

It is wonderful that the American public now has at least ONE eye open to this menace that has been around for no less than 20 or 30 years now! But unfortunately, it is just one eye of some and none of others.

It is a personal observation that the government may be using this subject to detract from other important issues such as the Viet Nam conflict, racial affairs in the U.S., poverty and others and by playing this one item up and capitalizing on it, it has taken some of the attention away from these other issues that are still very real and present.

One unfortunate thing is that a big number of politicians see and have been using this issue for their own personal gain in elections by playing on public sentiment on just one issue instead of several.

Other people have also been using this as a means of personal gain outside the political area. In a short period of time there are many people who have become "experts" in the field of population, ecology, deformed rats and pregnant mothers. In this same, these people have written books, given lectures, rabble roused and left their mark one way or another to get their piece of the action.

And get it they have. The only problem is that the people they have aroused are not the ones who can do much in the way of alleviating the already critical situation. Housewives and homeowners can buy returnable bottles, use low Phosphorus soaps, low lead gas and a push type lawn mower, but industry, who does run the government and dictates the economy, keeps right on dumping, throwing, belching, spewing and blowing these unmeasurable mountains of---- into the air, water and soil. And we all know who pays for it.

Apathy is apparant with a lot of "adults", but it seems the kids are beginning to get tuned in to this problem. They begin to get oriented beginning about the time they are 3 or 4 years old via the kiddie shows and commercials on TV, then off to nursery school for another dose and by the time they are in the first or second grade, they are miniature Rachel Carsons. But this is good!! Maybe the kids will grow up realizing the problems and the magnitude of them before it is too late to do something about it.

But one of the hardest to understand areas has evolved within the state governments. In an article in a magazine a month or two ago, two men, one from France and one from Australia toured these "United Satees" and their conclusion was that America was 50 separate countries all joined together by the same Internal Revenue Department. This article was, by the way, in a magazine like Ladies Home Journal or the like,

NOT a hippie pinko rag like you might think.

But here's a good example of this difference between the states. Do you live in Maryland? You do? Then you already know how hard it is to get something like chlordane. You have to fill out forms, the dealer has to fill out forms, they have to be sent to the proper authorities, they review them send them back to the applicants and if the grubs haven't eaten you out of house and home by the time this is all over, you can spray for them, provided the permit was approved.

But we here in Virginia don't have to fill out nothin' for nothin'. Now why are the laws different here than there? Are they going to change? Should they? This is a complex problem, to be sure. Can we help as representatives of our work? Will it be worth it to us? Are we the ones who are guilty of causing the problem? Personally, I don't feel we cause even .001% of this!

Federal, state and local officials are barking up the wrong part of the tree. Let's get at the roots of this tree and not bother the leaves until they are ready to present the case.

Controls - fine! But let's see what we can do to get them started where they NEED to be started.

SURVEY

Sad - really sad! We had 49 people send their survey forms back. That is a grand 45%! Isn't that great? It sure is good to know that not even half our members are concerned enough to fill out a form that even a first grader could do in about five minutes. If the form was a piece of junk mail like we all are familiar with, then it would be understandable to get a low rate of return. But this? M a y b e we should discontinue the whole thing if you're not interested. And from the looks of things, you sure aren't! It's hardly worth tabulating the few that did come in. What about - should we keep it up? The results will be out in about a month or two.

LETTERS AND STUFF

It sounds like Bob Shields got put on the hook by yours truly last month and here's a copy of the letter. Angie, next year let's pretend we don't even know who's in Cincinnati, O.K.?

Dear Dennis:

This is not a "speedimemo" but if Jack Hurley can point out that his name was omitted from the list of members who attended the Denver meeting then maybe I can too.

At least his wife was with him and knew where he was but mine stayed home. When my