

NOTE TO EDITORS: Growing concern over the persistent problems of pollution and the threat to the nation's resources has reached the point where many scientists have grave reservations about the future of the environment. Senator Nelson believes the crisis will not be resolved until the youth of this country make it known to the established leadership that they deserve a legacy of a livable world. That is why he is planning a teach-in on the Crisis of the Environment to be held on college campuses across the nation this Spring. The Time Magazine article emphasizes the growing national concern and the Milwaukee Journal editorial argues the valid point that youth "are the ones who should be the most concerned."



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Wednesday, October 1, 1969

A Better Earth

Sen. Nelson of Wisconsin has proposed a nationwide college "teach-in" on the first day of spring next year to focus on the great need to protect and conserve the environment. There would be discussions and lectures on the problems and the necessary steps to prevent the irrevocable deterioration of man's surroundings.

It is not a bad idea. There is much to be alarmed about. Smog waters eyes and blisters paint in many major cities. Lake Erie is essentially a dead lake. The same fate could be in store for Lake Michigan. Southeastern Wisconsin regional planners over a year ago announced their pessimism about the chances of stopping the deterioration of the streams of this area for at least two decades.

Then there is the frightening report of Thor Heyerdahl about the condition of the Atlantic ocean during his recent sail on the Ra. He and his crew not only found floating plastic bottles and tubes in the middle of the Atlantic but on five instances ran into large patches of oily particles that smelled like sewage and rotting fish. On one occasion the water was so dirty that the crew would not wash their dishes in it.

Nelson's aim at youth on this issue is right. They are the ones who should be most concerned.

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

OCTOBER 10, 1969

ECOLOGY

America the Befouled

Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson is convinced that the hottest growth stock in U.S. protest is conservation. In fact, Nelson himself is toiling to make the nation's campuses erupt next spring—in a giant, peaceful teach-in about environmental evils. As he has been telling audiences across the country for the past month: "The new generation is not satisfied with coming out on the losing end of man's drive for progress and profit."

Youth is not alone. In Missoula, Mont., for example, housewives outraged by the foul smells from a local pulp plant have organized GASP (Gals Against Smoke and Pollution). Similar groups have used the same acronym in other cities including Washington, where GASP stands for Greater Alliance to Stop Pollution. In Berkeley, a group called Ecology Action has developed a kind of street theater to dramatize pollution protests. To celebrate "Smog-Free Locomotion Day," the members recently took to pogo sticks, stilts, bicycles, unicycles, roller skates—any and every alternative to the internal combustion engine. Later they symbolically buried an auto engine painted black and splattered with mock blood.

Last week the eco-activists staged a "Damn DDT Day" in San Francisco's Union Square. The movement has its own songs including a cutting eco-version of *America the Beautiful*. The lyrics:

*Oh, Cancerous for smoggy skies, for
pesticided grain . . .
Irradiated mountains rise above
an asphalt plain.*

*America, America, thy birds have fled
from thee;
Thy fish lie dead by poisoned streams
from sea to fetid sea . . .*

*America, America, thy sins prepare
thy doom:
Monoxide cloud shall be thy shroud
. . . thy cities be thy tomb.*