

the solution to the pollution problem lies in two areas: Greater legal rights and representation for individuals to sue companies that pollute; and developing an economic set of sanctions which would make it more costly to pollute than not to pollute.

General comments on Nader's speech centered not on what he said, but on the selection of such a broad general speech on pollution to an audience that was expecting criticism focusing on practices within the golf industry. GCSAA officials expressed disappointment over the broadness of Nader's speech. It had been hoped that controversy could have been generated, so that the industry could examine its practices. Regardless of this criticism of Nader's speech, his topic on the general dimensions of environmental pollution cannot be ignored.

Following the keynote speech, the session continued with the theme directed toward environmental problems. One point overemphasized by several speakers in the opening session was their alarm at the path the nation is taking on certain chemicals. One speech empha-

sized too much the relative toxicity of aspirin and alcohol versus chemicals used on the golf course. This type of analogy tells us nothing about the toxicity of chemicals used on the golf course. All chemicals, even table salt, are dangerous if used incorrectly, the speaker concluded. Speakers in the opening session frequently characterized or labeled opponents of the use of chemicals as "instant" ecologists or emotionalists. This labeling muddies the issue. The golf course superintendent, by the very nature of his profession and responsibilities, is an ecologist—or he should be. What the speakers should have done, instead of saying we have nothing to fear from these chemicals if used correctly, is to offer sane approaches to the problem: How can the superintendent influence favorable legislation, and the use of alternative chemicals if some of the traditional ones are banned?

Perhaps the highlight of the educational side of the conference was the response to the session on golf cars. This is the first year that a whole morning session has been devoted to this area, and the speeches as well as the reaction of the audi-

ence was interesting. The speakers were leading golf car manufacturers and most noticeably refrained from any "plugs." There were very few empty seats in the 1,600-seat auditorium as the session progressed.

Highlights from the session included this statement by a golf car manufacturer that was echoed by other manufacturers. "I am recommending (to clubs) that the service maintenance of golf cars should be under the supervision of the golf course superintendent," the speaker said. "I am also recommending that the superintendent's annual operating budget be increased by a substantial amount to help you cover the cost of providing this service and to be able to afford a better job of maintaining your fairways and greens."

Another fine speech was on the golf car and the legal responsibilities of the club. As the number of golf cars increase, so will the number of accidents and the number of lawsuits. Although many accidents are caused by drivers, the club may be liable for improperly designed car paths or improperly maintained golf cars. One fine solution to solving the accidents

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POLLUTION IS A FORM OF SILENT VIOLENCE

A highlight of Ralph Nader's hour long talk at the GCSAA Convention was on environmental contamination as a form of violence. "Pollution is silent violence," Nader said. "It is a silent encroachment that does not generate the concern and action as other forms of violence that we can see or feel with our senses. We react quickly to things we can sense," Nader said, "because they register in our minds. However, over the last 100 years there has been extensive industrialization. Man has outsmarted himself. He cannot sense or react to this silent violence that is just as serious as a fire or any other crime or disaster. We accept pollution and defer our reactions towards solving the problems. We must stop selling our country short," Nader said. "We

have the technological know-how. Pressure must be brought to bear on using this know-how towards solving our problems. We predicted we would put a man on the moon 10 years before we accomplished the feat. We've been giving the auto industry deadlines for 20 years and they keep deferring them. Halting pollution is a two pronged attack," Nader said. "You must first stop polluting, and then move to clean up what is already polluted. What good does it do to clean up Lake Erie if the same practices that got it polluted in the first place are still in effect? The public must view an assault on the environment as an assault on human beings; they cannot be separated. The young people growing up are children of a polluted environment. We must not

pass along the problems we have created to their generation. If we do, they could become psychologically adapted to a poor environment and also take no action. While we may become psychologically adapted, we are not physiologically adapted to a poor environment."

The most significant renovation in the present system must be in adopting national standards Nader believes. Otherwise companies will play states against states. "State pollution laws are ineffective because companies keep states from enforcing these laws," Nader said. "They use a form of environmental blackmail. They threaten to pull out of the state causing unemployment and a loss of revenue, to a state with less stringent pollution laws."