

## Editorial

EPA. The very idea that any Federal agency could think themselves so indispensable and ubiquitous as the telephone evokes an array of emotions — all negative. Well, the worm has finally turned. And a Congressman from Idaho, Steve Symms, has initiated actions to put an end to the Agency.

Symms introduced legislation in the House calling for the abolishment of EPA. The Bill, HR-9819, was referred to the Government Operations Committee where it remains tied-up in some elections year tactics.

Symms is a member of the House Agricultural Committee whose task it is to look into EPA's Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972. For several months, Symms and the Committee found EPA officials "arrogant and impossible to work with". "After weeks of negotiations, they (EPA) wouldn't agree to even the simplest compromise," he said. It was then Symms decided his office had to take action.

"My office is through trying to talk common sense with EPA bureaucrats," Symms said. He and his staff developed

the Bill. And with no co-sponsors, he introduced it to Congress.

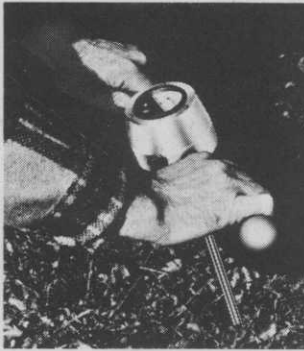
"Once people learned of our Bill, we began receiving inquiries from businessmen and trade organizations asking how they could help," he said. One of Symms staff members says she receives some 30-50 letters per day in favor of the proposed legislation.

But Symms is bucking some stiff odds. No other federal agency was ever abolished because their control got out of the system of checks and balances. However, nothing from Capital Hill would surprise us.

Symms predicts legislative action will begin sometime after the first of the year. If the Bill should go so far as to require public hearings, you can bet on some far ranging support. In fact, the Departments of Commerce and Transportation are now questioning EPA legislation and may take similar action in the near future.

We do not feel any successful legislation against EPA would destroy the environment. Nor do we feel that a central agency should control affairs falling under the jurisdiction of a dozen other U. S. departments.

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