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TEACH-IN

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, because of the grave mistakes of their elders, the youth of today face an ugly world of the near future with dangerously and deadly polluted air and water; sprawling, crowded development; festering mounds of debris; and an insufficient amount of open space to get away from it all.

Biologist Barry Commoner, chairman of the St. Louis Committee for Environmental Information, warned recently that:

We don't really know what the long-term effects of various types of environmental deterioration will be, and the kids are the guinea pigs.

Fortunately, the new generation appears not to be content to be the guinea pigs of a society that has lost its sense of priority. One of the most dramatic developments of this decade has been the insistence of our youth that in the last third of the 20th century, the quality of life and of the environment have the same priority as that given national defense and the pursuit of the gross national product.

The concern of our youth is there, and I am convinced that all we need to do to bring an overwhelming insistence of the new generation that we stem the tide of environmental disaster is to present the facts clearly and dramatically.

To marshal such an effort, I am proposing a national teach-in on the crisis of the environment to be held next spring on every university campus across the Nation. The crisis is so imminent, in my opinion, that every university should set aside 1 day in the school year—the same day across the Nation—for the teach-in.

On that day, prominent ecologists, biologists, political scientists, journalists, public officials, and political leaders

could meet with students and faculty in symposiums, convocations, and panel discussions to talk about environmental topics selected by the student body.

Each year, new species of animals are added to the endangered species list. Man in his arrogance appears to think that he can escape that list. He will find, however, that the species man cannot long watch the animals disappear without seeing his own end in sight, too. Man may ironically be the creature that left as his monument a planet nearly as incapable of sustaining life as its barren neighbors in the dead vacuum of the solar system.

In the regard, I ask unanimous consent that a recent editorial in the Milwaukee Journal and a recent article in Time magazine be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial and article were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 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.

[From Time, Oct. 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, they birds have fled
from thee;*

*Thy fish lie dead by poisoned streams
from sea to fetid sea . . .*

*America, America, they sins prepare
they doom:*

*Monoxide cloud shall be they shroud
. . . thy cities be thy tomb.*



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