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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

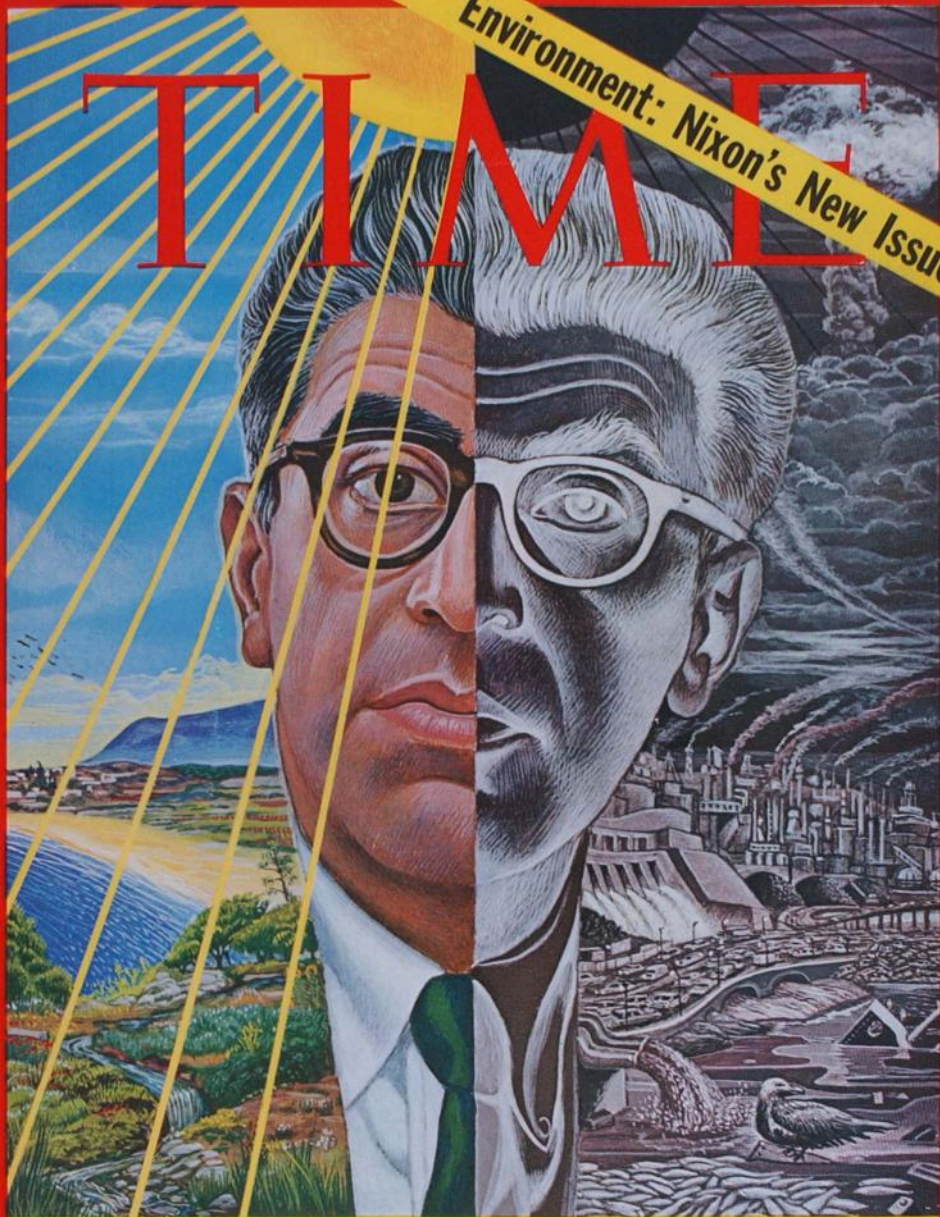
Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

FIFTY CENTS

FEBRUARY 2, 1970

Environment: Nixon's New Issue

TIME



ECOLOGIST BARRY COMMONER
The Emerging Science of Survival

make the earth disappear?



it will breed itself out of existence. Unquestionably, Ehrlich's warnings about overpopulation must be listened to and acted upon.

But you can quarrel with Ehrlich's basic attitude. He irritates by always assuming the worst. His method is to take existing trends and extrapolate them into disaster. But extrapolating existing trends leads to such absurdities as the huge tractors with stubby wings that the Victorians pictured as the flying machines of the future. There is always the unexpected—but for Ehrlich, only the adverse unexpected events of the future are real; optimistic developments are shrugged away.

We already seem to have an instance of the unexpected saving us from disaster. In *Seeds of Change*, Lester R. Brown described without emotion how the development of new high-yield species of rice and wheat plants have staved off disaster in the underdeveloped world. This is the "green revolution," and it has turned previous importers of grain into exporters.

Brown's attitude is the most valuable contribution in the book. He isn't saying that the world has been saved. He shows how the special needs of the green revolution are pulling peasants into the twentieth century, fostering new industries and forcing improvements in transportation in India and elsewhere. But he sees the other side of the coin. The world's markets are unready to cope with the new grain-exporting countries. The young people in those countries can now be fed, but finding

and technology until now must be changed. The first principle of the scientist has been a disinterested hunt for truth (or facts), with no regard for what his findings might be used for. That was all right when science was a small, private enterprise, Dubos says. Now that science affects the entire world, the scientist must think carefully about the consequences of his research. He must work for the best interests of humanity, not just to satisfy his curiosity. In short, the rules of the game must be changed.

It is imperative for Dubos's proposal to be adopted. It is even more imperative for the same ideas to be applied to technology, the offspring of science. For, to come to the root of the matter, all our problems are caused by science and technology run wild. Forget for a moment the problems of nature—the vanishing wilderness, the species killed by DDT, the poisoned rivers. Consider the cities, which should be the flower of technological civilization. What has technology created?

The cities cannot dispose of their garbage and sewage. They cannot transport people in comfort or guarantee safety on the streets. They cannot evacuate a large number of their children properly. The health care system is inefficient and costs too much to run. Even the suburbs, the last refuge of the frightened middle class, are feeling the pressure of technology's failure.

Technology has failed us because we let it run wild. Instead of following human logic, we have followed technological logic. If something could be done, we have done it without considering the human consequences. We need a basic change of attitude. The engineers must start thinking about the human uses of technology—giving the greatest benefit to the greatest number, not creating the biggest machine for its own sake. The rest of us need an equally basic change of attitude, toward the objects of everyday life. Here is one example of what must be done:

In the past few years, most middle-class Americans have become accustomed to air conditioning, at home and at work, now even in automobiles. Air conditioning is an avid consumer of electric power, and all power pollutes, either by adding to air pollution or by disrupting a wild area or by adding too much heat to water. The people who protest today about pollution do so

It is useless to double our consumption of electric power every ten years and demand less pollution. The only real solution is to use less of everything—really, everything. And that, of course, is an economic disaster.

We are now going through a period when people use less of everything, unwillingly. It is called a recession, and it bothers the president of the United States, the heads of our corporations, and businessmen everywhere. Our government, having eagerly reduced consumption temporarily for its own purposes, now promises that economic growth will resume soon. At the same time, the government calls for a war on pollution.

The only real war on pollution is a permanent recession. By every standard of present economic thinking, that is an inconceivable situation. So the economists and the businessmen have to change their attitudes, too. The inconceivable must become conceivable.

It isn't possible. When we think about recession, we think of people who suffer—the poor, the unemployed. Actually, for those who are still making money, a recession can be enjoyable. People with jobs during the Great Depression found that prices were stable, accommodations were easy to find, help was polite and—perhaps most important—a feeling of community was created. Anyone seeing the movies of the 1930s must be struck by the way people stuck together.

It may have been a myth, but it is preferable to the present national attitude, compounded of equal quantities of greed and fear. Everyone wants more of those useless items that advertising has foisted on us, and everyone is afraid of losing something to a minority group. The United States has an unpleasant character right now. In comparison, a permanent recession doesn't look too bad.

When we have curbed our desires for gadgets, one final, vital adjustment of attitudes has to be made. We must stop regarding the earth as an object to be used. We must settle back into our original status, from which we were shocked by technology: a part of nature, vulnerable, with all the other parts, to undue upsets.

That means giving up short-term profits, some of them surprisingly essential. For example, one reason for the growth in agricultural output has been a trend away from smaller farms raising a variety of crops to larger

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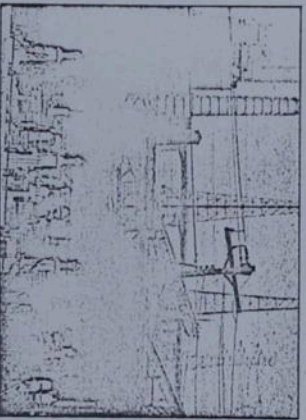
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVOLUTION: A Guide for the New Masters of the World. By Max Nicholson. Illustrated. McGraw-Hill \$66 pp. \$10.

CONSERVATION: Now or Never. By Nicholas Roosevelt. Dodd, Mead 238 pp. \$5.95.

POPULATION, RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT: Issues

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That means giving up short-term profits, some of them surprisingly essential. For example, one reason for the growth in agricultural output has been a trend away from smaller farms raising a variety of crops to huge "monoculture" factories of the land. Instead of roaming free, cattle are raised in feed lots, where they gain weight quickly and predictably. Instead of raising a dozen sheep inefficiently, a farm now raises one crop only with high productivity.

But when cattle roam, their dung is valuable fertilizer. Panned in feed lots, their dung is a phosphate-rich pollutant, flushed into rivers that begin to die from excessive growth of algae. When a farm raises a single crop, it is highly vulnerable to insects—which means a heavy campaign on pesticides and a large risk of losing much of the crop to a single pest.

That kind of thing must stop—not immediately, because revolutions don't happen immediately, but in the near future. Unless we accept this kind of revolution willingly, we will have another, more unpleasant sort of revolution: nature in revolt against our excesses. In the short run, revolution doesn't pay. In the long run, it is the only thing that can save the human race. We had better begin soon.

In Human Ecology. By Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich. Freeman, 383 pp. \$3.95.

SEEDS OF CHANGE: The Green Revolution and Development in the 1970's. By Lester R. Brown. Praeger, 205 pp. \$6.95; paperback, \$2.50.

REASON AWAKE: Science for Man. By René Dubos. Columbia University Press, 220 pp. \$6.95; paperback, \$2.95.

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THE POLITICS OF POLLUTION. By J. Clarence Davies III. Pergam, 231 pp. \$5.

AMERICA'S CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. Edited by Roger Revelle and Hans H. Landsberg. Illustrated. Hough-

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ton Millin, 314 pp. \$6.95.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: Man's Struggle to Live with Himself. Edited by Harold W. Helfrich Jr. Yale Univ. Press, 187 pp. \$1.50; paperback, \$1.95.

CHALLENGE FOR SURVIVAL: Land, Air, and Water for Man in Megalopolis. Edited by Pierre Danereau with the assistance of Virginia A. Wendock. Columbia University

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK. Edited by Garrett

**GUIDELINES FOR
CITIZEN ACTION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**



ENACT

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104**

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Environmental Action for Survival

By Edward Edelson

Despite Earth Day, the television specials, the magazine articles and all the books, most Americans still have not begun to understand what the ecological crisis is all about. Most of them never will. On the surface, it appears to be just the latest of a long string of crusades dominated by the recent young: equal rights for blacks, end the war in Vietnam, unionize the farm workers, clean the air, ban DDT, rid the rivers of pollution.

But the ecological crisis is more than just another crusade. It is the ultimate challenge to the Western technological civilization that has conquered the world in little more than a century. Something has gone seriously wrong with that civilization and its technology. Stripping away its excrescences, the ecology movement is an effort to define what has gone wrong and what must be done to make the world livable.

But too many of the books now flooding the market fail to strip away the excrescences. It is too easy to write about the surface facts and leave the root of the problem untouched. And that causes a paradox in any assessment of the new books about ecology.

Those books can be conveniently classified in two groups, angry and calm. The angry books usually are written by, and aimed at, the young. The calm books are written by people who have long experience in the field and are intended for reflective elders. The angry books tend to be full of factual errors and misinterpretations of fact, and usually are dominated by a messianic outlook that sometimes borders on paranoia. The calm books are factually reliable and reasonable in tone. Nevertheless, in spite of their faults, the angry books are as valuable as the calm books. That is because the calm books have faults that are less obvious but equally critical.

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America's Changing Environment, edited by Roger Revelle and Hans H. Landsberg, which is the recent environment issue of *Daedalus* with several new chapters added; and *Politics and Environment*, edited by Walt Anderson. The other three are *The Environmental Crisis*, edited by Harold W. Helfrich Jr., *Challenge for Survival*, edited by Pierre Dansereau, and *This Little Planet*, edited by Michael Hamilton. A reader who went through all five would find surprisingly little overlap—which is one vivid demonstration of the complexity of the environmental problem; it literally takes in everything in the world.

Each volume has its high points. To name just one for each book: In the Revelle volume it is Azriel Teller's cold-eyed analysis of air pollution abatement efforts; in the Anderson book, the discussion by F. Fraser Darling and Noel D. Eichhorn of our confused national parks policy; in the Dansereau book, Frank E. Egler's essay on the rural and suburban landscape, in which he denounces the American lawn as "largely a sick environment, kept alive by sprays, sprays and more sprays," and adds a highly provocative and delightful set of challenges to almost anyone in sight, including conservationists; in the Hamilton book, Clarence J. Glacken's historical review, in which he gives full credit to George P. Marsh, a forgotten American who warned about man's effects on the planet in 1864; and in the Helfrich book, Georg Borgstrom's murderous analysis of the prospects of food from the sea for all.

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dents? One hopes not. One hopes that unreason will work where reason has failed.

There are precedents: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* for one. In a very real sense, it was an unreasonable book, challenging accepted principles and often giving a one-sided picture. But it got things done; more than any other book, it sounded the alarm. A new volume, Frank Graham Jr.'s *Since Silent Spring*, describes in utterly admiring tones Rachel Carson and her work, before and since her death. Miss Carson was a unique combination of poet and scientist. Her achievement towers over all other efforts to save the environment. Perhaps we need more poetry and less reasonableness. Graham's book, an essential sequel to *Silent Spring* for anyone concerned about pesticides, shows how controlled indignation can tip a balance in the right direction.

Two other recent books demonstrate the same combination of poetry and wisdom. One is *A Different Kind of Country* by Raymond F. Dasmann, who is concerned with the preservation of wilderness—not just open land, but real wilderness, untouched by man. It is almost all gone now, but Dasmann regards the few small patches of wilderness that remain as essential for preserving the human spirit. But in addition to his concern, he knows things; he has been to the wilderness, he knows what is needed to preserve it, and how man can subtly destroy even when intending to preserve.

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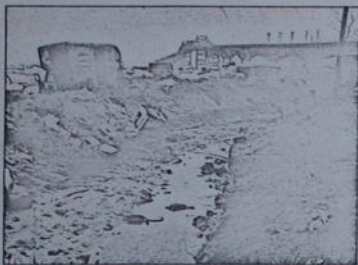
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SEEDS OF CHANGE: The Green Revolution and Development in the 1970's. By Lester R. Brown. Praeger. 205 pp. \$6.95; paperbound, \$2.50.

REASON AWAKE: Science for Man. By René Dubos. Columbia University Press. 280 pp. \$6.95; paperbound, \$2.95.

It is useless to double our consumption of electric power every ten years and demand less pollution. The only real solution is to use less of everything—really, everything. And that, of course, is an economic disaster. We are now going through a period when people use less of everything, unwillingly. It is called a recession, and it bothers the president of the United States, the heads of our corporations, and businessmen everywhere. Our government, having gingerly reduced consumption temporarily for its own purposes, now promises that economic growth will resume soon. At the same time, the government calls for a war on pollution.

The only real war on pollution is a permanent recession. By every standard of present economic thinking, that is an inconceivable situation. So the economists and the businessmen have to change their attitudes, too. The inconceivable must become conceivable.

It isn't possible. When we think about recession, we think of people who suffer—the poor, the unemployed. Actually, for those who are still making money, a recession can be enjoyable. People with jobs during the Great Depression found that prices were stable, accommodations were easy to find, help was polite and—perhaps most important—a feeling of community was created. Anyone seeing the movies of the 1930s must be struck by the way people stuck together.

It may have been a myth, but it is preferable to the present national attitude, compounded of equal quantities of greed and fear. Everyone wants more of these useless items that advertising has foisted on us, and everyone is afraid of losing something to a minority group. The United States has an unpleasant character right now. In comparison, a permanent recession doesn't look too bad.

When we have curbed our desires for gadgets, one final, vital adjustment of attitudes has to be made. We must stop regarding the earth as an object to be used. We must settle back into our original status, from which we were shocked by technology: a part of nature, vulnerable, with all the other parts, to undue upsets.

That means giving up short-term profits, some of them surprisingly essential. For example, one reason for the growth in agricultural output has been a trend away from smaller farms raising a variety of crops to huge "monoculture" factories of the land. Instead of roaming free, cattle are raised in feed lots, where they gain weight quickly and predictably. Instead of raising a dozen crops inefficiently, a farm now raises one crop only, with high productivity.

But when cattle roam, their dung is valuable fertilizer. Panned in feed lots, their dung is a phosphate-rich pollutant, flushed into rivers that begin to die from excess growth of algae. When a farm raises a single crop, it is highly vulnerable to insects—which means a heavy emphasis on pesticides and a large risk of losing much of the crop to a single pest.

That kind of thing must stop—not immediately, because revolutions don't happen immediately, but in the near future. Unless we accept this kind of revolution willingly, we will have another, more unpleasant sort of revolution: nature in revolt against our excesses. In the short run, revolution doesn't pay. In the long run, it is the only thing that can save the human race. We had better begin soon.

de Bell. Ballantine. 365 pp. \$9.95.

POLITICS AND ENVIRONMENT. Edited by Walt Anderson. Goodyear. 362 pp. \$7.95.

SINCE SILENT SPRING. By Frank Graham Jr. Houghton Mifflin. 333 pp. \$6.95.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COUNTRY. By Raymond F. Dasmann. Collier. 276 pp. \$1.95.

The Morton Arboretum • Route 53 • Lisle, Illinois

Program of
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - FALL, 1970



PLANT TREES

RICHARD WASON, Head of Education Telephone WOODLAND 9-5682

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advance registration is necessary to insure a place in most classes. You may hold a place temporarily by calling 969-5682, but registration is not confirmed until payment of fees (where applicable) is made. Unconfirmed reservations will not be held beyond the sixth working day preceeding the start of the course. Registration for activities described in this announcement begins 9 a.m. on August 31, 1970, and no registering will be done before that date. Checks should be made payable to the Morton Arboretum, and sent to the Registrar, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois 60532.

Those registered for courses given at The Outpost should use the parking area north-west of the building, reached by way of the Park Boulevard entrance to the Arboretum. Those attending activities at the Arboretum Center Building will enter by way of the East Entrance (from Route 53) and park in one of the lots to the north of that building.

FALL COURSES

N1F An Introduction to Nature 10 Wednesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, beginning September 16.

The autumn phase of our beginner's course in the natural history of Chicagoland includes an introduction to fall wildflowers, broad-leaved trees, surface geology, insects, and "lower" plants. Part of each session will be spent outside. Wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

Leader: Richard Wason. Fee: \$10.00. Place: The Outpost.

N4 Beginning Bird Study 8 Tuesday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., beginning September 15.

Besides learning to identify approximately 40 common birds, students in this class will be instructed in the structure, habits and conservation of native birds. Each day's work will include an outdoor observation period followed by a classroom session. Wear appropriate field clothing, and, if possible, bring binoculars and a field guide.

Leader: Alice Perkins. Fee: \$8.00. Place: The Outpost.

N20 Ecology and Identification of Lower Cryptogams 8 Tuesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, beginning September 15, plus two all-day field trips on October 20 and November 10.

This course will include work in the laboratory and in the field, acquainting the student with the ecology and diversity of lichens, mosses, and liverworts.

Leader: Patricia Armstrong. Fee: \$10.00. Place: The Arboretum Center.

There is a world Environmental Crisis of a nature and seriousness ~~which~~ ^{which} it is time to say that most people ~~don't~~ ^{don't} have ~~no~~ ^{no} conception. However, ^{it is} ~~it is~~ ^{thousands} ~~now~~ ^{now} that it has one person out of every fifty thousand ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~person~~ ^{person} thinks he has ~~has~~ ^{has} a clear conception of it, and ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{working} ~~working~~ ^{or} ~~or~~ ^{lecturing} ~~lecturing~~ ^{about} ~~about~~ ^{it} ~~it~~. But this is not enough to give any concerned man or woman or youth a feeling of security ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world} will be ~~replaced~~ ^{replaced} before the catastrophe it threatens. No matter how strongly you may hold the belief ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~belief~~ ~~that~~ ~~history~~ ~~has~~ ~~taken~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~that~~ ~~was~~ ~~dictated~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~thoughts~~ ~~and~~ ~~habits~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~few~~ ~~outstanding~~ ~~individuals~~ - Alexander, Julius Caesar, ^{Christ,} Columbus, Luther, Napoleon, Bismarck, Churchill, and we must have valued the principles involved may be, the present crisis is ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~different~~ ~~order~~ ~~and~~ ~~of~~ ~~immagnitude~~ ~~from~~ ~~any~~ ~~previous~~ ~~human~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~affairs~~, and it

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resolution ~~is~~ is going to require not
only the greatest effort can be brought by mankind
but the largest number of people, in fact, all the people of the world.
in the interest of the crisis (as a crisis of crises) and
for the extreme urgency of immediate
action toward resolution, I refer you to

John Platt's What must we do. (Science 166,
1115-1121. Nov. 26, 1969) If after reading
this paper you can have any truly carefree
moments ^{again} your responsibilities are infinitely done.
With regard to the vital importance of everyone's
becoming fully informed to the limit of his
capacity I refer you to numerous places
in the works of Bertrand Russell, when
he pleads with the reader that he asks
nothing of him except to learn the facts
and then to use his reason to judge his
actions.

As I have said, we now have several

who know at least the main themes
of the issue. It would be just as
to hope they would collapse - and a
selection of them would be made to lead us -
hopefully in the
U.S. at least, ~~hopefully~~ by democratic
processes. But these cannot be expected
to function effectively if the electorate
using them fails to be fully informed on
the pertinent ^{issues} and seriously concerned
that actions to resolve the crisis be
undertaken in time.

It is my belief that every institution -
every college & university, every school,
every library, every church, every botanical
garden and arboretum, every museum, every
broadcasting station, ^{even} every airline, etc.,
etc., must immediately lend & put his
effort to keeping the electorate fully informed
and wholly concerned about the ~~issue~~
~~issue~~ ^{issue} which dominates all that has been

part to date, still threaten ^{us} with a ^{total} ^{collapse} ^{of} ^{the} ^{system} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{next} ^{2, 1, 10 or 20 years, depending,}
upon unknown factors.

Life and business are not as usual,
and probably never will be for those who
sincerely feel abhorrence. I contend that the
false front of 'life as usual' presented
~~is almost complete~~ to those who visit
the Market Laboratory must be ~~replaced~~ ^{replaced}
~~with a far~~ ^{with} a full scale operation
to remind everyone who enters its gates,
or even passes ^{along} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~road~~ ^{road} (the
Tollway and Route 53) that there is an
earth quake, that it is desperate, and
that it is going to take ^{action on the part of} ~~everybody~~ ^{everybody}
to recollect, I want you that no one
in America should be permitted to forget
for so long as 24 hours, the perils
^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~un~~ ^{un} ~~parliament~~ ^{parliament} ~~has~~ ^{has}

own individual action. The Abstracts

Additional action

- 1) Signs in Washroom about paper towels & light.
- 2) Automatic closing faucets
- 3) Requests to walk instead of to drive
Rearrange traffic so that return
is possible without a full
circuit.
- 4) General Environment Program.
ALWAYS on front desk
free soap for minimum 10.
- 5) Always some Environment paper bags
for sale.
- 6) Always Environment movies scheduled
to the extent we can display them in.
- 7) Car stickers for sale
- 8) Petitions for signing.

- 9) A weekly (or bi-weekly) front desk sign
on urgency of writing to X Y Z
incl. TV & FM programs.
- 10) Signs - signs - signs to alert
everyone who comes near or in
the Arboretum that it is causing
the Env. C. as its #1 business
- 11) A roster of those who will speak
on what, where & when.
- 12) A constant exhibit in the north
wing of Cushing Hall, changed
monthly, with a weekly ~~theme~~
involvement there, incl. recommended
books to be borrowed for the
library (then weekly job books)
- 13) A constant exhibit (not cluttered)
in an Encum. Corner of the
Lab - topical, timely

14) School film programs that
teachers can schedule and
feel free to have their pupils see

without going through authority.

15) Advise use of leadership Hall
for evening groups working to
deserve E.C. — and offer
the services of a moderator

16) Sponsor an (at least daily
announcement over TV and/or
FM about E.C. + M.A.'s
activities regarding it.

17) Print & distribute some more
capital letter folders — two
lines about: pop., ecology, water
air, nuclear energy, pollution
generally etc, etc, etc

(18) Always a lead sheet at R +
W gates in front of Mth
cabinets & giving El. recs.
with a prominent notation

(19)

How You Can Help.

1. Park at the first parking area
and walk instead of riding.
Then return by the short
route shown below
2. Don't waste our water
at the drinking fountains
in the washrooms.
3. Dry your hands with one
paper towel instead of 2 to
save on all of us have
become used to. On towel
will do — so long as you're here!

- 19) Pirbun, Pirbun, Pichun,
+ graph
+ maps
+ missing models (every second
another - - -)
- 20) Stop wasting electricity.

Please save paper - usually one
paper towel will dry your hands.

Half a century ago
when Toy Morton founded the Arboretum
← he chose an ^{oak} tree as its
symbol, and 'Plant Trees' as its
motto. Even so long ago was it
necessary to remind visitors that
European man in the United States
had already destroyed the tens of
thousands ^{of square miles} of white pine from
Maine to Minnesota and southward
through Pennsylvania. Today the
founder would have to go much
further and ^{we must lose} 'Plant Trees':
'Save every
possible tree'. In ^{now} ~~today~~



