

Awaiting The Agnew Education Plan

resident Agnew's recent speech at the college admission policies follow usual multipurpose pattern. It is to denounce radicals and intellectual gentry alarm at the state of today's campus, to come out for the "rhetoric" of talent, and to give the hand to black militants—all this in the name of tilting at the windmills of open and racial quotas in our colleges. The farm they used to say that even a will pick up an acorn or two, and measure in agreeing with Mr. Agnew in the abandonment of academic requirements for college admission nor the academic rigid racial quotas is desirable. More, we agree with Mr. Agnew that extra education at public expense must be paid for some students of deprived background in order to make sure that all who come from higher education shall have it. The Vice President speaks of "immunity" colleges and special preparatory schools, to insure to the late-blooming, the aged and the underachieving student educational opportunity."

How we cannot feel that Mr. Agnew

has said all there is to be said when he roundly declares that compensatory education has no place whatever in the colleges. Many colleges have been engaging in remedial work for years, and we expect they will go on doing so. It is quite possible to recognize a responsibility to the culturally deprived without abandoning academic standards.

A college can, for example, admit a limited number of promising students who may not quite meet formal requirements, and try by extra teaching effort to bring them up to standard within the first year or two. That could be done, and is being done, without impairing the quality of education available to others; the extent of it would vary from college to college. The purpose would be, not to cultivate an aristocracy of talent, but to realize the full potentials of democracy.

Such extra effort is especially called for during the period when Mr. Agnew's proposed new system of compensatory education at lower levels is being put together; it might be a rather lengthy period. Meanwhile we await with interest the speech in which the Vice President offers a specific program, and reveals his plan for financing it.

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Harold Carswell has found a more public role for himself as candidate Senate than as candidate for the Supreme Court, a post for which he was recently elected. He has resigned from the Fifth Circuit of Appeals to announce himself as can seeker of the office to be vacated by Senator Holland, a Democrat. Judge says the GOP "offers Floridians the relief of providing the conservative government which our citizens believe."

Carswell was turned down for the Supreme Court partly because of obstructionism and disregard of civil rights. But Senate Judiciary Committee should be entirely free to use a conservative ideology, as Judge Carswell was not, and he can oppose racial without fear of being overruled. No courts out there watching him; no final fiat surrounding him. Just votes.

For Housing

the Cervantes administration will probably upon a proposal to exempt the Authority from payment of utility tax the city government itself does not \$60,000 a year involved is an insurrection of municipal income — about one-tenth of 1 per cent—but a major Housing Authority which is running a deficit of about \$50,000 a month. The city's only sources of income are from tenants and some federal grants. The circumstances of the city's own tax in respect to itself plus the overriding help the authority to get on its feet, the municipal subsidy involved here is justified.

ding The States

governments are to survive the trend centralization of power in Washington must be strengthened, speakers told a meeting sponsored by the Citizens' Union on State Legislatures. They suggested annual legislative sessions to keep of public business, a reduction in size of legislatures to make them more effective, and for legislators and committees to learn to know whereof they speak, and to do so.

ch nearly anyone might agree. But the power of the states is the public power the states provide. The more they leave federal Government, the less power have. And the key to providing serv-

ices is not just will but money, the two often being linked in tax decisions. Recently Missourians concluded that their state did not need 60 millions or so more dollars a year in income taxes, though Missouri's ranking in most public services is low indeed. The argument for state power or sovereignty or rights collapses on that kind of decision.

Story Of A Sinecure

The Supreme Court has finally left the five members of the Subversive Activities Control Board sitting in their almost vacant offices, with nothing to do but collect their \$36,000 pay checks. The SACB has become the ultimate sinecure.

It came about this way: The board was created in 1950 to register alleged Communist organizations and members. In its first 17 years, the board was asked by the Justice Department to act against the Communist Party, 22 so-called front organizations and 44 individuals. Not one was ever registered.

Then the Supreme Court knocked everything but the padded arm chairs from under the SACB by holding the registration process a violation of the Fifth Amendment—the decision being that compulsory registration was tantamount to self-incrimination, since those registered as subversives could be prosecuted as such under another law.

Congress refused to eliminate the useless agency, however. The late Senator Dirksen rallied his forces to a 1968 law intended to save SACB by letting it publish rather than compel registration of names deemed subversive. The first cases brought under this law were thrown out by the Court of Appeals in Washington on the ground that they violated the First Amendment guarantee of free association. Now the Supreme Court has refused to review that ruling, letting it stand.

So the SACB is worthless once again, despite Nixon Administration efforts to make it seem worthwhile. Attorney General Mitchell has tried to give it new work to do. President Nixon even gave it, as a member, Otto F. Otepka, darling of the right wing, who had been demoted and reprimanded by the State Department for unauthorized disclosure of personnel files. Placing Mr. Otepka on SACB was tantamount to rewarding a security violation with a security job.

The Subversive Activities Control Board, however, has never in 20 years done anything for the nation's security. Its sole value has been to politicians seeking to show how they are more patriotic than anyone. For that reason the SACB may be continued. But as an expensive political charade at public expense it ought to be abolished.



State Of The Earth

A Call For Ecological Law And Order

If Nature Is Not Conserved, Famine And Sickness Are Likely

David M. Gates In
National Gardener

(The author is director of Show's Garden)

It is often difficult for those who live in synthetic environments to understand or to believe that their comfortable little world will collapse if the integrity of natural history is violated too completely.

We in our homes and our offices, surrounded by synthetic carpets and clothed with man-made fibers, enclosed by warm walls, supplied with food and filtered air, with water to wash with and to carry our wastes into the sewers, find it difficult to comprehend that all of this depends inextricably on the green plant. Man contradicts every ecological law known. Indeed he must contravene nature in order to support his industrial monster and to feed a hungry burgeoning world population.

During millions of years of evolution, while life and atmosphere emerged together, inorganic substance was converted into organic forms which in turn would decay and return to the soil as inert matter. This cycle of construction and destruction was the keystone to success for the living communities. Man comes along and eventually learns to contradict this basic law of cycling for his own self-interests.

He burns fossil fuels to energize his machinery and warm his homes, he mines the metals of the world to manufacture automobiles, airplanes, machines, and materials, he sinters silicates to form glass, and turns chemicals into billions of plastics each year. The natural evolutionary events of the world created plants and animals; what is so different with man creating his products of industry?

The critical difference is that vast quantities of man's products are nondestructible items. These

products do not break down, do not decay, and do not return to the sources from which they came.

Furthermore, modern man has gone out of his way not to return his waste products to their points of origin nor even to reuse them himself. The "No Deposit," "Non-Returnable" bottle is one of the greatest sins ever perpetrated by mankind. Where does he think they are going? Did he inherit an earth of plastics, glass and rusting automobiles? Do we want our children and their children to have a heritage of bottles and sheets of plastic strewn across the landscape and the beaches of the world?

This refusal to recycle along with an uncontrolled population explosion is accelerating man's demise to an incredible degree. Are we blind to the fact that the planet earth is a single, limited, and essentially closed ecosystem? Are we going to live it up, burn it up and cover it up while the rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and the world suffocates by its own greed and blind folly? There is no doubt that we can continue to exploit, to be comfortable, to be just slightly sick, to be a little more crowded and a little noisier each year, and to assume that everything will work out.

I have several times heard people say: "Any nation that puts a man on the moon can solve all of its problems." Maybe it can and maybe it cannot, but unless we start to do something soon it will then be too late to stem the tide of population, or to cleanse the air and water, or to conserve the resources and natural habitats.

The world is a wonderful place and will continue to be a magnificent planet only if we manage its destiny in a careful, rational fashion. The leadership of the world must be determined to do so and the people must understand the need for sensible management and control. Here are some of the things we must learn to do. We will not accomplish them easily or quickly, but we can set ourselves the ultimate accomplishment of these goals:

1. Population control—eventually the total world population must be limited. Only by starting now can we hope to achieve a balanced population within a few decades.
2. Pollution abatement—for good health and to avoid undesirable climate change we must reduce automobile, airplane, and industrial emissions to an absolute minimum.
3. Mass transport systems developed which move large numbers of people between home and job effectively, quietly, quickly, and with the least insult to the environment.
4. Conservation of resources and recycling of materials including reuse of consumer goods and of waste products.
5. Application of ecological laws and principles.

Man is a part of nature; he is a product of evolution; he must use nature in a conservative manner and design with nature rather than against the communities of organisms which we have inherited. Man must realize that the time is near at hand when further growth of population and industry is undesirable; where profits are not to be gained for self-interests at the expense of resources, open space, clean air and water, and lack of freedom from crowding and neurological stress.

This does not say we will not have progress, nor individual profit, challenge, or choice, nor freedom. Indeed we will have these things, but we will have them as a part of an intelligent, conscious effort to achieve a healthy, happy world of people living with reasonable prosperity and sufficient security to avoid major famines, sickness, or war.



'You've Got The Ball, Buster! What Are You Going To Do With It?'

Autos Cost 12 Cents A Mile

From The Commercial Appeal, Memphis

The average cost of running an automobile is now almost 12 cents a mile, according to new figures from the Federal Highway Administration.

For an average location in the United States, the car costs \$3185 and runs 100,000 miles in 10 years at 11.89 cents per mile. The third owner, or perhaps the fourth, will have the average vehicle when it is 10 years old. If he lives in New York or San Francisco, cost will be a little higher per mile, or a little lower in Atlanta or Fort Worth.

There still are persons who strongly protest such an old figure as 10 cents a mile. But there are abundant tables of figures to back the Government's figure.

The fooler for the public is fast auto depreciation in the early years, a major item in a total cost during the first year of 14.21 cents per mile. In old age this is replaced by repair and maintenance bills, peaking in the seventh year, with an over-all cost

per mile of 12.02 cents. After that owners let the repairs slide and the tenth year cost goes down to 10.82 cents.

There is where the new federal safety regulations should bear down. Real inspections for mechanical safety will raise the price of maintenance, or speed up the urge to trade for a new car, but the accomplishment would be worth it in reduced deaths, hospital bills and damage repairs.

On the contrary, there is a tendency for Washington guidelines to allow states to go through the motions of inspections that find little except customers for garage men.

Hijackers And Their Weapons

The Chicago Tribune

Japanese hijackers use Samurai swords. Next thing we know, Indians will be hijacking planes with tomahawks. Bushmen with stone axes, and lawyers with subpoenas and mandamuses.

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Earth Day

From California to the New York island, this land is cluttered with no-return bottles, bedsprings and abandoned automobiles. From the waving wheat fields and the golden valleys there is a run-off of deadly pesticides and herbicides that infest plants, fish, birds and wildlife, and find their way into the milk we drink and the meat we eat. The ribbons of highway threaten to merge into a gigantic concrete raceway, and the endless sky too often disappears in a brown pall. From the depleted redwood forests to the oil-covered Gulf stream waters, this land is sacrificing its most precious resources to the heedless march of technology.

If we are to halt the plundering of our environment, it is essential that we reconsider some traditional concepts. That is what today, Earth Day, is all about. On this day thousands of Americans are seeking to dramatize, through demonstrations, rallies, parades and teach-ins, the necessity of reversing the lemming-like march to suicide through environmental destruction.

The magnificent technology which is causing the environmental crisis is doing so not because it is a failure but because it is a success. Agricultural pesticides are an example. They are intended to exterminate pests that destroy crops, and they do. But in the process some also kill other pests and predators which assure a balance in insect populations, and they drain into the streams and end up in our food supply.

But does this mean environmental preservation can be attained only through the destruction of technology? That is both unacceptable and unnecessary. What is required, it seems to us, is a re-examination of technological progress in terms of all its consequences, not simply the immediate ones. To this end the true economic costs of technology must be identified and properly assigned, and we ought to modify any legal bias that has the effect of giving the

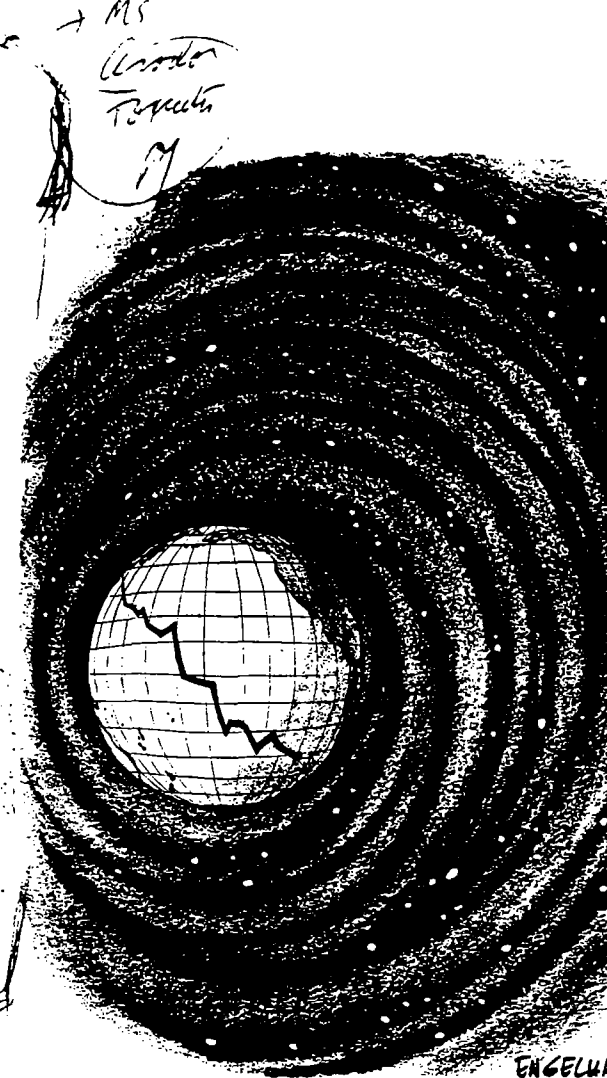
polluter a prior right.

Instead of requiring the victims of pollution to show that they have been harmed, we ought to require those who would use the air, the water and the land that their undertaking is consistent with environmental protection. This sort of approach is now being tried in Illinois, where that state's resourceful Attorney General, William J. Scott, recently filed an injunction suit against a concern that proposes a development next to a glacial-age bog in Lake County. Mr. Scott's suit does not seek to prove that the development would endanger the bog's natural water supply but rather asks the court to compel the developer to prove it would not.

The detergent problem, now centered on the phosphates they leave in rivers and lakes, illustrates the importance of identifying all costs associated with technological improvements and assigning them to their appropriate place. The detergent industry argues that the solution lies in building treatment plants to take the phosphates out of the water. But scientists say that for every dollar a consumer spent for phosphates in the detergents he uses, he would spend \$2.45 for the facilities to remove the phosphates from water.

The solution then is either to outlaw phosphates or to let the product reflect its true cost—not alone the cost of production but also of dealing with it once it has been used. If the producers of phosphate detergents, no-return bottles and similar products were required to include hidden social costs in prices, competing products that were cheaper and less harmful to the environment might soon appear on the market.

Are we willing to make environmental preservation as important an element of the economy as technological progress? Upon the answer to that question may depend whether Earth Day is the clanging of an alarm bell or the tolling of a death knell.



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Down on the farm they used to say that even a blind hog will pick up an acorn or two, and we take pleasure in agreeing with Mr. Agnew that neither the abandonment of academic requirements for college admission nor the acceptance of rigid racial quotas is desirable.

Furthermore, we agree with Mr. Agnew that compensatory education at public expense must be developed for some students of deprived background in order to make sure that all who can benefit from higher education shall have access to it. The Vice President speaks of "more community colleges and special preparatory schools, to insure to the late-blooming, the underprepared and the underachieving student every educational opportunity."

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has said all there is to be said when he roundly declares that compensatory education has no place whatever in the colleges. Many colleges have been engaging in remedial work for years, and we expect they will go on doing so. It is quite possible to recognize a responsibility to the culturally deprived without abandoning academic standards.

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During millions of years of evolution, while life and atmosphere emerged together, inorganic substance was converted into organic forms which in turn would decay and return to the soil as inert matter. This cycle of construction and destruction was the keystone to success for the living communities. Man comes along and eventually learns to contradict this basic law of cycling for his own self-interest.

He burns fossil fuels to energize his machinery and warm his homes, he mines the metals of the world to manufacture automobiles, airplanes, machines, and materials, he sinters silicates to form glass, and turns chemicals into billions of plastics each year. The natural evolutionary events of the world created plants and animals; what is so different with man creating his products of industry?

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