

*Sierra
Club
Bulletin*

MARCH 1970

SURVIVAL IS NOT ENOUGH . . .

If 1969 goes down in history as the year man first stepped onto the moon, it must also go down as the year of the ecological awakening. In a matter of a few brief months, an explosive recognition of man's environmental problems burst upon us. Pollution, pesticides, population, environment, ecology, survival — all became routine subjects of headlines in the media and newly familiar words in everybody's vocabulary. Ecology groups sprang up everywhere, and youth embraced the environmental cause as whole-heartedly as that of peace and civil rights. Politicians placed survival above motherhood and it promises to be *the* issue of the early 70's.

In many places this is being hailed as the emergence of a "new conservation" as opposed to the "old." The "new" is supposed to be spear-heading the just-discovered "gut" issues of survival; the "old," more narrow (and called by some "elitist") is supposed to be still saving trees and worrying about Wilderness Areas and National Parks.

We object to the polarization, and suggest that the arbitrary tags are specious. All conservation — whether ecologically oriented or wedded to the wilderness — is "old" in the sense that its roots go well back into the 19th century, as anyone familiar with George Perkins Marsh or our own John Muir, is aware. The present movement has blossomed in part to meet certain inescapable environmental crises; it has identified with these crises. It has also been strongly influenced by old-line conservation organizations like the Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club, which helped define the survival issues.

While the emphasis between the "old" and the "new" may appear to be different, the two in fact not only have common roots but common purpose. This is strikingly illustrated in the recent and significant defeat of the so-called National Timber Supply Act. This bill, to greatly intensify logging in our National Forests, would have eliminated many potential Wilderness Areas — reason enough for old-line wilderness lovers to fight it. At the same time, by stepping up logging and increasing industrial processes it would have caused more erosion and silted waterways, less oxygen-production and more outpouring of CO₂ into the atmosphere, more smog and water pollution, and, eventually, more garbage. It involved and threatened the full spectrum of environmental values: the groundswell of opposition to it — which the Sierra Club helped lead — came from the full spectrum of conservationists.

With a membership approaching 100,000, the Club is in fact probably more representative of that full spectrum — from old "old" to new "new" — than any other conservation organization. Our priority projects range from expansion of the National Park System to the survival issues of population, pollution and pesticides.

Having helped spawn it, we are delighted with the flowering of ecological awareness. We welcome the action groups, especially among the young people who are performing a major service with the current "teach-ins." We are grateful for the strong chorus of voices which at last has been added to our own, all too often a lonely one. We look forward to combining forces with many others in our continuing battles for clean air, pure water, open space and in our pioneering efforts in conservation law.

At the same time, we reiterate that these "new" issues are not so removed from the "old." And we speak for the vital importance of the "old" values in their own right: they must not be lost in the present spotlight on survival. We cannot afford to let up on the battles for old-fashioned Wilderness Areas, for more National Parks, for preservation of forests and streams and meadows and the earth's beautiful wild places. Earlier conservationists identified these as invaluable parts of man's environment. They are. And they will become ever more precious in a world which must be increasingly structured and restricted to insure man's survival. Their loss or their preservation will make a major difference in the future quality of human life.

As highly skilled technologists we are capable of cleaning up our environment. We can win the fight for good air and pure water and orderly cities . . . in short, we can survive. We can also end up living in a concrete world and subsisting on algae, if survival is our only aim. The earth was meant to be a livable, beautiful and varied place: none of us must settle for less.

Edgar Wayburn
Vice President



Sierra Club Bulletin

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... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT
THE NATION'S SCENIC RESOURCES ...

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THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

NEWS

NO STORM CHOKE

Interior Secretary Hickel blamed the absence of a shut-off safety valve, required by federal regulations, for a disastrous oil spill which is pouring 1000 barrels of oil a day in the Gulf of Mexico, threatening Louisiana's Breton Island and Delta Wildlife Refuges. The oil leaked from well pipes ruptured after dynamite was used to extinguish a month-old blaze at Chevron Oil's "Charlie" Platform, 75 miles southeast of New Orleans. News reports stated that a federal investigation showed 145 of Chevron's 292 wells operating without the storm choke. Regulations requiring the chokes on offshore wells were put into effect last year by the Department of Interior following the Santa Barbara oil spills. "This should never have happened," Secretary Hickel said, but he did not explain why federal inspection was not made before the wells went into operation.

In a letter sent March 19 to H.J. Haynes, president of Standard Oil, Phillip Berry, president of the Sierra Club, said, "The disaster your company and its subsidiary have inflicted upon the ecology of the Gulf waters is obviously inexcusable. It has been brought about by what can only be interpreted as willful disregard of the law and by contemptible subordination of the public interest to your own profit." Sierra Club members picketed outside San Francisco executive offices of Standard Oil on the same day. In information sheets handed out to passers-by, the Club called for a moratorium on all offshore drilling and unsafe operations until adequate safety measures can be developed, installed and enforced. "All this is happening because Standard Oil of California, the 13th largest corporation in the United States, didn't see fit to install \$800 storm chokes, as required by federal law, on half of its wells in the Gulf area," the handout said.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION

On March 17 the Senate passed legislation to increase the authorization for Pt. Reyes National Seashore to \$57.5 million. The Senate's only amendment to the House-passed version was a provision which would permit condemnation of the so-called "pastoral zone" lands within the seashore. The House has accepted the change, thus clearing the bill for President Nixon's signature.

Almost concurrently with the Senate action on Pt. Reyes funding, National Park

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Everest

Direttissima

By Norman Dyhrenfurth

Mingma Dorje was buried on November 1, 1952 in the Western Cwm, the "Valley of Silence." A member of the second Swiss attempt on Everest, he had been killed by falling ice below the "Geneva Spur." Three other Sherpas were seriously injured. Services were held by Sirdar Tenzing Norgay according to Buddhist faith. A deeply moving scene, within the shadow of the summit of the world. Chomolongma had claimed one of her sons . . .

Behind us Everest's great Southwest Face rose in a single majestic sweep, and though this was not the time and place to start thinking about routes and strategy, our eyes kept returning to that huge mountain wall which might possibly offer a direct line of ascent to the very top. But in 1952, with Everest waiting to be climbed by the "easiest," the South Col route, we soon abandoned all speculations about the SW-Face and opened up a new route by way of the glaciated slopes of Lhotse, a line followed closely by the British in 1953 and all subsequent parties.

During October of 1955 some of us spent many unpleasant days and nights high in the Lhotse Face, hoping against hope that the severe storms would let up long enough so that we could make a quick dash for the then unclimbed summit of Lhotse. Directly in front of us was the South Peak of Everest, with the entire SW-Face exposed to view. Very long, steep and not without certain objective dangers in its lower part, it did not seem impossible!

The original objective of the American Mount Everest Expedition of 1963 — a triple ascent of Everest, Lhotse and Nuptse — was abandoned in favor of the first transverse crossing of Earth's loftiest point. With it Tom Hornbein and

Willi Unsoeld made mountaineering history. Many months later, Dick Emerson expressed some of our thoughts in his account for the December 1963 Sierra Club Bulletin: ". . . Yvon Chouinard's article finally held my attention. His thesis: the future of Yosemite climbing lies beyond that valley, in the great granite ranges of the world. True enough, but then I was reminded of an Austrian I met in the Yak and Yeti bar, in Kathmandu. He and some companions were planning an expedition specifically for the West Ridge of Everest, but now he wondered what they would do. I suggested they try a short cut — the South Face of Everest. He thought I was joking, but I tried to assure him I was not. Reading Yvon's article now, after such recollections of the traverse, I hope that no American climber will overlook a challenge like the South Face simply because there isn't a square inch of granite anywhere on its 7,728-foot high-angle sweep from the Cwm."

Peter Gillman and Dougal Haston, in their book, *Direttissima: The Eiger Assault*, introduce their story like this: "Mountaineering, like many other challenges, is changing. The long walks and endless logistic details of the Everest and Annapurna expeditions belong to an earlier generation. Today, even the goals are different. The goal of the 1966 Eiger assault was not the peak itself, but a route — the direttissima, the most direct line — up the glowering North Face. It was the ideal way, the perfect method, the purest challenge the mountain could provide . . ."

The North Face of the Eiger rises from about 7,000 feet to a height of 13,041 feet. The Southwest Face of Everest starts at 22,000 feet and ends in the 29,028-foot summit of the world! There can be no doubt as to its offering the

greatest challenge possible. Such a climb, if successful, would surely rank among the most significant ever attempted in Himalayan mountaineering.

My first application for Everest SW-Face was sent to Kathmandu on November 18, 1967. Since the ban on mountaineering expeditions was still in force, the Government of Nepal turned me down politely but firmly. When the news media reported that the ban was soon to be lifted, my second application went out on August 21, 1968. Three weeks went by before the Foreign Ministry informed me that no permits could be granted until the new climbing regulations had been formulated. Toward the end of December 1968 I asked my old friend Lt. Col. James O.M. Roberts, a resident of Kathmandu, to take part in the proposed venture as Deputy Leader. Perhaps it will be recalled that Jimmy Roberts served as transport officer to the British Everest Expedition of 1953, and again as a key member of AMEE in 1963. Undoubtedly, he has the most extensive Himalayan experience of any mountaineer from the West. On January 23, 1969 Jimmy wrote: "The situation is a little complicated as I am myself the Leader designate of an International Expedition aiming at exactly the same objective in the spring of 1970 . . ." Rather than compete with each other, we decided on joint leadership,

and in view of the Japanese Alpine Club's prior claim to Everest in 1970, the International Himalayan Expedition 1971 was born. Official permission was granted on August 2, 1969.

Preparations for IHE 1971 are well underway. Unlike AMEE, it will be an experiment in understanding and cooperation among nations. As difficult as this may seem in the light of present world affairs, the two international expeditions of my parents in 1930 and 1934, my own IHE 1955 to Lhotse, and the successful Swiss-led Dhaulagiri Expedition in 1960 – where I was the only American – provide ample proof that the seemingly unattainable is within human reach.

Jimmy Roberts and I have decided in favor of a two-pronged assault. While one team will attempt the SW-Face Direttissima, a second group hopes to ascend the West Ridge beyond AMEE's Camp 4-West along its entire length, with two further camps on the ridge itself. This will be a departure from the route pioneered by Tom Hornbein and Willi Unsoeld who traversed part of the North Face, ascended the Hornbein Couloir and the Yellow Band before crossing toward the right onto the West Ridge proper.

This "pincer movement" offers the climbers the great challenge of two very difficult new routes. In addition, it provides the Face climbers with an "escape hatch" in case of emergency, comparable to the "exit cracks" of the classic Eigerwand route beyond the "White Spider." By the time the Face team reaches the most critical phase of the climb, the West Ridge will be made secure by fixed ropes and amply stocked with oxygen, camping gear and provisions.

It is difficult to assess the technical problems of the Southwest Face without actually having come to grips with the mountain. The initial angle of the snow and ice slopes – interspersed with a number of rocky spurs, ledges and promontories – would appear to be between 30 and 40 degrees. By the time the climbers approach the 26,000-foot level, the angle will have increased to 60 or more. It is here that the crucial part of the Direttissima begins: a 1,000-foot near-vertical wall of dark, metamorphic rock to be surmounted by artificial climbing techniques and the use of a power-winch to haul up oxygen, hardware and other supplies. What follows are some very steep snowfields which will bear watching, particularly after fresh snowfalls. Above and beyond the men will have to negotiate the same famous "Yellow Band" – calc-schists – which caused Tom Hornbein and Willi Unsoeld to undergo the agonizing process of reappraisal. But where they encountered rotten, unreliable rock tilted outward and downward at a 30 degree angle, our Face climbers are somewhat better off. The strata of the band merely dips from right to left. The final 1000 feet may be said to be a roof of weathered rock, shale and



patches of snow set at a high angle where utmost care is required. The placement of fixed ropes will be of vital importance to protect severely weakened and fatigued summit men.

Since Chris Bonington will lead the Face climb, quotes from one of his recent letters are of particular interest: ". . . As far as detailed planning of our method of assault goes, I think we shall all know a great deal more of just what we can and can't do after Spring 1970 in the light of our experience on the South Face of Annapurna. At the moment my own thinking on Annapurna is to have a party of four climbers out in front the whole time, forcing the route and establishing fixed ropes, while the remaining six climbers and six Sherpas relay gear up the mountain. As the front party tires, they are pulled back and members of the ferrying group take over. In this way all members of the team have a go out in front and a stint of load carrying. I think this is important for morale. We are only giving oxygen to the lead climbers since the altitude is not too extreme and using oxygen for the entire party increases the logistic load so much. On the other hand on Everest it looks as if everyone will require oxygen from around 23,000 feet onwards, though I should imagine that Sherpas on fixed ropes could probably reach the rock band at two-thirds height without. Although I have suggested a climbing party of ten on the Southwest Face of Everest and still think this would be ample, it will be easier to assess this in the light of our experience this Spring . . ."

SW-Face Direttissima:

Climbing Leader: Chris Bonington, Great Britain; Rusty Baillie, Rhodesia; Marco Barmasse, Italy; Gary Colliver, U.S.A.; John Evans, U.S.A.; Giovanni Herin, Italy; Toni Hiebeler, West Germany; J. David Peterson, M.D., U.S.A.

West Ridge:

Climbing Leader: Wolfgang Axt, Austria; Odd Eliassen, Norway; David Isles, U.S.A.; Jon Teigland, Norway; Michel Vaucher, Switzerland; Yvette Vaucher, Switzerland.

Dr. Peter Steele of Great Britain will be the expedition's senior physician. F. Duane Blume, Ph.D., of the U.S.A., Assistant Director at the University of California's White Mountain Research Station, hopes to develop an improved oxygen system. In addition, he will carry out some studies on high altitude stress metabolism in continuation of earlier research by Griffith Pugh, William Siri and others.

Until recently it was thought that Yvette Vaucher of Geneva, Switzerland, first woman to scale the North Face of the Matterhorn, would be the first member of the weaker sex to have a go at Everest. Our Japanese friends have decided, however, to include one of their outstanding woman climbers in their huge (39 members, 1,200 low-level porters!) expedition this spring. Invitations have gone out to mountaineers from France and the Soviet Union.



Norman G. Dyhrenfurth



Lt. Col. James O.M. Roberts

The final selections will be announced at a later date. There will be one representative each from India and Nepal, in addition to the Nepalese Liaison Officer and a strong team of Sherpas.

The entire project is privately conceived and organized. The Mount Everest Foundation of Great Britain has already promised some financial support, and the American Alpine Club has given its endorsement. Total cost of the expedition is estimated at \$215,000, about one half of AMEE's final budget. This includes a preliminary get-together of all team members in Switzerland during the summer of 1970.

European Himalayan expeditions in the past have raised funds by letting it be known that postcards with pictures of their particular mountain — signed by all team members at Basecamp — would be sent to those who contribute a token amount to the expedition's treasury. The special appeal to mountaineers, hikers, mountain lovers, philatelists, armchair adventurers and autograph hunters has made this approach highly successful.

As far as I know nothing like it has ever been attempted in our own country on a major scale. Instead of asking for outright donations, anyone who sends ten dollars — or more, if so inclined — will receive a beautiful color photograph of Mount Everest with the signatures of the entire team and as many Sherpas as are able to sign their names. After some colorful and exotic Nepalese stamps and a special expedition seal have been added, Sherpa runners will carry the postcards to Kathmandu. From there they will be sent out by airmail.

Until May 15, 1970, the expedition's organizational headquarters are at P.O. Box 1148, Aspen, Colorado 81611. After May 15 "Basecamp" will be Weiserstrasse 6/IV, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria.

Norman Dyhrenfurth led the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition. A professional photographer as well as climber, Dyhrenfurth's photographs were a major contribution to the Club's book, Everest: The West Ridge.



TIMBER SUPPLY ACT

Anatomy of A Battle

“The first homeward-bound cargo out of Jamestown consisted of clapboard riven from American logs for wood-hungry England,” J.C. Furnas writes in his new *Social History of the United States*. Today freighters laden with American lumber weigh anchor in Puget Sound and head across the Pacific for Japanese ports. The 300 years in between these voyages represent an era of what has been termed “fanatic arboricide.”

Not even the Environmental Decade has been exempt. The first key roll call vote of the 70's was on the National Timber Supply Act, a bill to sacrifice the national forests to maximum timber cutting. The bill had its beginnings in 1968 when the timber industry, shocked by the passage of the Redwood and North Cascades national parks legislation, the Scenic Rivers and Trails bills, and several wilder-

ness measures, adopted a hard line on what they called “the withdrawal war.”

In reality the industry was plagued by something other than a withdrawal war. They were face to face with local shortages of raw material, a cost squeeze, and burgeoning competition from substitute wood products. While they, better than anyone else, are aware that only 19 per cent of the nation's forests are under federal ownership, they refuse to deal with two facts: (1) 81 per cent of the nation's forest lands are in private ownership, and (2) 95 per cent of the unstocked or understocked sites are found there. Rather than adopt the long-term solution of practicing good forestry on their own lands, they chose to escalate their historic drive to force the Forest Service to abandon sustained yield practices.

In the summer and fall of 1968 the industry and related forestry professions consolidated; they reorganized the American Forest Products Institute, their hard-sell lobbying arm; they cemented new alliances, one with the home building industry; and they began to preach that only by increasing the cut in the national forests and concomitantly stopping any further withdrawals for parks and wilderness areas, could the timber supply-demand situation be eased.

After Congress passed the Housing Act of 1968, setting a national goal of 26 million new housing units by 1978, a housing boom was predicted. "The choice for the people of America is either for more recreation, more parks, or more wilderness, or whether they want houses to live in and forest products to use in daily living," timber industry spokesmen proclaimed. Thus, the National Timber Supply Act was born, authorizing a vast increase in the allowable cut in the commercial lands of the national forest and, at the same time, guaranteeing the timber industry an annual \$500 million profit for as long as the trees should last.

In a surprise move during the fall of 1969 the timber industry opened a two-pronged drive to push the Timber Supply Act simultaneously through both Houses of Congress. In their haste the industry first attempted to gain approval of the bill in the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee without a hearing. However, conservationists were able to block this maneuver, and on October 21 the Club's Northwest Representative Brock Evans and Consulting Forester Gordon Robinson testified that passage of this legislation would have disastrous environmental impacts and urged its rejection.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee reported the bill out favorably, after attempting to pacify conservationists by giving the old bill a new name, "The National Forest Timber Conservation and Management Act of 1969." H.R. 12025 was then forwarded to the Rules Committee which would decide when to send it to the House floor for action. The timber industry pushed to get the measure on the floor before Congress recessed for the Christmas holidays, but conservationists, who needed time to mobilize, succeeded in getting the bill held over to the second session. Floor action was finally set for Thursday, February 5.

That first week in February the odds against stopping the bill looked formidable. H.R. 12025 had 50 sponsors. The House Agriculture Committee had approved it by a 23 to 1 vote. The timber industry had been applying pressure for its passage since the day, more than a year ago, when it was first introduced. The industry expected little opposition to the bill in the House, and conservationists, too, felt that the conclusive battle to stop the bill would take place in the Senate.

But conservationists did hope to slow down and weaken the bill as much as possible in the lower house. With this end in mind, nine conservation organizations — the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League, National Rifle Association, Wildlife Management Institute, Trout Unlimited, Friends of the Earth, and Citizens Committee on Natural Resources — formed a coalition and sent telegrams to all members of the House, warning that this proposal "threatens America's national forests, scuttles historic multiple use practices and undermines prospective parks, wilderness, open space, and recreation areas."

In a letter to all Congressmen, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael McCloskey called the bill "little more than a Loggers' Relief Act," pointing out that the bill (1) would make high yield forestry mandatory on 97 million acres of the national forests, destroying the balance of such uses as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and recreation established by the Multiple Use Act of 1960, and (2) would earmark all revenues from timber sale receipts for the establishment of accelerated cutting programs.

At the same time Congressman John L. McMillan, chairman of the House Forests Subcommittee, was writing to all members, "This bill will establish a means of obtaining the funds needed if the U.S. Forest Service is to adequately manage our timber resources and properly administer the System under the principles of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960."

Early in the week, several of the congressmen opposed to the bill told the conservation coalition that it had yet to demonstrate that the country stood behind those speaking out against H.R. 12025. Coalition members redoubled their efforts to alert citizens to the bill and its consequences. As the week wore on, the volume of wires and letters increased daily, building up to a flood of constituent opinion against H.R. 12025.

Finally urban congressmen who had been supporting the bill on the basis of its promised impact on the nation's housing needs began to fall away. Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, Michigan, a sponsor of the bill, announced to the House on the day before the vote, "I can no longer buy timber supply." He questioned the need for an increased timber harvest in view of the current timber export rate, and asked whether perhaps spiraling interest rates rather than a lumber shortage are to blame for the low level in new housing starts.

By Thursday, the day of the vote, the sure passage that once had been presumed began to look questionable. A whip count of the members who filed in for debate showed 214 against the Timber Supply Bill with only 119 for. Seeing that the odds for passing the bill had changed considerably, the Democratic leadership of the House removed

the bill from the calendar, postponing action to a later date.

Conservation had won a moral victory. The coalition had stepped into the fray with very little chance of winning and had fought the lumber interests to a standstill. Congressman John Dingell of Michigan, a leading opponent of the bill, warned conservationists, "You have won the battle, but not the war. Those who seek to raid the national forests will continue efforts to pass this bill." Dingell and other floor leaders of the opposition theorized that the bill's proponents had three courses of action now open to them: (1) to drop the bill; (2) to negotiate with conservationists over amendments; or (3) to come back and fight.

The first week after the bill was yanked from the agenda, the timber industry stayed home to lick its wounds; there was no public indication as to which of the three routes they would take. However, during this week conservationists received a blow. On February 11 UPI teletypes across the country began receiving the message, "WASHINGTON—The Nixon Administration today abandoned an earlier 'wait and see' stand and called for passage of a controversial bill to promote increased timber production in national forests."

Stunned by such an inconsistent move on the part of the Administration only 24 hours after the President had delivered his environmental message to the nation, conservationists did not learn until later that it had been a lukewarm endorsement at best. Secretary of Agriculture Hardin had written a letter to the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee giving his department's blessing to the bill and saying that the Bureau of the Budget "advises that there is no objection" from the standpoint of the Administration's program. The Administration never wholeheartedly pushed the bill.

The second week brought no indication of the timber industry's battle plan. Speaker of the House McCormack reportedly advised the Agriculture Committee to do something to make the bill more palatable. He didn't want to see it brought to the floor again until it was amended to improve its chances. Apparently following this suggestion, the Agriculture Committee met February 19, but then adjourned almost immediately. Congressman Charles Teague of California, the committee's lone holdout against the bill in early February, was called away due to an illness in his family, and conservationists speculated that perhaps the committee had deferred further consideration of the bill until he could be present.

Wrong. That afternoon the National Timber Supply Act was put on the House agenda for February 26. No amendments had been offered. There was no clue to this change in tactics. Speculating again, conservationists wondered if the opposition felt that Secretary Hardin's letter would swing the vote their way.

Both sides went to work again. Congressmen Saylor, Dingell, Reuss, McCloskey, Teague, and Udall, who had joined together in a bi-partisan effort to stop the bill, issued a joint statement to their colleagues in the House: "The bill is still basically a bill to give the lumber industry more national forest timber, faster, and at a lower price. It will inevitably do so at the expense of other multiple use values, at the expense of future forest users, and at the expense of the federal treasury." In its letter to House members the Conservation Coalition went on to say, "This bill should be rejected, and new legislation drafted to provide a sound basis both for achieving better forestry on public and private lands alike and for advancing non-commodity values such as fish, wildlife, recreation, and water quality."

This time around the timber industry was desperate, and mounted a last minute campaign to garner some constituent mail to offset the nationwide outpouring of conservation sentiment against the bill. The call went out, "Have all employees and company officers write to their representatives urging support. Concentrate contacts in large cities, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York."

The timber telegrams apparently arrived in a cluster on the day of the vote, because Congressman Flynt of Georgia announced during floor debate, "Today I received a number of telegrams identically worded asking me to support H.R. 12025. Immediate inquiry revealed that these telegrams did not even originate in the Sixth District of Georgia, although they bore the name and address of residents of the Sixth District of Georgia. Each originated more than 100 miles outside of the Sixth District of Georgia, and the contents and the fact that such telegrams had been sent were unknown to some of the persons whose purported signatures appeared thereon." Congressman Flynt, who had intended to support the bill, said the unauthorized telegrams caused him to make a searching re-study of the bill. The timber industry lost another vote.

In addition to the spurious telegrams, one of the major ploys of the timber interests was publication of an American Forest Institute pamphlet entitled, "Setting the Record Straight." Here the industry stated that the Timber Supply Act had been "withdrawn from scheduled debate" in the House of Representatives on February 5 because "organizations opposed to forest management inflamed their members against earlier versions of the bill, and news of the impending vote unleashed a flood of wires and letters based on those versions rather than the thoroughly amended bill voted out by the House Agriculture Committee. The pamphlet then went on to list the "specific misconceptions" held by the bill's opponents.

On the night before H.R. 12025 was to come to a vote,

the Democratic leadership met. It is reported that they saw three courses open to them: (1) to recommit the bill to the Agriculture Committee; (2) to let it go on the floor, and see what a vote on the merits would bring; or (3) to vacate the rule, which meant that permission to debate the measure would be rescinded. Pressure from the timber industry, which in these last days was still unyielding, made recommitment impossible. The House leadership could see though, even if industry could not, that a floor vote was not likely to go well. So it was to be number three, vacating the rule, an unusual parliamentary tactic which can be used to save face. In this case a vote against bringing the bill to the floor would satisfy conservationists, while the timber industry could be told their bill had been saved from sure defeat and would be brought back later when support for it might be stronger.

Debate on H.R. 12025 began at 1:30 p.m. February 26. Congressman Sisk of California, a ranking member on the Rules Committee and a supporter of the bill controlled the two hours allowed for debate. Sisk attempted to sow confusion early in the afternoon by saying that the bill in its present amended state had been "submitted to a number of members of the Sierra Club in my district, and after having discussed it with them and reviewing the bill as now written, some have withdrawn their opposition." Representative Saylor met this diversionary tactic with, "I know of no conservation organization and I know of nobody who knows what is in this bill who is for it, outside of a few people who have a special interest or who will gain a special benefit."

Saylor later tore the American Forest Institute pamphlet apart paragraph by paragraph. "I have seldom seen a more valiant attempt to foist on the nation a bill for the benefit of a single industry, at the expense of public resources. In the brief space of 20 paragraphs, this leaflet contains a rich harvest of strawmen, answers that fail to respond to the charges, deliberate misrepresentations, misleading slogans, half truths, and lipservice, all devoted to convincing members that H.R. 12025, the so-called National Forest Timber Conservation and Management Act, is somehow a conservation bill."

In one of the highlights of the debate Congressman Kyl, a leading member of the House Interior Committee and the Public Land Law Review Commission, spoke against the bill and then yielded the floor to Wayne Aspinall, chairman of both the Interior Committee and the Public Land Law Review Commission. Concurring with Kyl, Aspinall asked, "My colleague made a statement that this legislation was likely to be defeated. Would my colleague go a little further and state that if the bill does come to debate and it is defeated, such action may make it a little more difficult for the recommendations of the Public Land Law Review

Commission in this matter to be brought successfully before the Congress?"

Kyl agreed.

Perhaps as valuable as their opposition to the measure was their spoken presumption that if the bill itself were to come to a vote on the merits, it would be defeated.

The debate closed with a voice vote; the Chair ruled that the noes appeared to have it. Sisk objected that a quorum was not present, and the speaker pro tempore initiated a roll call vote. After the bells rang throughout the House Office Buildings announcing the roll call, the first reading of the roll surprised everyone with an 83 to 83 tie. The speaker began a second count. More members filed in, and the vote began to swing, two to one, against bringing the bill to the floor. The final vote was 229 to 150. Counting the paired votes, only one member of Congress had failed to have his stand on the measure recorded — a record for conservation legislation. Moreover, of the 229 voting against bringing the bill to the floor, eight had been sponsors of the bill.

"Don't underestimate the power of conservationists in Congress. They won a stunning victory recently . . . easily beating a plan to boost timber cutting on government land that would normally have passed," the Kiplinger letter for March 6 said, reflecting widespread press opinion.

Easily beat? It is unlikely that either the conservation coalition or the floor leadership against the bill would agree. As for underestimating, it is the conservationists who are bent on not underestimating the comeback potential of the timber industry.

Congressman John Dellenback of Oregon, a leading advocate of the timber bill, in a mass mailing shortly after the vote told his supporters: "The fact that the House refused to debate this bill technically does not mean that it is dead. H.R. 12025 remains on the calendar of the House of Representatives and can be brought to the floor either by unanimous consent or by suspension of the rules (which requires a two-thirds vote). However, because the rule was defeated by a substantial margin, it is my feeling that for all intents and purposes the bill in its present form will not reach the floor of the House of Representatives prior to adjournment of the second session of the 91st Congress." And he pledged to "again seek a legislative solution to a presently under-nourished forestry program in our national forests."

Still talking about the recent conservation victory in the timber supply fight, the Kiplinger letter went on to say, "Means trouble for 'pork barrel' projects in coming months . . . dams, reclamation projects, anything that might threaten wild rivers, wetlands, timber lands, seashores, etc."

On that, they're right!

— J.C.



PATTERNS

Photographs by Martin Schweitzer





ENVIRONMENTAL TEACH-IN

By Connie Flateboe

On Earth Day, April 22, students at over 2,000 colleges, universities, junior colleges and high schools in the country will hold the first national Teach-In on the crisis of the environment. A Teach-In is essentially an educational experience, a special day set aside to focus campus attention on a particular issue, with regular classroom discussions and special programs planned for the event. This year, the Teach-In is concerned with ecology. The Sierra Club calls it conservation, but the problems are the same, getting worse, and students know it.

Increasing numbers of students are actively concerned with environmental problems, and many are dedicating their academic careers and individual lives to finding solutions to population and pollution and preservation issues. While most Teach-In programs are planned for April 22 and many will run all that week, student energies and imaginations are going to work on environmental problems at scores of colleges and universities throughout the country year-round.

Cubberly High School in Palo Alto, California suspended classes during "Environmental Awareness Week" in January, and sponsored three days of films, seminars and speakers including Dave Brower and Stephanie Mills, on urban planning, wildland preservation, pesticides, waste disposal, overpopulation, food production, and field clean-up trips to industrial and recreation sites in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Black community leaders in St. Louis, Missouri have formed an organization called "Black Survival" to work with the University of Missouri's "Coalition for the Environment" to plan educational programs for April 22.

Survival Faire at San Jose State College in California in February involved nearly everyone on campus. The week-

long program included panels on "Black, Brown and White on Population," "Rape of the Mother Earth," with club Director Martin Litton on the panel, and "Waste of Human Resources," with black, female, ex-con and gay panelists. Special rooms in the student union dramatized hunger, pollution, population: a narrow closet door with "The Population Explosion" painted on the outside opened on a floor-to-ceiling bulge of naked rubber dolls squeezed together like worms in a can. "Hunger diet" meals representing the nutritional level of the majority of the earth's people were available in the student union cafeteria: a bowl of brown rice and a cup of tea. A funeral procession and wake were held to commemorate the burial of a never-driven 1970 automobile.

While the Teach-In gains momentum and increasing numbers of students are involved in planning for it, many people still ask, where is it happening, this Teach-In, as though it were a program handed down from some Government Agency that one could attend for instant enlightenment on environmental problems from The Students, who are somehow expected to have The Answers. (Talk to anyone about environmental issues, especially politicians, and they'll say they're all for The Environment, and oh, yes, it's The Kids who will get us all out of the mess people are making of the earth.)

The special vantage point of students is that they know nobody is going to hand them a program and say, this is it, this is the Teach-In. They have to do it themselves, and they do it — they study and isolate specific issues, plan the agenda, invite the speakers, locate the films, print the programs, and plan a follow-through on particular local projects needing attention.

As a national movement, the Environmental Teach-In

will focus attention on the overall problem, the ubiquitous "Crisis of the Environment." It will be an educational experience for most Americans who have yet to realize that accelerating environmental deterioration threatens the survival of life on earth. But the Teach-In will not identify particular national survival issues or their solutions, and the real work for everyone, in school and out, will begin after April 22. Having recognized the crisis proportions of the problem and inventoried local environmental issues, students will turn to their own communities and say, okay, now let's get on with the job, right here, with this river and that smokestack and this freeway route . . .

Certainly there are many Americans who don't know that there is a problem, that survival of the species — any species — is threatened, and among those unenlightened we must remember to include large numbers of the student population. Simply being in school, or grooving on ecology, does not bestow immediate ecological enlightenment on a person, much less teach him how to get things done in the system. Environmental awareness has to be learned. The April Earth Day will bring home the message on campuses throughout the country that the quality of life for all mankind deteriorates daily, and the survival of life on earth is at stake.

But until the American public, and students in particular, can proceed from awareness of the problem, to an understanding of the solutions to the problem, to individual commitment to do something about it, change will not come soon enough. Students know that until we are all willing to change our lives to begin to live in harmony with the land, the conservation movement will never be more than a series of last-minute court battles as the bulldozers are moving into position. So students advocate a simpler, more 'ecological' life style, and urge the recycling of newspapers, the reusing of envelopes, a boycott of tinfoil, plastic wrap, one-way bottles and other convenience package products and the development of neighborhood car pools as ways to "do something" about the mess the world is in. Established conservation groups, and some politicians, see this, and say oh yes, The Kids surely have the answers. And indeed, this is the logical individual extension of the action programs the Sierra Club and other private conservation organizations have been advocating publicly for many years.

But in saying The Kids have the answers, conservationists need not discount their own programs for change in society. As established conservation organizations meet up with today's bright, articulate "hip ecologists," they sometimes fall into a position of self-castigation for their own consumption, holding up the life-style ecology activists as prophets who will lead us into a new program of action that will succeed where others have failed. "Well, we have

two cars and three kids, so I guess we haven't got the answers either on population control or rapid transit."

This argument misses the point of what is needed today to meet the survival crisis. Life-style ecology activists are right in what they advocate; conservationists have the answers too, and significant successes to prove it, although they drive big cars and use electric can-openers. It is not enough to change the individual life style and recycle waste materials, when one does not register to vote and support ecological candidates in an election year. On the other hand, for one to drive two cars and have three children and quietly accept the throwaway container does not solve the problem, either. Both changes are essential for man's survival, and both must come *soon* if we are going to make it.

Jerry Yudelson of the Cal Tech Environmental Action Council says, ". . . Ecology is as much an attitude toward life as a science. . . . Changing personal attitudes about the environment is as important in the long run as passing laws or developing new technologies for environmental control The ultimate outcome of an ecological awareness must be a cultural transformation; a transformation to a stable population and to an economy which conserves and recycles resources, rather than exploits them for short-term and short-sighted gains. Students should be concerned with legislation at all times, but the primary emphasis of the student environmental movement must be community education and personal commitment to a new philosophy and poetry of ecology. Students must redefine the problems, rather than merely solve the old ones better." From the Santa Barbara Declaration of Environmental Rights: "Granted that ideas and institutions long established are not easily changed; yet today is the first day of the rest of our life on this planet. We will begin anew."

The Teach-In will be an educational process for Sierra Club members and all Americans, to learn how students view the changes everyone is talking about but which determine the kind of world *they* as the younger generation will live in. In the meantime, Club members must attempt to bring their individual life styles into some measure of ecological balance, by recycling newspapers or boycotting one-way soft drink bottles. Club members must also seek out and involve students in the Club's political action programs, or the environmental movement will never take the second important step past individual identification of environmental problems, to the redefinition and ultimate solution via public political action. The Sierra Club has made the system work in a number of significant issues. But that is not enough. Unless we are all together in changing personal attitudes and changing laws, in another 100 years it won't matter who's right.

Connie Flateboe is the Club's Campus Representative.



LAKE ERIE

By Modesto Argenio

Despite the apparent popularity of mourning over the impending death of Lake Erie, efforts are very much alive to open the sadly ailing lake to wildcat oil prospectors and to expand natural gas exploration. The drilling schemes, after facing a wall of public opposition last summer, are resurfacing again and promise to keep Lake Erie ensnarled in the environmental controversies of the 1970's just as it was during the last decade. Aimed at the shallowest and most contaminated of the Great Lakes, the drilling proposals, like the picture of relatives nestled together for the reading of the last will, carry a patently obvious irony.

It is the question, asked sincerely by some, of whether Lake Erie may be worth more dead than alive. One answer is obvious. "There's no doubt in my mind that if we allow oil drilling in Lake Erie," asserted Stanley P. Spisiak of the New York State Conservation Council recently, "we can forget about the wake and get on with the funeral."

Drilling proponents, however, a lobby which includes some controversial alliances with public agencies, have forged forceful arguments of their own. One is the trillions of cubic feet of natural gas believed lying untapped beneath the lake bed. There is an equally attractive oil potential and, of course, the lure of hundreds of millions of dollars in profits for gas and oil prospectors and in royalties for state treasuries.

At issue, however, is the question of risks and safeguards. Conservationists who spearheaded much of the anti-drilling drive in New York State last summer made no bones about their concerns. They don't want an already contaminated Lake Erie transformed into another Santa Barbara. In fact, they oppose all offshore drilling in the Great Lakes.

Unfortunately, much of last summer's drilling debate was knotted in confusion thanks in part to the secret antics of Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's Administration in New York. As a result, the prospect of oil reserves beneath Lake Erie has only recently slipped clearly from behind the veiled intentions of gas and oil prospectors. Drilling advocates at first denied that oil was part of the Lake Erie lure. The Rockefeller Administration, even though it was forced by widespread public opposition to shelve its plans to lease offshore land to prospectors, still insists that gas, and not oil, is their aim.

This past December, however, Canadian gas and oil interests admitted at a hearing of the International Joint Commission in Toronto that oil exploration in Lake Erie is definitely on their agenda. After acknowledging the obvious — that there is no active oil drilling in the lake currently — the Canadians allowed that "two (test) wells drilled since 1967 have encountered significant oil shows."

"The estimated recoverable reserves (gas and oil) of Lake Erie are difficult to assess," the Canadians added, "however, Lake Erie is considered by the industry to have great potential and to be an economically sound exploratory area."

This admission, late in the drilling controversy, confirmed the suspicions of some conservationists who contended that appeals for allowing gas drilling on the American side of the lake merely auger one foot into the door for future oil exploration. The Canadians, unlike their pollution-conscious southern neighbors, seemed unimpressed by the sometimes alarming rhetoric of the drilling critics. One reason is that natural gas drilling on the Canadian side of Lake Erie has been going on since before World War I. Pollution of Lake Erie, they are also quick to point out, flows most abundantly from the other side of the border, from Buffalo, Cleveland, Erie and the ring of American factories along Lake Erie's Yankee shore.

Publicly, there is a subtle difference between American and Canadian attitudes on offshore drilling. Province of Ontario officials repeatedly noted that since Canadians first began natural gas drilling in the lake in 1913, there have been only a couple of incidents of *minor* oil spills traced to drilling operations. To many Americans, a minor spill is excessive.

Of course, there is no disagreement over the severity of Lake Erie's ecological afflictions. Indeed, there is more widespread agreement today with the dire assessment of Lake Erie offered a few years ago by one frustrated high-ranking official of the U.S. Water Pollution Control Administration. If the pace of Lake Erie's contamination goes unchecked, he confided, the Lake could become one huge swamp. Last Fall, moreover, the International Joint Commission (IJC), sometimes criticized for its sluggish, uninspiring rule over boundary water, repeated a finding it documented originally nearly 20 years ago. Lake Erie, the American-Canadian treaty agency asserted, is grossly polluted.

This time, the IJC added a price tag to the outlays needed to arrest the lake's blight — \$6 billion. Is it worth it? Again, one answer — from conservationists, sportsmen and probably most of the 11 million persons relying on Lake Erie for drinking water and recreation — is obvious. However, the tenacious gas and oil industry lobbying in favor of permitting offshore drilling, aided by some sympathetic public allies such as the Rockefeller Administration, has created a debate where some observers feel there shouldn't be one.

Only New York, of three states which actively developed drilling schemes at one time or another, seems intent on pushing those schemes to the limit. Ohio flirted with the idea of leasing its offshore lands a few years ago, but gave in to public opposition. Pennsylvania actually leased a few small tracts of its 480,000-acre offshore domain to prospectors about 10 years ago. However, opposition there has kept the lid on exploration. Michigan, furthermore,

seems unwilling to alter a policy it adopted 10 years ago. That policy bans lake drilling except under two extenuating circumstances — to prevent transboundary drainage or in case of national emergency. New York, on the other hand, has yet to heal the bruising confrontation which centered on its drilling plans when they were exposed last summer.

Many conservationists were angered to learn the schemes were developed in relative secrecy without full public hearings. Ironically, it was the state Conservation Department's Bureau of Gas and Oil which quietly placed advertisements in trade journals circulated hundreds of miles away in the Southwest seeking bidders for leases to the state's 380,000 acres of Lake Erie bottom. During last summer's debates, state health officials maintained a conspicuously mute aloofness. In contrast, local health officers scored the drilling idea. Erie County Health Commissioner William E. Mosher, for example, warned that drilling could jeopardize Lake Erie as a source of drinking water. Erie County's lakefront stretches from north of Buffalo halfway to Pennsylvania.

So persistent were the pro-drilling sentiments of the state Conservation Department that its image was badly tarnished in the eyes of many sportsmen and antipollution crusaders. Gov. Rockefeller, himself, hinted at the administration's intention of not completely abandoning the drilling ideas. At last year's Republican Governors' Conference, Rockefeller's name was noticeably missing from the list of governors endorsing a ban on Lake Erie drilling. Many voters who four years ago were cajoled and badgered into supporting Rockefeller's pace-setting \$1 billion clean waters bond issue were stunned by the administration's drilling stance. More than a few charges of "doublecross" have been raised.

Ostensibly, New York officials cite the potential royalties and lease fees the state coffers could realize from drilling as their prime motivation. They note that the money would go for "conservation purposes." (Exactly what "conservation" aims have not been spelled out, but perhaps one might be a Lake Erie transfusion.)

Money is an unequivocal attraction. The state estimates it could fatten its purse by between \$500,000 and \$1 million annually from drilling royalties. An estimated \$30 million could be realized from natural gas operations alone. Another popular defense of the drilling plans is drawn from the Canadian experience. Since 1913, nearly 600 natural gas wells have been sunk into the Canadian bed of Lake Erie. All of the 3.1 million acres of Lake Erie land claimed by the Province of Ontario have been leased to gas and oil prospectors.

Interestingly, of the 15 companies holding Canadian leases, three — Consumers Gas Co., Amerada Petroleum Corp. and Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas Ltd. — have title to

more than two-thirds of the land. Consumers Gas alone holds leases on about 47 per cent of the acreage.

Up until 1956, the Canadians sunk only a couple of gas wells annually. From 1956 to 1959, however, 180 wells were drilled. Exploration then tapered off slightly until about 1965 when the wildcatting surged again. The renewed interest in drilling, according to the Oil Petroleum Institute Inc. of Toronto, coincided with development of jack-up drilling platforms capable of using rotary drills. The Institute estimated that 75 wells were sunk into Lake Erie in 1969. The gas and oil industry, according to their own admittedly conservative estimates, figure there is more than three trillion cubic feet of natural gas lying untapped beneath Lake Erie. The prospectors forecast that, based on a yield of one trillion cubic feet, they would gain \$400 million in revenues while the Ontario government would purse \$40 million in royalties and fees. In short, they estimate there is a billion-dollar cache in natural gas alone beneath prostrate Lake Erie.

Although the prospectors and New York State officials were quick to deny their interest in any potential oil reserves, recent revelations indicate there may be considerable oil deposits in the western basin of Lake Erie. Studies of the oil potential apparently are not as advanced as the natural gas surveys, but prospectors have caught the fever. One unmistakable sign occurred here last August. The 72-foot-long Southern Venture, a Great Lakes vessel, chugged methodically along the lakeshore here for days. The ship carried sophisticated electronic monitoring equipment. On board, prospectors, representing Oklahoma gas and oil interests, took sonar readings of the lake bottom. Its mission, conducted without fanfare, signalled active prospecting on the American side of Lake Erie.

It also opened a sounding board into the depth of opposition to the offshore drilling proposals. Stanley Spisiak, an outspoken opponent of polluters, warned that drilling could "turn Lake Erie into a biological desert, effectively destroying what fresh water aquatic life remains there." The International Joint Commission, in an otherwise redundant review of drilling problems in Lake Erie, painted a picture of helplessness in case of accidents. "A review of existing means of combating spills of oil," the agency reported last September, "indicates there is no one method, either mechanical or chemical, which can be considered a panacea."

"Adequate methods of confining the oil," the Commission added, "are only available under the most ideal weather conditions." Yet, even with the best of weather conditions, the Commission admitted that a major oil spill in Lake Erie would be met with only a fractional response.

Although the Commission placed stock in existing regulations, a number of conservationists have noted that

no one agency can oversee all of Lake Erie to insure universal, uniform compliance. The IJC, itself, is relatively powerless, incapable of any meaningful enforcement because of its cumbersome diplomatic formalities. The commissioners admitted that there is an urgent need to fail-safe offshore drilling. "Even well regulated drilling may be accompanied by accidents," they conceded.

Drilling opponents were quick to seize this point. Most of the schemes proposed so far, they noted, failed to restrict the size of drilling rigs and often don't require pre-drilling geological surveys to be submitted with lease applications. Another technical objection centers on the adequacy of blowout prevention equipment on drill rigs. The Oil and Gas Institute insisted last December that existing fail-safe devices are reliable.

Many conservationists aren't certain. The memory of Santa Barbara is too fresh. Also agitating was the appearance of a suspicious oil scar on Aug. 5 off Point Pelee, Ontario. The slick was spotted within yards of an abandoned Canadian gas well. After some hastily arranged, quasi-official investigations, the slick was attributed by government officials of both nations to bilge from passing lake freighters. Many conservationists were unconvinced.

Also suspect was the New York Conservation Department's excuse for imposing a temporary moratorium on its drilling plans last September. The Department made the unresolved question of liability its rationale for the moratorium, although drilling opponents refused to pass over what they considered the most basic hurdle — an iron-clad safeguard against disaster. "I honestly don't know why we should settle for anything less," conservationist Spisiak asserted. "There is only one sound drilling policy when it comes to Lake Erie. And that's no drilling at all." Many residents along these shores agree. They are unimpressed by the intramural jealousy of the Canadians which seems to feed much of the official New York State interest in offshore drilling. They don't need an ecological autopsy to stun public awareness. The jargon of Lake Erie's ailments is familiar: untreated sewage, chemical and steel wastes, phenols and other acids, phosphates, agricultural runoffs, flourishing algae.

These are the widely recognizable contributors to Lake Erie's impending death, to the filth which denies use of the beaches, the disappearance of whitefish and pike and the million-dollar fishing industry, to the tainted drinking water supplies which chronically bring a musty taste and odor into the kitchen tap. Many residents along Lake Erie's scarred shores simply don't want the lake's coffin sealed with gas and oil.

Modesto Argenio is a Buffalo Courier-Express reporter and has written extensively on environmental problems.

TELLING IT LIKE IT ISN'T

Excerpts from a speech by William J. Moshofsky, Assistant to the President of Georgia-Pacific Corporation, given at Pendleton, Oregon, January 19, 1970.

. . . This occasion is important because it encourages and rewards outstanding personal achievement and service, thereby perpetuating and reinforcing one of the basic "values" of the American way of life. This is the idea that each of us should strive to make the most of our lives in our own interest and the interest of our fellow men.

I strongly believe there is real need for reinforcing this basic idea — making the most of your talents and abilities — because it is under attack from many quarters. In almost every magazine, every newspaper, it seems, there is far too much ridicule of the achievements and accomplishments of the past, far too much emphasis on leisure as an end goal — along with a sickening pessimism and fear about the future of life in general.

Take the currently hot political issue — environment. There's no question that all of us should be deeply concerned about our environment. But haven't we always, really? To be sure I had the right understanding of environment, I checked my Funk & Wagnall. Environment is defined to be "*One's surroundings or external circumstances collectively.*" That covers just about everything, doesn't it? — food, shelter, security from harm, transportation, as well as air, water and aesthetics. It also has to include "other people."

The brave pioneers who settled this land faced Indians, harsh winters and a vast unconquered forbidding wilderness. That was their environment. Thanks to their courage, energy, skill and tenacity, the way was cleared for development of one of the most dynamic, productive, affluent regions in the history of Man.

Here in the Northwest in about one hundred years (really a short period in man's history) we've built large cities and healthy communities, developed outstanding highways, railroads, telephone, TV and radio communications systems, huge electric power systems, highly productive farms and forests, and great industrial complexes. And all this has been done while increasing our standard of living, educating our youth, carrying an increasing welfare roll for the less fortunate, helping the nation fight four very costly wars, and providing huge chunks of our earned wealth for foreign aid. And it was all done under a free, Democratic society. It's truly a fantastic story of man

conquering and coming to terms with his environment.

But what do we hear these days —

- Prophets of gloom and doom are everywhere.
- One of the most popular conference themes is "can Man survive?"
- Ban DDT and other pesticides.
- Don't build any more dams, or nuclear power plants.
- Ban the Pill.
- Let's stop growth.

I think this last one is the topper. Just last week I read an article in the Wall Street Journal about a "non-conference" scheduled last weekend by the ecology center in Berkeley. Where? At your home. The whole idea was that they wanted people to stay home. "Don't write papers or read papers. Don't consume jet fuel or rent cars." A Sierra Club member went further saying "imagine what would happen if no one consumed anything for two days." Another so-called conservation group said "the non-conference will bring into focus the concept of a no-growth economy, which is likely to become the rallying cry of the conservation movement."

Such unreasoning, fear-ridden, emotional over-reaction! We'd certainly never have won the West with people like this. Man must progress and grow — we can't stand still!

Don't get me wrong, I'm all for a livable environment, and for the most part I don't question the honest concerns of all these people. We are all interested in having the cleanest, prettiest, healthiest and most livable environment.

But for heaven's sake, let's not over-react. If we develop a hangnail, we don't cut off our arm.

We must use our scientific skills, knowhow and resources to tackle the real problems we have in an orderly and reasonable way.

And it has to be a balanced approach — we've got to provide jobs, food, shelter, transportation, electric power, taxes for government services and national defense and for all the rest of our basic needs. They are all pretty fundamental aspects of our environment.

• • •

Just the other day Senator Packwood proposed outlawing all further dams on the Middle Snake, Imnaha and Salmon Rivers, and locking up a huge area (714,000 acres)

from further development — in the name of environment. While the details haven't been announced, reading between the lines I'm convinced this vast area is intended to be a roadless, inaccessible wilderness for a tiny group of backpackers. This is what the Sierra Club wants in French Pete near Eugene and on the Minam River here in Eastern Oregon, and Senator Packwood is fighting to get it for them — even though Oregon already has over 835,000 acres legally set aside as wilderness and many more areas which will always be wildlike.

As for dams I'm sure lots of people should be concerned — dams have been a godsend to this region. They've provided huge quantities of cheap power, flood control, irrigation, and lots of recreation and beauty. Let's study this issue carefully and consider the multiple uses of rivers and the needs of this region.

Frankly, the whole concept of multiple use of our resources for all the people based on sound scientific management is under heavy attack. The most militant is the Sierra Club. It's motto is "in wildness is the preservation of the world" and its patron saint is Henry David Thoreau, the first hippy.

The Sierra Club and their powerful allies in the press and some universities are extremely articulate and aggressive. While they call themselves conservationists, they admit they are really preservationists who oppose all roads and facilities, forest management, and mechanized equipment in the great outdoors. If the bugs kill the forest, they say that's okay, that's nature. If the fire burns the forest, they say "let it burn."

They opposed and successfully stopped a dam on the Colorado River on the completely false charge that the dam would "flood the Grand Canyon."

They manufactured a crisis over the Redwoods, and got Congress to buy nearly \$100,000,000 worth of non-park like commercial Redwoods for a national park. The great park-like Redwoods had already been saved in 28 state parks. The fact is there were already 1,750,000 giant trees over eight feet in diameter in state parks. This is enough to make a solid row, trunk by trunk, from San Francisco to New York city.

The Sierra Club is now killing off chances for a beautiful \$35,000,000 summer and winter recreation development by Disney people at Mineral King in Central California which millions of people could enjoy. The Club wants to save it for a handful of people rugged enough to backpack long distances.

Now, in the name of environment, they are broadening their attack: They want to lock up most of the Oregon Cascades; They are trying to lock up huge areas of Alaska; They are trying to block a major industry in a poverty-ridden area in Northern Maine; They are even trying to stop

needed expansion of the Portland Airport. These are just a few.

The amazing thing is that this very small group with very narrow, selfish interests packs a hefty political clout. In the public eye, they appear to wear white hats — they purport to speak for everyone. They appear to have credibility. On the other hand we in industry do not have credibility — we are usually depicted with chainsaw in hand destroying the forest. Instead of forest managers growing more than we plant, improving forest habitat and providing access.

In the Sierra Club's lingo when you harvest the mature fraction of a forest, you've destroyed the forest forever. They fail to tell you trees have life cycles just like other plants. Nor do they tell you that full enjoyment and use of the forest by Man and animals depends upon regular harvesting, reforestation and forest management — and that outdoor recreation of all kinds is fully compatible with such modern forest management.

The roads built to harvest and manage the forest provide access to campers, fishermen, hunters and others — and make possible effective insect, disease and fire control. The newly cut forest area provides forage for deer which a canopied forest cannot.

Nor does the Sierra Club ever tell the public what it costs the public to set aside a forest wilderness — just the other day the forest service sold 60 acres of timber for \$360,000. That's just *one crop*. We can now grow two crops in a man's lifetime.

It's time for the "silent majority" to become informed and aroused. It's time for common sense, rational decisions to be made on environmental affairs. All affected interests must be considered. It's time to ask questions such as — how many people will benefit from the Middle Snake lock-up — and what is the cost to the rest of us.

Believe me, if you don't speak up no one will speak up for you and there's no question that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Unfortunately emotion is winning over fact, and a tiny, articulate, aggressive group is manipulating events.

Study the issues, get the facts, attend hearings, write letters to government officials and congressmen. Activate your own outdoor group, and if you're not involved, form your own outdoor club or federation.

Let's not let these issues go by default. You may end up with a pretty sad environment — too little food, too many bugs, too few jobs, brownouts or blackouts, rotting useless forests. It may take centuries to reforest.

Let's use our scientific and technical skills to solve the problems we do have in a balanced, sensible way.

Let's be sure fact and reason prevail, not emotion and over-reaction!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Service Director George Hartzog presented testimony to the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in support of land acquisition programs sought in the 1971 budget, totaling \$56 million. Hartzog spoke in favor of the following appropriations: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, \$2.5 million; Biscayne National Monument, \$12 million; Indiana Dunes, \$4.9 million; Pictured Rocks, \$1.7 million; Delaware Water Gap, \$10.2 million; Fire Island, \$2,082,000; Guadalupe Mountains, \$116,000; North Cascades, \$1,935,000; San Juan Island, \$65,700. Hartzog also sought \$6,680,984 for implementing the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and \$250,000 for the National Trails System.

THERMAL POLLUTION

A suit in which the federal government for the first time is taking formal action against a thermal polluter was filed by the Justice Department in mid-March in U.S. District Court. Secretary of the Interior Hickel initiated the legal action against Florida Power and Light Company to halt plant operations and to enjoin the company from constructing a canal which would discharge heated waste water into Biscayne Bay. The Interior Department charged FPL with having already severely damaged 670 acres of the bay with thermal pollution from its existing steam plant. Two nuclear installations are planned for the same location which would discharge an additional 1.8 million gallons of hot water into the bay, raising its temperature to more than 95 degrees. In initiating this action, the federal government is serving notice that power plants across the nation are vulnerable to similar suits.

WILLS AND TRUSTS

The New Tax Reform Act of 1969 may affect any wills or trusts with the Sierra Club or the Sierra Club Foundation as recipients. Those with gift bequests should check with their attorney or trust advisor on this matter. As the Sierra Club is no longer a tax-deductible organization, some might wish to change their will to have the Sierra Club Foundation as recipient. The Foundation was incorporated in 1960 as a means of furthering the scientific, literary and educational ideals identified with the Sierra Club, and gifts and bequests to the Foundation are fully tax-deductible. Financial Secretary Colburn S. Wilbur will be pleased to answer any questions in this regard at the Sierra Club Foundation, 15th floor, Mills Tower, San Francisco, California 94104.

BEACH ACCESS

In the two recently decided California tidelands access cases, in which the Sierra Club filed an *amicus curiae* brief and was permitted to argue orally, the California Supreme Court in effect created a presumption of public dedication of access routes to beaches, as well as of the beaches themselves, where public use has gone unchallenged for five years. The *Dietz v. King* case involved sole access by a road across private property to Navarro Beach in Mendocino County; the case of *Gion v. City of Santa Cruz* concerned public access to a beach and to a parking area above the beach. In addition to ruling in favor of the preservation of traditional access routes in these two cases, the State Supreme Court stressed that the courts of California should do everything possible to implement the access policy embodied in the State Constitution short of taking private property without compensation, which is prohibited by the Federal Constitution.

The Sierra Club's Legal Committee has asked that any member who has information respecting attempts by California coastline property owners to obstruct public access to beaches and tidewaters *via access routes used by the public for five years or more* to contact C. William Simmons, Esq., 2700 Russ Building, San Francisco, Calif. 94104. Details should, if possible, include the precise location, the name of the property owner, the nature of the access route, the period of public use, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of any persons who can substantiate the five year period of public use.

WILDERNESS PACKAGE

Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania has introduced H.R. 16258 a bill to designate 28 areas as additions to the Wilderness Preservation System. In his remarks on the floor, Saylor made note of the slow pace at which Congress and the Administration have proceeded in completing the wilderness reviews called for under the Wilderness Act of 1964. At the halfway mark of the 10 year deadline for all reviews, only six areas have been added to the Wilderness System out of a possible 140 eligible areas. Congressman Saylor's bill includes the following wilderness proposals: Island Bay and Passage Key, Florida; Seney, Huron Island, and Michigan Island, Michigan; Monomoy, Massachusetts; Craters of the Moon, Idaho; Petrified Forest, Mt. Baldy, Pine Mountain, Sycamore Canyon, Arizona; and a number of others principally from National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

ANNUAL DINNER

United States Senator Alan Cranston of California will be the speaker at the Sierra Club Annual Dinner on Saturday, May 2, at Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland. Senator Cranston's conservation record is impressive. He supported efforts for funds for Point Reyes National Seashore land purchase, introduced bills to establish the Ventana and Desolation Wilderness Areas and worked for the Environmental Quality Act of 1969. Arrangements for the Annual Dinner are being handled by the Loma Prieta Chapter with Eleanor Wilkins as Chairman. Requests for tickets should be sent to Miss Wilkins, 863 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park, Calif. 94025; telephone 415-322-8604. Reservations are \$7 per person and all requests must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of tickets. Checks should be made payable to the Sierra Club Annual Dinner. Monday, April 27 is the deadline for ticket orders and requests for refunds. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tables of 8 and 16 can be reserved for groups on a first come, first served basis, if requests are accompanied by full payment. Preceding dinner which begins at 7:30 P.M. there will be a cocktail period starting at 6 P.M. with a presentation of exhibits and slides of an Alaskan climb.

POPULATION LEGISLATION

Early in March the Senate agreed to amendments made by the House to S. 2701, a bill to establish a Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. The measure creates a 25-member commission and provides a supporting staff to study the probable course of population growth, the impact of population growth on the environment, and the means by which the United States can achieve a suitable population level. President Nixon signed the legislation into law, naming John D. Rockefeller, III, chairman of the new commission. Rockefeller served as co-chairman of the President's committee on Population and Planning in 1968.

In other legislative proposals to curb the population growth rate, Senator Robert W. Packwood of Oregon recently introduced S. 3502, a bill designed to provide a tax incentive to limit family size. A \$1000 deduction would be allowed for the first child, \$750 for the second, \$500 for the third, and none for subsequent children. "If we are willing to write into the tax law gimmicks and incentives for every kind of industry," Packwood said, "it is not asking too much to write into the tax law an incentive for small families." S. 3502 would apply only to children born after January 1973.

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FREE-FLOWING RIVERS

Congressman Jerome R. Waldie of California at a press conference at the Sierra Club's headquarters in San Francisco on March 17 announced proposed legislation aimed at blocking state and federal plans to dam and divert the three last major free-flowing rivers in Northern California. Waldie's legislation, to be introduced in the House at the end of the month, would add the Eel, Klamath, and Trinity Rivers to the list of protected rivers under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. "The Corps of Army Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the State Department of Water Resources plan to build more than 20 high dams on these river systems," Waldie said. "These water developments are designed for no other reason than to augment the State Water Project and supply the land developers and resources exploiters with water to add to the environmental chaos that is Southern California," he said. Calling for a halt and reassessment of the California Water Project, which this legislation, if passed, would effect, Waldie said the project should be "scaled down till its consequences will not result in disaster to the area water is being exported from or the area it is being exported to." He warned Northern Californians that under the Water Plan they too will face a water shortage situation. "We will lose the estuarine system of the Sacramento Delta and San Francisco Bay. That's a water shortage consequence of extreme detriment," he said.

OVERTON APPEAL

The Sierra Club will join with the Citizens to Preserve Overton Park in appealing Federal Judge Bailey Brown's denial of a temporary injunction to halt the construction of Interstate Highway 40 through Overton Park in Memphis, Tennessee. The Club and the Citizens to Preserve Overton Park had brought suit against John A. Volpe, Secretary of the Department of Transportation in U.S. District Court. In his ruling on February 26 Judge Brown stated that all appropriate administrative actions were taken by the Department of Transportation and that, therefore, the building of the freeway through Overton Park could proceed. Conservationists feel that there is inadequate evidence that consideration was given to alternate routes less destructive to park values. Overton Park in downtown Memphis was set aside 69 years ago and has the most extensive woodland acreage with-

in that urban area. Interstate 40, as now planned, would extend through the length of the park with an estimated traffic count of 20,000 cars per hour, which would create intolerable air and noise pollution levels. "The routing of I-40 through the park appears to be an attempt by economic interests including land speculators to 'save downtown shopping areas' by providing a fast, direct route to downtown from the suburbs," William Holstein of the Club's Cumberland Chapter states.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPAIRS

An association of the world's richest non-communist nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, has given some rough cost estimates for cleaning and repairing the environment. Their studies show it to be a much more expensive matter than currently realized, and they state that the public concern about pollution abatement is based on a blissful lack of information. For example, yearly appropriations of two per cent of a nation's GNP would only be enough to slow down deterioration; four per cent might hold the line; and it would take up to 16 per cent to achieve a real environmental clean-up. For the U.S. this would mean more than \$150 billion a year. We now spend about \$2.5 billion on environmental programs.

STANDING TO SUE

In early March a decision with potentially far reaching effects on environmental matters was handed down by the United States Supreme Court in a ruling that clarifies the standing which businesses, groups and individuals have to enter federal courts to file lawsuits. In the case of *Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, Inc., et al. vs. William B. Camp, Comptroller of the Currency of the United States, et al.* Justice William O. Douglas, in delivering the Court's opinion, suggested that this ruling would apply to cases involving "aesthetic, conservational, and recreational" values as well as economic. The Sierra Club, which is currently involved in some 13 major lawsuits to protect the environment, had filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the case. "Although there are some possible uncertainties, we feel that the Club's standing to sue in environmental lawsuits is basically assured by Justice Douglas' opinion and by the excellent concurring opinion of Justice Brennan," Don Harris, chairman of the Club's Legal Committee, said.

TIMBER SALE

The U.S. District Court in Denver has ordered an indefinite halt to the proposed sale by the Forest Service of 4.3 million board feet of timber in the East Meadow Creek area, adjacent to the Gore Range-Eagle's Nest Primitive Area of Colorado. Judge William E. Doyle ordered that the injunction "be continued indefinitely or until a determination has been made by the President and Congress that East Meadow Creek is predominately wilderness in character and should be made part of the Gore Range-Eagle's Nest or that it should not be."

In his ruling Judge Doyle noted that while East Meadow Creek is not itself protected through designation as a primitive area, it is contiguous to a primitive area. Citing the Wilderness Act of 1964, Judge Doyle said that the Wilderness Act "leaves no doubt that, at least as to those contiguous areas which are predominately of wilderness value, the decision to classify or not to classify them as wilderness must remain open through the presidential level." The judge was satisfied with the evidence presented by the Sierra Club and its co-plaintiffs that East Meadow Creek seems to be of wilderness quality as defined in the Forest Service manual and the Wilderness Act. "It is crystal clear from the evidence that the consummation of the present sale will effectively take all of East Meadow Creek out of contention as a primitive or wilderness addition," Judge Doyle said.

SALT RIVER PROJECT

Construction is scheduled to begin in April on a 2,310,000 kilowatt electrical generating plant at Page, Arizona to be built by the Salt River Irrigation Project. An additional 5 million kilowatt plant is planned a few miles away in Utah on the opposite shore of Lake Powell. As presently envisioned, these plants will cause significant air pollution in the Grand Canyon and other parts of this highly scenic region. At a meeting March 5 in Phoenix, a spokesman for the Salt River Project discussed the plant's policies for environmental protection. The information he disclosed indicated that the plant may not meet proposed air pollution standards for the State of Arizona. "These plants would not be tolerated in the metropolitan areas of the Southwest where the power will be used," Mike Williams, chairman of the Club's Southwest Regional Conservation Committee said. "The question is whether the answers to pollution in the cities is to move the problem to the countryside," he added.

Three men, working in temporary offices in the Interior Department Building and with only the sparsest of staff assistance, now have the task of re-orienting national policies toward a better environment. They also have the authority to re-vamp the decision-making procedures of the vast federal bureaucracy which deals with environmental plans and programs — a bureaucracy where despoilers and polluters have had strongly entrenched influence for decades. Their work will not be easy.

The trio is the Council on Environmental Quality. Its members are Russell Train, chairman, former Undersecretary of the Interior and former president of the Conservation Foundation; Robert Cahn, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist of the Christian Science Monitor; and Dr. Gordon J.F. MacDonald, geophysicist of the University of California at Santa Barbara. They were appointed by President Nixon in January soon after he signed into law the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, hailed by many as a Magna Carta for future protection and enhancement of the quality of life in these United States.

Created at a time of great public concern over air and water pollution, disposal of garbage, noisy and trash-ridden cities, and massive oil spills, the Council's agenda does not lack subject matter. As Train has said, the Council's toughest problem at this time is learning to define its role. "In theory, our jurisdiction is practically limitless," he adds.

His assessment is borne out by executive order 11514, signed by President Nixon on March 5. This document represents the President's instructions on implementation of the Act, and sets forth both the responsibilities of federal agencies and of the Council in pursuit of a policy "To sustain and enrich human life."

The Presidential order called on heads of all federal agencies to "monitor, evaluate and control on a continuing basis their agencies' activities so as to protect and enhance the quality of the environment." Moreover, he set "not later than Sept. 1, 1970" as the date by which agency chiefs must review their statutory authority, administrative regulations, policies and procedures "in order to identify any deficiencies or inconsistencies therein which prohibit or limit full compliance" with the Act.

And the President added a clinching requirement; namely, that all agencies "Proceed . . . with actions required by Section 102 of the Act." Section 102 is the "meat of the coconut" in NEPA. It is the Congressional directive that all agencies of the federal government shall comply with specific requirements in the administration of NEPA.

Among them is the key provision that agencies "include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting

the quality of the human environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official on: 1) The environmental impact of the proposed action, 2) Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, 3) Alternatives to the proposed action, 4) The relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and 5) Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented."

These requirements, of course, fly in the face of past procedures which have prevailed within numerous federal bureaus and underscore the difficulties yet to be faced by the under-staffed council. Environmental impact has been nearly ignored in proposals for new dams, dredging and fill projects, licensing of nuclear powerplants, location of airports, highways and freeways, permits to dump effluent in lakes and waterways.

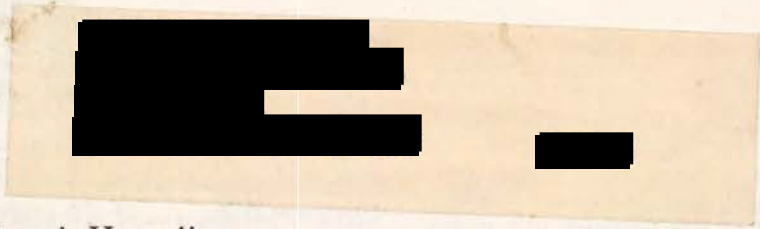
For instance, the Atomic Energy Commission holds the position that it need not take into consideration the impact of thermal pollution in the licensing of atomic generating stations. Despite the existence since 1899 of the Act which prohibits dumping of any refuse matter in navigable waters, the Corps of Engineers has granted innumerable permits for disposal of garbage and trash in bays, lakes and rivers.

The difficulty which the Council will have in bringing the bureaucracy into line with the requirements of NEPA and the President's order is illustrated by action of Agriculture Secretary Hardin when H.R. 12025, the Timber Supply Act, was before Congress. Ignoring the requirements of NEPA on legislative proposals, Hardin sent to chairman W.R. Poage of the House Agriculture Committee a report endorsing the bill. Questioned later about the Secretary's action, department spokesmen were quoted as saying that the timber-cutting bill had no environmental impact and that it was not a new program, just an expansion of old policies. The bill covered 97 million acres of national forests and could permit a 50 per cent increase in cutting rates.

Aside from the general reluctance by many agencies to weigh environmental factors, there is another possibility for the three-man council to have a head-on collision with the bureaucratic goliath. In his March 5 order, President Nixon gave the Council the responsibility to "issue guidelines to federal agencies for the preparation of detailed statements on proposals for legislation and other federal actions affecting the environment."

Indeed, the entire effectiveness of NEPA for achieving a better quality of life may hinge on the content of the Council's guidelines and their ability to obtain conformance by the bureaus.

— W. Lloyd Tupling



Cliffs in the Kalalau Valley of Kauai, Hawaii



— from the Sierra Club Exhibit Format book *Kauai and the Park Country of Hawaii*