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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.

Madison

20 May 1972,

To my dear friend and careful
Shepherd - with love,

and affection,
and many
thanks

Shepherds Leading Sheep to Slaughter

The Biology Teacher and Man's Mad and Final War on Nature

from Hugh

By HUGH H. ILTIS

• First part of a two-part article. The extensive references, including those cited here, will appear with the remaining text, in April. At that time, too, the significance of the italic line in the title will be more strongly apparent.

Walking the crowded streets of Chicago on the first morning of the NABT convention, I picked one of Mayor Daley's plastic flowers and wished for a few real ones. I also wished for fewer people and cars. After all, the topic of my address to the convention, and one of the main concerns of NABT, as it ought to be for all men, was the people-environment equation. And there is no better place in the world to perceive the staggering imbalance so typical of modern civilization than downtown Chicago.

I was reminded of a comment by Marston Bates (1955), to this effect: Human population growth is like cancer. The yearly annual increase is now about

70 million, or 6 million a month—the equivalent of the population of Chicago. And whatever one may think of Chicago, a new one every month seems a little excessive.

Excessive, too, is the general unawareness of the significance of all the environmental turmoil: the popular view that, on the one hand, man can somehow adapt to pollution and crowding and, on the other hand, that he can solve his environmental problems solely by relying on technologic advances.

In a cartoon in *Look* magazine (Flagler, 1971) two businessmen are walking down Fifth Avenue with their attaché cases; one is saying to the other: "The way I look at it, there's a price tag on everything. You want a high standard of living, you settle for a low quality of life." The irony here may not be lost on you, but it seems to have been missed by many economists and sociologists. Indeed, even Phillip Hauser, the eminent demographer at the University of Chicago, seems to see nothing particularly incongruous about giving up a biologically rich and humanly decent environment for one with increased urbanization and all that that implies—and using almost the identical language of that cartoon to do so! He said, in an interview:

The romantic nostalgia that some town and country planners have espoused is utter nonsense. Ferdinand the Bull sitting under the trees and smelling the pretty flowers just won't work in the modern world of the present or the future. This could be accomplished only at the expense of lower productivity and lower levels of living. (Hess, 1971)

But the problem of man and nature cannot be so cavalierly and sarcastically dismissed. Like so many

This paper is adapted from the keynote address to the annual convention of the National Association of Biology Teachers, 14 October 1971, in Chicago. Hugh H. Iltis is professor of botany and director of the herbarium, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706. A 1948 graduate of the University of Tennessee, he did graduate work at Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden (M.A. 1950, Ph.D. 1952). He has taught at Wisconsin since 1955. Iltis's field work has taken him to Costa Rica, Mexico (maize studies), Hawaii, and Peru (potato studies). His special interests are biogeography, evolution, and the preservation of biotic communities. A devotee of back-packing and camping, with a deep concern for the "optimum human environment and human adaptations, especially as they relate to children and the family," he has been active in Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and other preservation groups.



SHEPHERD LEADING SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER:
The biology teacher and the mad and final war on nature.

Hugh H. Iltis
(University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Walking the crowded streets of Chicago on the morning of the NABT convention, I picked one of Mayor Daley's plastic flowers and wished for a few more real ones, and a few less people and cars. For after all, my topic today - and one of the main concerns of your association, as it ought to be for all men - is the people-environmental equation. And there is no better place in the world to perceive the staggering imbalance so typical of modern civilization than downtown Chicago.

I was reminded of Marston Bates' (1955) comment, paraphrased here, that

Human population growth is like cancer. The yearly annual increase is now about 70 million a year, 6 million a month - the equivalent of the population of Chicago. And whatever one may think of Chicago, a new one every month seems a little excessive.

Excessive too, is the general unawareness of the significance of all the environmental turmoil - the popular view that on the one hand man can, in fact, adapt to pollution and crowding and on the other solve his environmental problems solely by relying upon technological

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