

Spectrum

down 1,100 megawatts of generating capacity in obsolete units within the city, according to the Bureau of National Affairs. In addition, the mayor has commissioned a five-man board to study ways to eliminate automobile pollution from the city.

MADISON, WISCONSIN's city council has passed a resolution banning the SST from using the municipal airport, and urging the Senate to strike all funds for the SST's development from the budget for the fiscal year. The resolution termed the SST development "a classic case of misplaced national priorities," and labeled the super airplane an "environmental monster," according to the Madison Capitol Times. The resolution passed by a vote of 13 to 5, with knowledge that the action threatens federal funds for future airport development, including \$10 million in construction already planned for the airport.

A KEROSENE-BURNING, Freon-powered automobile will be produced by the Nissan Motor Company of Japan, maker of the Datsun. Wallace Minto, inventor of the engine, announced the company's plans to use his steam-engine-like motor in some 1972 production models. The engine gets 25 to 30 miles per gallon and produces a breathable exhaust, according to the inventor. According to the Bureau of National Affairs, he also estimates that his engine will last as long as 50 conventional internal combustion engines.

PRODUCTION OF PESTICIDES and related products fell 7.4 percent in 1968, according to Chemical and Engineering News (September 7). Herbicide sales rose slightly in dollars, but volume of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides all declined. DDT sales fell by 11.0 percent to an annual production of 33 million pounds last year. Still awaiting for...

THOUSANDS OF SHARKS have been dying mysteriously in San Francisco Bay, according to Ken Castle writing in the Bayward, California Daily Review. The strange deaths

began in 1967 when 722 sharks and rays were found on the beach over a two-month period. The unusual occurrences have continued ever since with the sharks apparently beaching themselves as though to commit suicide. Studies which revealed high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the livers of the fish, as well as high levels of DDT in their tissues, have been discontinued by the Federal Water Quality Administration because of higher priorities. However, the studies are expected to be continued soon. No real clue has yet been found to the shark deaths.

AN ATHENA ROCKET carrying a payload of radioactive cobalt crashed into a Mexican meadow in July, gouging out a radioactive trench 50 feet long, 17 feet wide, and 10 feet deep. According to the New York Times (August 4), Defense Department officials said that the rocket carried minute quantities of cobalt sealed in the nose cone "for research purposes." The rocket was launched from White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico.

THE TASMANIAN SEWAGE system is being damaged by pantyhose, according to the Associated Press (August 19). Once in the sewage system, the garments wrap around pump bearings, bringing the system to a standstill. Because as few as three pairs can stop a pump, the Hobart Tasmania Municipal Council has issued an appeal to women: "Please don't flush your pantyhose down lavatories."

IN VERMONT, vehicles with non-polluting engines will have to pay a higher registration fee than those with conventional engines. The rate for a nonpolluting engine, using methanol, is one-and-three-quarters times the normal fee, or \$34 more a year, for example. The state's Motor Vehicle Department told Spectrum that the extra fee was originally meant to cover diesel-fueled vehicles whose owners avoided paying state gasoline tax.

— John Polistac