



A Time For Thinking

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(This issue contains an extra 32 pages more than our standard minimum 96 page format. We add these extra pages in the months when we carry more advertising so that advertising is never allowed to take space away from fishing information. Since the extra pages we add in this way are always less than half advertising, the issues that contain the most advertising also contain the most space for fishing information. The months of January through June usually are the heaviest advertising months for us, and so these issues are generally the largest, both in advertising and in fishing information. Under our plan, advertising allows us to bring you more not less fishing information, since our advertisers are helping to pay some of the costs of publication. We thought you'd like to know.)

The United States of America is going to be 200 years old this year. It should be a time for celebrating, but it is not for many of us. These are not the best of times for most of us, too much is wrong. Too many things are out of whack. There is too much crime and corruption in high places and low places and everywhere in between. Too much violence, too much unrest, too much trouble, too much pollution, too much dishonesty, too much selfishness, and too much publicity about it all. Many of us are sick and tired of reading and hearing about all the things that are wrong. Yet, we know that not talking or thinking about it won't make it all go away.

Most of us do not have an easy time making ends meet. There is always too much month left at the end of the money. We have our homes, our work, our family responsibilities, perhaps some additional duties at church, school or work . . . and a little recreation. For most of us life is a struggle. Many of us, as we approach our older years find that a lifetime of work and worry has brought us only to more work and more worry . . . and we have to wonder what's it all about. The price of everything seems to be rising faster than our ability to pay. Where is it going? When does it end? How can we get ahead? The world seems to have gone crazy. Every country big or little is complaining; the votes at the United Nations go against us and show us how many real friends we have in the world.

We used to be able to believe in the Presidency. That was the one place where we could (hopefully) be sure of having an honest guy. Yeah, we may not always agree with him, but at least we thought he was honest. No more. We just had a President who had won by the greatest landslide in history, forced out of office by resignation or impeachment. He chose resignation. A President who went on national television to tell the American People that he was not a crook . . . when he was.

We used to look up to policemen, firemen, teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc., as being the stuff of which heroes are made. No more. We've found out just how human they are, and another bubble has been burst.

Big business? Many of us felt for years that "the businessman" could always be relied upon for moral leadership and sound judgment, and dedication to the greater good. That myth has been all blown apart, too.

Labor unions? Few will deny that they were born out of a desperate need to protect the working man from abuse by industry. Today there are many who feel that Big Labor is just as corrupt, just as selfish, and just as unfeeling for the public good as Big Business is supposed to be.

We seem to have many choices, but none of them are easy. How about the auto workers? They've just gone through an awful time. Despite years of hard and faithful work and well-earned seniority, several hundred thousand were out of work for months. Cars didn't sell. Now they're moving again. Should tougher air pollution standards now be enforced? The industry says it would make all cars cost more. What if they are telling the truth? Would that hurt sales again? Would more men and women be put out of work? What's the harm in slowing up on the clean air standards? Sure, the industry has already won a three year delay in that the original clean air standards for 1975 have been postponed to 1978. The industry is thus asking for what amounts to an eight year delay in their present request for another five year postponement beyond 1978. After all, would eight more years of auto emissions that don't meet the standards of the Clean Air Act of 1970 really do any harm?

Farmers are up in arms against the banning of so many insect sprays. They need those insect sprays in order to keep high the yield of their crops. There is a hungry world to feed. Unless the farmers attain these high yields of crops,

80-19C FISHING FACTS
NO. 175,300

JAN 1976



they simply can't make out financially. They get precious little sympathy from most American consumers who complain that food prices are too high already. You say that the use of these insect sprays can cause birth defects and cancer? Is there any proof?

Perhaps you are a cokerworker, ready to negotiate a new contract. The companies complain that if they must meet air pollution standards it will destroy their profit margin. Unions know that companies who don't make good profits don't make good contracts. Sure, the workers MIGHT get lung cancer 20 years from now, but how about NOW? How about bread on the table and money in the pay envelope?

Perhaps you work for the Reserve Mining Company at Silver Bay, Minnesota, near Duluth. If the environmentalists and the government had its way, Reserve would have to stop dumping 65,000 tons of taconite waste (tailings) into Lake Superior every day. Some expert witnesses say those tailings contain asbestos fibers which may cause cancer because they may be in the drinking water of Duluth, Superior, and other communities which obtain their drinking water from Lake Superior. Put 3,000 men out of work? What about their families? Where's the proof?

Steel mills, paper mills, power plants, foundries, chemical plants, etc., all are complaining that cleaning up pollution will cost them too much money and too many jobs. Many of their workers, when faced with the choice of a cleaner environment *without a job* against the choice of the present environment *with a job*, have got to feel that they'll settle for what they know they have now. Does cleaning up the environment really put people out of work?

Suddenly we have become quite alarmed about the PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) which seem to be in the waters of the Great Lakes, many river systems, in the oceans, and almost everywhere about us. PCB's are used as insulating fluids in certain electrical equipment, and in hydraulic fluids, lubricants, heat transfer fluids, adhesives, sealants, printing inks, coatings and waxes. The U.S. Department of the Interior has called for their immediate ban. We now know that PCB's are very stable and will exist in the environment for hundreds of years after their use has been stopped. (The only known way to get rid of them is to incinerate them at about 2,400 degrees.) They seem to cause cancer, birth defects, and make laboratory animals extremely ill. The inference is clear that they will make humans extremely ill, too.

The sole U.S. producer of PCB's, the Monsanto Company has voluntarily cut back production, but PCB levels in the environment have not dropped. Many U.S. companies are believed to be now buying their PCB's from other countries.

Nathaniel P. Reed, assistant secretary of the interior for fish, wildlife and parks said, "I think the fish are telling us something. They are stating unequivocally that our rivers and streams are sick. We should not need a clarion call to realize that our rivers and lakes — the very life lines of our environment — are in mortal danger. . . . Nothing short of immediate drastic action will enable us to raise anything better than lakes full of enucleated fish."

The federal government's chief auditors, the GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE (GAO), recently accused the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of endangering public health by not banning the most widely used color additive, a dye known as Red No. 2. The GAO said the FDA had permitted the use of the dye in food, drugs and cosmetics for 15 years without making a final determination of its safety. Yes, that's the nice red color so common in gelatin desserts, maraschino cherries, and in many of the other good things we enjoy. The GAO said that studies here and abroad had found that the dye or its components could cause, among other things, cancer, birth and genetic defects and other adverse effects on the human reproductive process.

Cancer researchers now are estimating that as much as 85% of all cancers are triggered by things in the environment.

How about the workers in plants at Newark, Del.; Willow Island, W. Va.; and Louisville, Ky. who have now learned that they have been exposed to chrome pigments (lead chromate, lead-molybdenum and zinc chromate pigments) and that such exposure in a Japanese study showed a lung cancer rate more than 26 times higher than the national average? Anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 workers are also exposed in the plastics, paint, printing-ink and other industries that fabricate the chrome pigments into products. How must they feel?

I believe that we can solve these and the other awful problems of our industrial age, IF we attack them intelligently. It is my opinion that doom is not yet upon us, but an awful lot of trouble is. I don't believe that the BICENTENNIAL of the United States of America is any time for business as usual, politics as usual, or living as usual. I think that none of us, no matter how busy we think we are, can afford to face our future without giving our problems deep and serious thought. I don't believe waving the flag, fireworks and the national anthem are enough this year of the Bicentennial. I think that politics are now too important to be left just to the politicians. All of us need to get involved.

This is not a time for complaining or for going backward. We cannot restore America to what it was before the first Kleenex was dropped, nor would we wish to go back to outside plumbing. The "good old days" were not all that good. We must go forward and we can if we do not let ourselves become divided into selfish splinter groups each out to get "theirs." This is a time for thoughtful prayer. It is a time for thinking.

George