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MAR 28 1970

OFFICE OF
SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION

Route 5
Columbia, Missouri 65201
March 13, 1970

Mr. Denis Hayes
National Coordinator
Environmental Teach-In, Inc.
Room 200
2000 P Street Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Hayes:

I have actively participated in teach-in activities since the first meeting on the University of Missouri campus. As an advisor to the teach-in Speakers Program Committee, and as principal organizer of an ecology program for April 22, I have a "stake" in the teach-in and its objectives.

I suggest that burying automobiles, and activities suggested by your office such as dishonor roles and mass phone-ins may do more harm than good in the struggle to halt industrial pollution problems. We need the help of industrialists in solving environmental problems. Activities on our campus have taken the very logical path of including industrialists on our panels and other programs, recognizing that there are two sides to the problem. The \$2,500 wasted at San Jose State would have financed a very nice experiment or display to publicly show the lethal effects of auto exhaust on living organisms. Such positive action would have much more beneficial effects on public sentiment. After all, is our objective to educate and make people aware of environmental problems, or to make headlines? The two are not necessarily complementary.

One-half of page 2 of Action: April 22, Vol. 1, No. 2 was occupied by an untitled, unsigned plea which started "The rich and powerful are killing all the butterflies..." Where are your data supporting such a plea? I am as strongly opposed to environmental pollutants which affect animals as is anyone in our country, but I like to stick to the facts and present truths. Before it became fashionable and the "in" thing to do, how often did the average young American even look at a butterfly? Your half page would have been much more productively used if you had inserted a quote from Muir or Thoreau which expressed wonder at the beauty of natural things, and gave people a reason to value them.



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I fully support the objectives of the Environmental Teach-In, but I think that some activities have been mis-directed. Present the truth, we biologists can back you up, it really is a bad situation! There is no need to hinder productive efforts with meaningless theatrics.

Sincerely,

Rollin D. Sparrowe
Wildlife Ecologist

RDS:ssc

cc: Congressman Paul McCloskey, Jr.
Senator Gaylor Nelson
Dr. Paul Ehrlich



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