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Editorial

Change By Itself Will Fail

We're a little sick of the constant criticism by the so-called under 30 group. We've yet to hear a single, solid, workable proposal on any subject on which this group can agree.

Most of us who are allegedly suffering from generation gaposis agree. So, why bring it up now?

Frankly, it's just that a tour of sod research plots this past week caused some reflection. At Michigan State's muck test fields, we saw 41 varieties of sod being grown for test purposes. Most looked good. But, compare that with the 30's. Common Kentucky bluegrass by this time of year was dry and brown, unless we had a most unusual season. Bare ground was the rule in most parks and city playgrounds.

It's been this oft-accused materialistic generation which has developed new bluegrasses and blends, which has developed chemical fertilizers, which has made 150-bushel/acre corn crops common (as opposed to 15 bushels during the not-sogood years of the 30's), which has developed chemical pesticides which in themselves have helped wipe out countless health destroying viruses and other pests.

These achievements are tied to the vegetation care and agricultural industries. But look around. Reflect. Remember how we used to worry about our children contracting polio? Before the days of a researcher named Salk?

Today, the nation is green, vibrant, and beautiful—when compared with 30 years ago. Yet, it's little wonder that those under 30 do not appreciate the significance. They've never lived without the finer things of life. Few have worried about a serious and prolonged lack of money or the necessities of life. Few can appreciate that 35 years ago, when all children in a large family reached adulthood, that it was an uncommon occurrence.

Few men live today—who also lived through the decade prior to World War II—who cannot from personal experiences recount better examples as to why we need take pride in our collective record.

Change, as so often proposed by young people, without a practical approach to reality, will fail.