information for the Mary Alice Messerly Memorial Award, an award given to outstanding volunteers working for CEI in the St. Louis area. Also included are files on three notable employees: Ben Senturia, Penelope Royse, and Kevin Shea. The materials in this subseries date from 1962 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Committee Minutes subseries contains meeting minutes, listings, rosters, memoranda, correspondence, memos, progress reports, budget reports, and newspaper articles concerning the governance and activities of the committees within CEI. These committees include the Executive Committee, the Futures Committee, the Media Monitoring Committee, and the scientific division. Topics of interest include Notes for the July 8, 1974 "Goals" meeting where the issue of disbanding is brought up and a memorandum on the future of CEI in the face of a financial crisis. The materials in this subseries date from 1959 to 1972 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Organizational Correspondence subseries contains correspondence, proposals, meeting minutes, memos, reports, brochures, workshops, budgets, and newspaper clippings. Topics of interest include a paper by Barry Commoner titled "The Scientist and Political Power – Some Brief Comments." It details life scientists around 1962, discovering their newfound political power and new responsibilities in society and politics. Also included is CEI's correspondence with the New York based radio and television broadcaster Arthur Godfrey. The materials in this subseries date from 1963 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes subseries contains meeting minutes, by-laws, membership lists, memos, budgets, reports, correspondence, and meeting notices related to the governance of CEI. Topics of interest include the first proposed by-laws for the Committee for Nuclear Information which would eventually become CEI, and a memo on the official founding of the CNI to inform the public about the potential dangers of nuclear energy and weapons. The materials in this subseries date from 1958 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Technical Division Meeting Minutes subseries contains meeting minutes, membership lists, memos, bulletins, and correspondence centered around CEI's technical division. Topics of interest include discussions regarding a nuclear information bulletin that was to be distributed to members and CEI memos on the radioactive fallout in the greater St. Louis area. The materials in this subseries date between 1959 and 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Annual Meeting Correspondence subseries contains correspondence, membership lists, meeting minutes, discussion transcripts, meeting announcements, annual reports, brochures,

booklets, and newspaper clippings relating to CEI's annual meetings. Topics of interest include the panel discussion transcript for the 1958-1959 annual meeting titled "The Nuclear Year" and a CEI booklet promoting different recycled houses. The materials in this subseries date from 1959 to 1977 and are arranged chronologically.

The Chronological Files subseries contains correspondence and memos relating to the business of CEI. Topics of interest include correspondence from senator Thomas Eagleton, urging the committee to protest the cutting of funds and to support the extension of the Environmental Education Act. Also included is a message sent from CEI as a consumer report after discovering a source of metallic mercury being given off by latex paint preparations. The materials in this subseries date from 1970 to 1973 and are arranged chronologically.

Funding and Finances

The Finance Committee subseries contains meeting minutes, financial reports, salaries, charts, and proposals of the finance committee of CEI. Topics of interest include a chart showing the chain of command for the committee showing positions and naming the people in them as well as balance sheets from the public accountants Gordon, Siegel and Company. The materials in this subseries date from 1966 to 1975 and are arranged chronologically.

The Fundraising Correspondence subseries contains business correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, reports, proposals, envelopes, coupons, and newspaper clippings related to financing and fundraising. Notable materials include correspondence with Lieberman and Associates from August 24th, 1970, discussing the recent business recession and its effect on the media, as well as a 1973 report titled "Power Over Our Lives" written by the Independent Phi Beta Kappa Environmental Study Group. The materials in this subseries date from 1956 to 1975 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Grant Applications and Proposals subseries contain grant applications and proposals, memos, correspondence, booklets, brochures, and newspaper clippings. Notable materials include "The Purpose of CNI," an application from CNI to the Danforth Foundation giving the foundation a general idea of what the committee stands for and what they do, as well as a proposal for a pilot program of public education on radiation problems made by CEI in 1961. The materials in this subseries date between 1959 and 1974 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Correspondence with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare subseries contains correspondence, reports, studies, memoranda, and grant proposals, as well as both rejected and awarded grants pertaining to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Topics of interest include the concentration of radioiodine in St. Louis' milk, as well as solar heating studies. Also included is a proclamation from President Richard Nixon to designate April 8th, 1973, as earth week. The materials in this subseries date from 1961 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

Baby Tooth Survey

The Local Correspondence and Organizational Papers subseries contains correspondence, newsletters, reports, meeting minutes, records, newspaper clippings, budgets, and solicitations related to the baby tooth survey conducted by CEI. Materials of interest include an outline for the baby tooth survey detailing the purpose of the study and giving information on why and how

they will be studying baby teeth. Also included is a statement given by the Greater St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information to the St. Louis Dairy Council on the strontium 90 content of milk. The materials in this subseries date from 1954 to 1969 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Non-Local Correspondence subseries contains correspondence and newspaper clippings. Topics of interest include an effort from CEI to get baby teeth from the tribes in Alaska to see how nuclear testing has affected the foods in their local diet, as well as an international effort to collect baby teeth in Japan to see the effects of the fallout from soviet weapon testing. Also included are the letters from children sending their baby teeth in to CEI for study. The materials in this subseries date from 1959 to 1969 and are arranged alphabetically by geographic location.

Speakers' Bureau

The Bureau Correspondence subseries contains correspondence, speakers' guides, rosters, calendars, memos, announcements, newspaper clippings, and flyers relating to the work of the speaker's bureau of CEI. Materials of interest include an outline and bibliography from the Scientists Committee for Radiation Information as a guide for preparing talks on radiation for the public, as well as a speakers' kit to be used by those representing CEI. Both are arranged in chronological order. The materials in this subseries date from 1958 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Speakers Vitae and Correspondence subseries contains correspondence, curriculum vitae, publication lists, biographies, class schedules, and brochures relating to the different speakers of CEI. Materials of interest include biographical data on Barry Commoner, who was the president of the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information, as well as Kevin Shae, who was the scientific director of CEI. The materials in this subseries are arranged in alphabetical order starting with Allen and ending with Yamada. The materials in this subseries date from 1958 to 1977 and are arranged alphabetically by name.

Environmental Issues

The Air Pollution subseries contains reports, correspondence, and proposed amendments. Materials of interest include *Air Pollution* by Calls Smorodin, intended to help readers understand the atmosphere and how pollution affects it, as well as the plans for a campaign in Chicago to inform local communities on the dangers of lead poisoning as well as helping find which children might have been poisoned. The materials in this subseries date from 1970 to 1973 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Energy subseries contains speakers guides, correspondence, newsletters, legal comments, testimony, public announcements, and proposals. Materials of interest include *Radiation, Its Biological Effects, and the Fallout Problem* from the Scientists Committee for Radiation Information, as a guide to talking with the public about radiation, as well as the testimony for the Callaway County Nuclear Station public hearing, a hearing where CEI opposed Union electric's proposal to create a new nuclear power plant in Callaway County. The materials in this subseries date from 1961 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Lead subseries contains reports, notes, press releases, memoranda, resolutions, correspondence, panel transcriptions, grant proposals, and newspaper clippings. Topics of interest include the lead contamination and poisoning reports as well as responses to the National

Lead Company's pumping of their clay slurry into underground mines. CEI responded urging them to be cautious as the slurry could start melting into the Mississippi limestone if it is acidic and depending on the outflowing water of the cavern, it could affect the health of St. Louis' residents. The materials in this subseries date from 1968 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Nuclear Testing, Fallout, and Radiation subseries contains correspondence, inquiries, newspaper clippings, statements, reports, and memos. Materials of interest include a report by Don Charles Foote entitled "Project Chariot and the Eskimo People of Point Hope, Alaska," detailing the effects this nuclear project would have on people local to the area, as well as reports on the effects of nuclear testing and radiation on the environment and people. The materials in this series date from 1956 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Pesticides subseries contains manuscripts, correspondence, brochures, and reports regarding the use and effects of pesticides on the environment. Materials of interest include reports from the Environmental Protection Agency discussing the continued use of pesticides and their possible alternatives as well as the responsible use of pesticides. The materials in this subseries date from 1968 to 1973 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Solid Waste subseries contains legislation, proposals, reports, memos, correspondence, and workshops. Topics of interest include solid waste problems at the time and proposals to deal with them as well as drafts for regulation and legislation. The materials in this subseries date from 1970 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Water Pollution subseries contains fact sheets, correspondence, workshops, proposals, brochures, reports, testimonies, newspaper clippings, and newsletters. Topics of interest include water quality standards, waste water, the effects of reservoirs, and water pollution control. Materials of note include issues of *Water Quality Outlet*, a newsletter published by CEI. The materials in this subseries date from 1964 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The Multi Issue subseries contains correspondence, statements, reports, booklets, and information requests related to a variety of environmental issues including radioactive fallout, atomic energy, disarmament. The materials in this subseries date from 1956 to 1972 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

Educational Activities

The General Educational Activities subseries includes correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, and agendas about CEI's work in the educational sphere. Materials of interest include correspondence from school students listening to KSLH's *Science in the News* radio program, as well as issues of *ENACT Newsletter*, published by Environmental Action for Survival, a student-run organization at the University of Michigan. Also included are meeting minutes from the Educational Division of CEI and their involvement in developing a supplemental curriculum in high schools throughout the St. Louis area regarding environmental issues. The materials in this subseries date from 1964 to 1976 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

The High School Teaching Units subseries contains drafts of supplemental textbooks which the Educational Division published specifically for the high school curriculum project. Also included are drafts of book entries written by both students and teachers. The materials in this subseries date from 1972 to 1977 and are arranged in the order in which they were received.

Other Environmental Organizations

This series contains literature and correspondence CEI conducted with other local, state, and national environmental groups. The materials in this series date from 1959 to 1983 and are arranged alphabetically by group names.

Publications

This series consists of newsletters, reports, testimonies, flyers, and correspondence on *Environmental Magazine*, later known as *Scientist and Citizen* and *Nuclear Information*. Also included in this series are memoranda, news service literature, and correspondence for *Environotes*, a column published in local union newsletters and newspapers. The materials in this series date from 1958 to 1977 and are arranged chronologically.

General Environmental Topics

This series contains correspondence, reports, memoranda, and public testimony pertaining to the Missouri Department of Conversation, the Missouri Air Conservation Commission, and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The materials in this series date from 1959 to 1982 and are arranged chronologically.

Scrapbooks

This series contains scrapbooks of newspaper clippings documenting CEI's activities. The scrapbooks are only available on microfilm. The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically.

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