

Earth, Modern Society Face 'Clear and Present Danger'

BY LOUIS SWANSON

The actions of Earth day and the continued actions of many other groups are aimed at curving the 'clear and present' danger our ecological system is facing. Man lives aboard a space ship which has a limited amount of resources and a very specialized life support system, commonly known as nature. We also live with the belief that man has dominion over nature, and such a belief has led man to take advantage of the forests, oceans, minerals, and air and to use them for his own needs without attempting to correct the imbalance created in the ecological system.

The recent Apollo 13 set back demonstrated the difficulties a life support system can have when vital resources become low. On earth one of the biggest threats to the consumption of vital resources is over population. This includes the effect of over population relative to the food supply and to the consumption of non-renewable goods. Last year it was estimated that 4 1/2 million people died of starvation or of diseases caused by malnutrition, most of these people lived in underdeveloped countries. The U.S. population is the largest consumer in the world, and it by itself is the greatest threat to the biosphere. The U.S. suffers from population (population x consumption = population), it now consumes 40% of the worlds non-renewable goods

and then throws them into its waters and on its highways at a fantastic rate. It took England more than a decade of strict pollution control before the fish were able to return to the Thames, it may take the U.S. even longer. One could quote statistics forever, but one has only to breathe the air in L.A. or swim in the Mississippi to see the danger man has placed the environment in.

Recognizing the solution to the problem is simple, man must learn how to live on a space ship, achieving this solution is almost impossible at this time. Within the present systems of the underdeveloped countries there are indication that attempts are being made to curve the population explosion, however, many scientists fear that these efforts are not in time to escape mass starvation (Est. 50 million people by 1984), and such a condition would present a threat to world peace.

Neither do the Western nations offer effective ways of solving these problems. At its present rate the U.S. will consume 110% of the non-renewable goods by the year 2000. Congress, being a bulkey and slow animal, does not have the internal tools to meet effectively and in time the ecological problems the country faces. Sen Ribicoff echoed this with

the conclusion that private industry will not undertake self-initiative in stopping their portion of pollution, that they must be pushed and pressured into action. However, the biggest problem in the U.S. is not so much the timidness of Congress, as it is a state of mind.

The American seems to identify himself and others by the goods he consumes. The American almost lets money rule to the point where profit is paramount to human needs, ie, Vietnam war in comparison to the poverty that exists in this nation. Man today has not devised a system which will meet the needs required to survive on a space ship, though many of the younger social sciences are struggling to meet the crisis. If conditions are not rectified it is safe to assume that the starving people of the underdeveloped countries will seek continuous revolution in their desperate search for life.

The Western consumer, frustrated by his own pollution and eventual lack of access to new non-renewable goods may also look for a new system. The problems of the ecological system and problems resulting from them represent a clear a present danger to man. Man must use all of his resources and knowledge to go along with maximizing his energy and time to meet this crisis.

THE LANCE

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The Tables Are Turned

Dick Gregory Speaks

It is at once odd and sad that both blacks and whites in America today are just beginning to realize the high price one must pay for the privilege of apathy and silence. History seems to have a way of turning the tables in its repetition, and those who choose to ignore the horrors of one historical era can almost expect to be the victims of the same horror the second time around.

In the black community today, one hears the repeated observation, "It looks like this country is fixin' to practice genocide". That observation merely illustrates that ignorance knows no color distinction. Just go up to the Indian reservation some day and ask my red brother how long this country has been known for its ability to not only practice but enforce genocide. America has always practiced genocide. She is now merely "fixin'" to expand her group. And the sad truth of the matter is that black folks sat by for years and watched this American system oppress and destroy the Indians without raising a voice of outraged protest. If black folks did not protest the system's genocide against the Indian, they can hardly be surprised when the same system becomes openly genocidal against blacks.

One must pay a high price for being silent. Silence is the friend of oppression, and when the silence is broken in the name of justice, the oppressor will always seek to restore it by repression and imprisonment. I imagine there were many good thinking Germans in Germany during the days of Hitler's rise to power, who stood silently by and watched the Nazis have a field day because they were afraid to open their mouths. But one day they looked up in the sky and saw the bombers open up on Berlin. It must have been a terrible realization that not one of those falling bombs was labeled, "For bad Germans only".

White folks in America are just beginning to fully realize the terrible price one must pay for silence. Twenty years ago, when the crime syndicate was restricting its dope pushing activity to black ghettos, black parents cried out to white America, "Please stop those syndicate hoodlums from pushing reefer and heroin to young black kids". But white America looked the other way. Little did white America realize that if it permitted the syndicate hoodlums to push dope to young black kids without fear of reprisal, it would only be a matter of time before the same hoodlums would be pushing dope to young white kids.

Now it is white America's turn to live with the tragic results of an earlier silence. Newspaper editorials and magazine feature stories are finally recognizing the terrible problem of narcotics--now that young white kids are becoming addicted. Some of white America's most prominent families--in government, in the entertainment industry, in high society--have been touched by narcotics addiction. Yet it is odd to notice that narcotics addiction in the black community has decreased during the last decade according to statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A decrease has resulted in spite of the silence and apathy of the white community.

It is also ironic that dope addiction has traditionally been a problem only in the most impoverished black communities. Middle and upper middle income black families, those who benefited from higher education and good jobs, seldom had to worry about their kids being hooked on dope. Black kids who suffered most from addiction were the children of poverty stricken, uneducated black folks.

Now that it is white folks' turn to be plagued by the horrors of dope addiction, it is the children of upper income families who are getting hooked. Young white kids in Appalachia are not turning on and getting high. Odd, isn't it, that when it comes to dope addiction at least white folks' "best" seems to equal black folks' "worst".

When the tables of history turn, those who have been silent cannot seem to comprehend the consequences of their silence. For years, white folks stood by in silent approval as buses were used to transport white kids "and" black kids in the interest of maintaining segregated schools. Now that busing is being used as a strategy to promote school integration, white folks act like black folks "invented" buses.

President Nixon extols the virtues of the silent majority and, in his inaugural address, urged the nation to lower its voice. Vice President Agnew condemns loud voices of protest and Attorney General Mitchell tries to silence them. Daniel Patrick Moynihan urges a policy of 'benign neglect' and a shroud of silence over the race issue.

But if silence does prevail, one cannot help wondering who will prove to be history's ultimate victims.

Profs Plan Six Trips to England

a study of the performance of and attitude toward church music in Great Britain today.

Andean Civilization: "From Pre-Inca to the Present," which will be held in South America by Lee Dubs. The course will be a study of the Andean Civilization with travels throughout Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

David McLean will be taking a group to Mexico to study Meso-American archaeology.

A seminar will be offered in Athens to study the "Golden Age of Greece" by Richard Prust. It will be a study of fifth century B. C. Greek intellectual history through its literature and art.

Roger Decker will take a group to Great Britain to study "British Education and Cultural Change". The students will analyze and appraise the British national system of education.

A study of traditional English, Scottish and Irish folk music and its relation to the history of the British people will be taught by Charles Joyner.

A study of the political structure and culture of the United Kingdom will be led by Neal Bushoven. The main focus of the course will be independent research projects on aspects of British politics.

Gentry Wade will lead a study of the European Economic Community with visits to Washington, D. C.; London; Rome; Bonn; Amsterdam; Brussels; Luxembourg and Paris.

For general information on the international course offerings contact Professor Arthur McDonald.

New Staff Election Under Consideration

BY CHARLES PRATT

It has not been apparent to the student body, but there has arisen very much conflict and confusion within the publication's staff represented on the Quill and Scroll, the literary board on this campus. The conflict resulted from the desire to change the way editors and other paid positions are selected from year to year on the "Lance", the "Lamp and Shield", and the "Cairn". Previously, the Quill and Scroll, made up of the editors and business managers of each publication, had the responsibility of

electing people to these posts.

A new method for selecting the paid positions on each publication has been suggested. The student body would have the right of a public election to determine who will be on each staff on a year to year basis.

As a result of the possibility of a general election, the staff of the "Cairn" decided to withdraw the "Cairn's" membership from the Quill and Scroll and assume the responsibility of selecting staff members through their own organization.

Thus there are three alter-

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