



Excerpts from Remarks of

Richard B. Ogilvie
Governor of Illinois

"Pollution Solution Plot" Program
 Arcola, Illinois — July 29, 1971

Few people appreciate the dimensions of the incredible revolution that has taken place on America's farms in the past quarter century.

It is a chemical revolution, and its impact on life in this century would be difficult to measure. Statistics alone—while only the tip of the iceberg—tell an impressive story.

Approximately the same number of acres were harvested in the United States as in 1910, sixty years ago. Yet the crop yield from those acres was about twice as great last year . . .

While the nation's population was more than doubling, we not only managed to make Americans the best-fed people on earth, but also sent increasing amounts of our farm products overseas—an estimated \$7 billion worth last year alone.

With about 6 per cent of the world's population and its total land area, we produce—according to statistics from the mid-1960's—about 65 percent of its soybeans, 45 per cent of its grain corn, and 30 per cent of its oats and cotton.

With all due respect to the diligent and inventive American farmer, a record like this didn't happen be-

cause he worked twice as hard or had three times better weather than his compatriots in faraway places.

We compiled this remarkable success story because American technology has developed the tools and the chemical agents to maximize the use of our limited supply of productive land . . .

I am here today to call attention to this demonstration, which has been made possible through the combined efforts of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce and the Douglas County Extension Council.

I regard it as an important demonstration—not because it suggests all the answers to the agricultural challenge—but because it tells a story which has been obscured by the growing concern for the environment.

The ecological movement has identified fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides as ominous threats to our precious natural environment.

The dangers do exist. No reasonable man can deny it in the face of substantial scientific evidence. And we can ignore those dangers only at our own peril . . .

But there is a danger from the other side as well—the danger that we may throw out the baby with the bath water.

If this plot of land here suggests anything to us, it is that we cannot afford to return to the farming techniques of a century ago, when the chemicals in use here were unknown.

The skyrocketing demands for food, and our limited supply of fertile land, make any such suggestion unthinkable—and irresponsible.

Editor's Note—

The preceding subject was reported in an article by Stanley Rachesky in the May issue. I hope the picture prints well for it is a graphic example of what would happen to the food supply without pesticides. More of this type of experiment needs desperately to be conducted.



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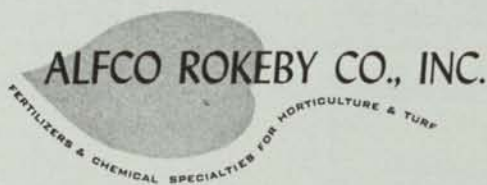
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