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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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN, U. S. A. 53706

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BIRGE HALL  
TELEPHONE NO. 408-282-1037

April 28, 1972

Dr. Richard D. Hull, Chairman  
Society of American Foresters  
Wisconsin-Michigan Section  
Milwaukee Chapter  
5719 West Fountain Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Dear Mr. Hull:

Thank you for your letter of March 23 regarding what you consider my controversial appearance before the Society of American Foresters in Milwaukee on March 17, 1972. I am sorry that you feel sensitive regarding my presentation. My assignment, as I understood it, was to shake the forestry industry out of its production-oriented, profit-motivated board-foot per acre intellectual ruts. That these ruts are deep indeed need not be repeated. In my comments I obviously hit upon many sensitive issues. If, then, the shoe does fit, do not object to put it on.

First of all, I do not believe that Mr. Amidon (of whom I had never heard before this meeting) misunderstood my comments. They were not particularly personal attacks on him but clearly were intended as criticisms of the big lumber corporations, especially his own, Boise-Cascade, which he represents as vice-president. Mr. Amidon seemed perfectly capable of taking care of himself and of receiving, what are, in my opinion, well-deserved criticisms of the big lumber industry. We discussed these matters in the lobby after the lecture, and at that time I offered to him whatever personal apologies might be necessary. On the other hand, Mr. Amidon's own presentation was full of self-serving, snide and misleading remarks about organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, the very organizations to which, in fact, we owe the recent initiation of basic changes in the political, economic, and environmental climate which this country and the world so desperately needs. I personally feel that Mr. Amidon does not have very great commitments to changing the malpractices of the forestry industry nor of his own company, except when forced to do so under political-environmental pressure. The Boise-Cascade Corporation may feel satisfied in using land subdivisions to bail itself out of financial trouble due to growth and profit megalomania, but this is still no excuse to swindle the American public with irresponsible albeit elegant advertisements. The court suits out West, with levies of over

a million dollars in fines and reimbursements on Boise-Cascade land development schemes, speak for themselves.\*

You ask me to apologize to Mr. Amidon. For my criticism of what he said in his speech, never! His whole speech was a plea to allow short-term forest exploitation without an intelligent thought towards long-term responsibilities. He came through clearly as a defender of special privilege, of the rich, of the stockowners, of the developers who use the "commons" of nature to make money out of the outright destruction of the ecosystems, methods which his company, under the ideological likes of him, have perfected to the high levels of 20th century capitalistic exploitation.

He cites the Ralph Nader-like environmental rectitude of the Sierra Club, and instead of praising it, instead of charging his audience with "go and clear cut no more" -"preserve all that is sacred and irreplaceable" directives, he did just the opposite.

Apologize for attacking environmental fossil doctrines? Apologize for attacking the statements of a man who could have led his audience into the socially-responsible directions forestry soon must go, but who instead repeated the same old profit-motivated cliches? No thank you! The likes of him are out of date. An ecologically New World is coming in which "Mr. Boise-Cascade" will more often get the ridicule he so richly deserves.

All environmentally myopic corporations must be restructured, and, if not amenable to peaceful change, disenfranchised. Apologize to Mr. Amidon - for speaking in favor of self preservation of man through the widespread preservation of nature, including forests? Of preserving more nature for my grandchildren (and for Mr. Amidon's) and opposing its obliteration by Mr. Amidon's deceptive corporation?

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\* Newsweek, March 13, 1972 pages 81-82: "Boise's appetite for ever-increasing earnings was difficult to sate, and in 1967, that demand led the company into the burgeoning recreational-land-development business. And then the trouble began. "A drug addict will do anything to get his fix," says one analyst of the company. "Boise needed earnings, so they went into land development... - they had to raise money to support their habit."

"But nothing has shaken Boise's recreational-land business and marred the company's reputation quite so much as a suit filed last October by California's attorney general. In it, he charges four Boise subdivisions with "false and misleading representations" about the investment potential of lots they had sold. If the charges stick, Boise may be penalized \$2,500 for each misrepresentation, forced to pay \$1 million in punitive damages and ordered to reimburse each land purchaser. But great damage has already been done; since the suit, the activities of the company's recreational-communities group has practically halted. All told, the group - once considered "the great earnings faucet in the sky," according to one Boise executive-accounted for nearly all of last year's \$74 million realty loss".

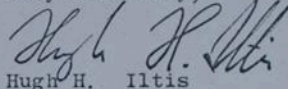
That the stench which pollutes the reputation of Boise-Cascade has now reached the courts (see above quotes from Newsweek) is indeed a harsh indictment to substantiate the accusations that the big American lumber companies are untruthful, careless and venal in their approach to the irreplaceable values of the American environment, which I, and many others, such as the members of the Sierra Club, wish to save for future generations.

The game the world is in today is not a game of tic-tac-toe. If American capitalism plays rotten and dirty with the environment, it has little right to object to being put in the limelight for it. I was invited by the Society of American Foresters to keynote its meeting and to talk to its highly trained professional membership about forestry in an ecological-political setting. A very large number of its members quite clearly understood both substance and spirit of my remarks and thanked me with fervor. Some 50 people talked to me afterward, many with appreciation for what I had said, sentiments which they themselves admitted they could not freely express in their employment positions. You, of course, did not hear me speak, hence your impressions are but second-hand.

In conclusion, it is worth remembering that there is no way that a plant systematist or ecologist can discuss and criticize the life and death environmental issues of this sorry age, especially those of a profession with legendary ambivalence towards long-range environmental protection, and one so often with brazenly "cut and get out" philosophies, without strong feelings and emotion. For you to dismiss emotion as unscientific misses the point. Fact without emotion is impotence. And emotional or not, the truth is what matters. And trained professionals, such as those of the S.A.F., know full-well that the issues are indeed highly charged and real! I trust that all of those that did not understand the spirit in which I presented my remarks, namely to show forestry the way for responsible, long-range land use in the decades to come, will go and contemplate their navels of social responsibility. It will be none too soon.

Thank you again for the honor to have had the chance to address this most influential group.

Very sincerely,



Hugh H. Iltis  
Professor of Botany  
Director of the Herbarium

## Conflicts At Milwaukee

The theme of the Winter Section Meeting held during March in Milwaukee was "Conflicts in the 70's." This theme proved to be very descriptive as considerable controversy and discussion followed two of the presentations. These were addressed by Mr. George Amidon, Asst. to Vice-President, Boise-Cascade Corporation and Dr. Hugh Iltis, Professor of Botany, University of Wisconsin. Following the meeting letters were exchanged between Mr. Richard Hull, Milwaukee Chapter Chairman, and Dr. Iltis. These letters are reproduced here for the benefit of the section membership.

Dear Dr. Iltis:

We appreciate your taking time to speak to the members of the Wisconsin-Michigan Section of the SAF. However, in all honesty, we do not understand why you chose the particular method of presenting your thoughts.

Because of a commitment with Mr. Meadows to appear on a local television show, I heard only the first few minutes of your speech. Upon returning, I was quite surprised to hear everyone talking, not about the concerns which you presented, but about the way they were presented. Particular concern was expressed about what appeared to be a personal attack on the previous speaker, Mr. Amidon.

There are a number of people espousing different causes who do it on the basis of emotion with very little scientific foundation. It is especially regretful that you, with a sound scientific foundation apparently failed to win support because of the method of presentation.

All of us know that the blame for the current situation or responsibility for what might happen in the future cannot be assigned to any one individual; to any one industry; or to any one anything else. Your apparent assumption that Mr. Amidon was personally responsible is, of course in error. Your further assumption that all our members support all the policies of industry, Government, and other forest land management components is also in error.

Before leaving the meeting I felt you were being unfair in your presentation. Specifically, in referring to the fact that many forest industries were subdividing and selling some of their lands, you failed to explain the social and economic forces which have led to that situation and which, I am sure, you will agree are the real problem. I'm sure you will also agree that being more efficient is not necessarily contrary to the concept of a steady-state system. No one yet knows the optimum population of our "spaceship." We do know that it is not a very trim ship at the moment. Most of Mr. Amidon's comments on growth referred to improving production from forest lands which is just as important as recycling efforts. You chose to view this as a personal belief by Mr. Amidon in a policy of wholesale and unlimited growth. Primarily, my feeling of unfairness stemmed from the fact that the program did not provide an opportunity for Mr. Amidon to reply.

It is the consensus of our membership that an apology should be offered to Mr. Amidon. We hope you will consider doing so. Since we think your message is important, we would like to provide an opportunity for it to be restated to our members. Consequently, I will try to have your reply to this letter published in our newsletter.

Our treasurer is out of town this week. As soon as he returned, he will send you a check to cover your expenses as discussed with Dick Winslow.

Sincerely,  
RICHARD D. HULL, Chairman

Dear Mr. Hull:

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## Conflicts

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afterward, many with appreciation for what I had said, sentiments which they themselves admitted they could not freely express in their employment positions. You, of course, did not hear me speak, hence your impressions are but second-hand.

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Very truly yours,  
HUGH H. ILTIS,  
Professor of Botany

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Wall Street Journal, May 8, 1972: "A lower court jury here awarded two California land buyers \$43,321 in restitution then slapped the defendants, Boise-Cascade Corp. and two of its subsidiaries, with \$500,000 in punitive damages over that the jury agreed was misrepresentation by a Boise salesman over the sale of certain Northern California land. The verdict still is subject to approval and possible modification by the judge, however."

(Additional quote deleted by editor):

"But nothing has shaken Boise's recreational-land business and marred the company's reputation quite so much as a suit filed last October by California's attorney general. In it, he charges four Boise subdivisions with "false and misleading representations" about the investment potential of lots they had sold. If the charges stick, Boise may be penalized \$2,500 for each misrepresentation, forced to pay \$1 million in punitive damages and ordered to reimburse each land purchaser. But great damage has already been done; since the suit, the activities of the company's recreational - communities group has practically halted. All told, the group - once considered "the great earnings faucet in the sky," according to one Boise executive- accounted for nearly all of last year's \$74 million realty loss".

## Dr. Iltis and The S. A. F.

Richard Winslow

At the recent Wisconsin-Michigan Section Meeting held in Milwaukee on March 16 and 17, the program included an address by Dr. Hugh H. Iltis, Professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, and a leading preservationist. Dr. Iltis's speech was loud, long, and abrasive to the ear, punctuated with exclamations of outraged righteousness and predictions of ecological disaster. Rather than confining his comments to forest land use policies, Iltis's talk covered a wide range of topics, eventually condemning the entire social and economic structure of not only America, but the world. He had something for everyone.

The reactions to Dr. Iltis's speech among the membership present were varied. Some expressed anger at what he said, and anger that he had been given the opportunity to express his controversial views from an S.A.F. platform. Others felt that his message was worth hearing, not because they necessarily agreed with him, but because voices such as his are influential in Madison and with the public. But no one remained unaffected by his words and mannerisms. No one felt asleep during his speech.

What did Dr. Iltis really say to us foresters? Unfortunately, much of any wisdom contained in his speech was buried beneath such an avalanche of verbal exhibitionism that it was obscured. What he did say, however, between all the showmanship, generalizations, catchy phrases and exclamations of horrors, was nothing new. First he referred to us as "stewards" of America's forests. He advocated a multiple use management approach stressing recreational and aesthetic values, and intensive, acre by acre management for forest products on the land designated as "crop" land, utilizing ecologically appropriate tools such as clearcutting and prescribed burning. He condemned the practice of clearcutting on steep slopes, and harvesting in the remaining virgin forest areas because of their importance for research as well as for recreation. He placed

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America's forest resources in the same category as wildlife, belonging to all people, and not subject to the principle of private ownership.

While these subjects are controversial, they are not new to foresters, and many within our profession have taken stronger stands than these. Had Dr. Iltis confined his remarks to forest and land use practices, perhaps there would not have been such a reaction to his speech. But his opinions on forest management when mixed with opinions on the American political process and leadership, including sociological and economic considerations, combined to produce a mixture unpalatable to many.

In addition, Dr. Iltis chose to dehumanize the previous speaker by referred to him as "Mr. Boise Cascade", and attributing to him all the accumulated sins of the forest products industry. Not only was that in poor taste, it was unjust. No responsible person would deny the shortcomings of any institution, public or private, but no person of good will should fail to acknowledge the accomplishments of Boise Cascade with its land use policies of public involvement and its minority enterprise programs. The forest lands of Boise Cascade, and of all forest product companies in the Lake States, are ample evidence of a commitment to the principles of multiple use. It would be no less unjust to label Dr. Iltis as "Mr. University of Wisconsin", as a symbol of only the negative aspects of that institution, drowning out by rhetoric and sweeping generalization all good the University had done. Would Dr. Iltis be willing to accept responsibility and answer for the military research being done on that campus? I doubt it.

Should Dr. Iltis have been given an S.A.F. forum to expound his views? Do we need to subject ourselves to such a polarized position? No, we don't have to listen to men like Iltis, and we don't have to subject ourselves to their opinions, but that is not the issue. The theme of the program was "Conflict, 70's", and dealt with conflicts in land use policies, both public and private. Dr. Iltis, whether we like it or not, is in the center of the conflict. Not only does he have the ear of the public through the press, he has the personal ear of the Governor of Wisconsin. He is in a position to influence land use policy through what he calls direct, political action. Dr. Iltis uses the

methods of the 70's, and none of us can deny his success. To exclude a viewpoint and influence such as his from a discussion of land use conflicts would be to deny the existence of a powerful, organized force that directly affects the practice of day-to-day management. The hard, cold reality of the situation is this: the methods employed by Dr. Iltis, the Sierra Club, or many other preservationist organizations in the pursuit of a goal, are less important than their results. One member of our Society was overheard to say after Iltis's talk that they (certain preservationists) play by different rules than "we" do. They sure do, and anyone exposed to the propaganda issued by preservationist organizations concerning the need for an expanded Redwoods National Park must agree, regardless of whether or not he was pro or con on that issue. But the preservationist forces were successful, and the forest product industries on the West Coast came off the "bad guys".

Dr. Iltis was invited to speak before our Section as an individual who has had an influence on state land use policy. Although we had hopes for more of a considered talk on the shortcomings and merits of modern forest management as viewed by a preservationist and less of an exhibition, his participation was more than justified if he "polarized" our group into realizing the importance of projecting our side of the present land use conflict. We have the message, but, as Dr. Iltis demonstrated, the medium is often more important.