



THE GAYLORD NELSON NEWSLETTER

Washington, D.C.

November 1969

Environmental Teach-In Planned

National Effort Set For Spring

The development of comprehensive plans to kick off a national teach-in on the Crisis of the Environment to take place this spring on college campuses across the country will be announced this month by Sen. Gaylord Nelson.

The Wisconsin senator said he has been traveling around the country talking about his teach-in idea and seeking support for the proposal.

By the end of the month, Nelson expects to have a national headquarters on the teach-in set up in Washington with a staff that will be contacting students all across the country.

The teach-in plans call for a day, probably in April, when normal campus activities will be set aside for the university and the local community to get together and discuss the mutually shared environmental problems.

Discussions, Rallies

On that day, special programs designed and planned by the students will take the form of symposiums, convocations, panel discussions or outdoor rallies where the crisis of the environment will be discussed.

Nelson said the topics of discussion will vary with the university and the section of the country in which it is located. For example, students at the University of California might want to discuss oil spills in the ocean, while students at the University of Wisconsin might want to talk about the pollution crisis in the Great Lakes. At Columbia University the subject might be air pollution of American cities.

"The initial reaction to the teach-in idea has been impressive and



Apostle Islands Legislation

The Nelson bill to establish Apostle Islands as a part of the national park system passed the Senate in June, and the Senator is hopeful the House will authorize the necessary money to make the proposal a reality by the end of next year.

beyond what I had hoped," Nelson said. "My office has been receiving mail from students and people from all parts of the nation wanting to know how to become involved and how to plan a teach-in."

The Washington office will be filtering the mail and offering whatever support the various colleges are requesting.

Student Commitment

Nelson said he decided on a teach-in for college students because the present national commitment toward environmental problems indicates it may be too late to convince the established leadership of the seriousness of the crisis.

"This generation of youth is vitally concerned about the environment, because it will inherit the

disaster of years of wanton, indifferent waste and destruction of the natural resources of the country," Nelson argued. "If something isn't done soon, there may be nothing left for their children."

The senator believes that the same concern the youth of the nation took in changing the country's attitude on the war in Vietnam and on civil rights can be shown for the problems of the environment.

"What is heartening," Nelson continued, "is that modern youth is not satisfied with coming out the loser in man's drive for progress and profit. Because of the indifference of their elders, the young people of today face an ugly world of the near future with dangerously and deadly polluted air and water, sprawling, crowded development, festering mounds of debris, and an insufficient amount of open space to get away from it all."

Quality Of Life

He said he is hopeful that the climax of the teach-in will be a demand for a quality of life in the final third of the 20th Century "that gives the same priority and money to the crisis facing the environment as has been given to national defense."

Nelson added that "it will take the same kind of commitment that put men on the moon and built one of the most massive defense machines ever seen on earth to solve the environmental crisis."

Environmental Guinea Pigs

"WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION WILL BE, AND THE KIDS ARE THE GUINEA PIGS."

Barry Commoner
Biologist
Chairman, St. Louis Committee for
Environmental Information

Pesticide Amendment Passes Senate

Aimed At Protecting National Water System

A plan to stop poisonous pesticides from reaching hazardous levels in the nation's waters passed the Senate last month.

The comprehensive proposal drawn up by Sen. Gaylord Nelson would lead to the development of water quality limits that pesticide residues will not be permitted to exceed.

Nelson Amendment

The Nelson amendment to the Water Quality Improvement Act was cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 31 senators.

In introducing the legislation Nelson said that, even though the bulk of pesticide application is on land, especially long-lasting pesti-

cides like DDT and dieldrin are washed off by rains and carried into the nation's water system.

Pesticide Kills

He pointed out that recent research revealed that more than 1,640,000 fish were killed over a four-year period by pesticide pollution in the nation's waters--the result of pesticide spills or runoff and concentration in the waters.

"Millions of more fish, no doubt, went unborn due to reproductive failures caused by pesticides," he added.

Another section of the Nelson amendment calls for a detailed study of the problem of persistent pesti-

cides in the environment and the hazards to all forms of life, including man.

"As we move into the last third of the 20th Century," Nelson argued in introducing his amendment, "it has become dramatically clear that the danger we face from the destruction of the habitat and life support systems of man by overpopulation and pollution is greater than from nuclear holocaust."

Threat To Man

Since the development of DDT and other deadly pesticides in the 1940's, Nelson pointed out, the pesticides have spread through the soil and waters and air to the farthest reaches of the world.

"In 25 years, we have turned loose on the earth a massive dose of compounds that can cripple or kill and which are tragically indiscriminate in their attacks," Nelson explained. "When DDT is applied to do one job, it lingers and accumulates in the environment as a toxic threat to fish, wildlife and possibly even man."

Nuclear Plants Threaten Lake

Senator Gaylord Nelson has called for a federal-state pollution control enforcement conference on Lake Michigan to discuss the pollution dangers of seven nuclear power plants that will be built around the lake.

He pointed out that two of the plants are in Wisconsin at Kewaunee and Point Beach. The Lake Michigan plants, he added, will be larger than any now in operation anywhere in the nation.

The Wisconsin Democrat described the heat pollution to the waters of the lake "as a new form of pollution that has serious potential for environmental disaster."

Environmental Gamble

Nelson described the plans for construction of the plant as "another classic case of leaping before you look and gambling that everything will somehow turn out for the best."

A report of last year's Lake Michigan Conference, he continued, predicted that coupling the nuclear power plants with the existing Lake Michigan fossil fuel plants would raise the temperature of the entire lake.

The temperature increase is caused by plants' using millions of gallons of water per minute at peak periods and dumping it directly back into the lake at about a 20 degree heat increase.

Nelson said an immediate federal study of the environmental effects of the nuclear power plant must be made and the Lake Michigan Conference reconvened "to consider its findings and adopt a binding program of action to insure that appropriate controls will be built into the plants."

As I See It

by Senator Gaylord Nelson



As I travel around the country speaking to students and many conservation, business, labor, and professional groups, it becomes increasingly apparent that there is grave concern about the condition of the environment.

The concern has reached the point that there is a desire to do something about the reckless disregard for the natural resources, the vanishing wildlife and soaring pollution level of the air and water.

Each day, millions of tons of toxic fumes from automobiles and smokestacks mix into the air we breathe and threaten all forms of life. Scientists have already warned that air pollution is a contributor to lung cancer and emphysema.

Water Pollution Grows

Each day, the water system of the nation--rivers, streams and lakes--collects the polluting runoffs of deadly pesticides, sewage and industrial wastes of all kinds. Nearly every watershed in the country, in even the most remote locations, has been touched in some way by pollution.

The crisis of the environment is reaching such a point that no other crisis facing man will be more important to the history of the survival of life on this planet.

If life is to survive on this tiny planet earth with its very limited resources, a massive commitment to preserving the environment will have to be made.

In this country, the money and commitment to the crisis of the environment must be even greater than the money spent on building one of the biggest war machines ever built and the money spent to put men into space.

Obviously, that kind of radical change in the nation's list of priorities would not be made without a vigorous and heated political battle at every level of government.

Environmental Inventory

The national teach-in on the crisis of the environment offers a good beginning, because it should stimulate people to look around their own communities and conduct an environmental inventory to find out who the polluters are and why government isn't doing something to stop the destruction of the vital natural resources.

One university student, in expressing his concern about the pollution problems, showed a unique insight when told that a Congressional proposal to bring a complete halt to any federal program that damaged the environment might be unconstitutional.

He asked: "Isn't polluting our rivers unconstitutional?"

From the offices of:

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and

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FOR RELEASE: Tuesday, November 11, 1969

WASHINGTON, D. C. - - The date for next Spring's National Teach-In on the Crisis of the Environment being planned for college campuses across the country will be Wednesday, April 22, 1970, it was announced today.

The Teach-In objective is to mobilize the constructive energies of American youth in a massive effort to halt the accelerating pollution and destruction of the environment, according to Senator Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin Democrat, and Congressman Pete McCloskey, California Republican.

Nelson and McCloskey, who will serve as co-chairmen of the nonpartisan Teach-In effort, said that on the Teach-In day students, scientists, community and other leaders, faculty, and environmentalists will meet to discuss the environmental threat to America and to the nation's quality of life in a local and national educative effort.

The Teach-Ins will be shaped campus by campus by student initiative, and may take the form of symposiums, convocations, panel discussions or a combination of these.

Nelson and McCloskey reported that formation of a student-directed National Teach-In staff, committee and office in Washington will be completed within a week. The national office will serve as a communications and service center and as an organizational stimulus for individual campus Teach-Ins.

The co-chairmen pointed out that the success of the National Teach-In will depend on grass roots activities initiated by students campus by campus.

The goal by January, according to the co-chairmen, is to have active planning efforts for the April 22nd Teach-In underway on all of the nation's campuses.

The co-chairmen said that preparatory to the Teach-In, they are asking students to undertake a comprehensive inventory of environmental problems on their campus, in their community, and in their region.

The co-chairmen stressed the importance of student initiative and leadership to the success of the Teach-In. "It is the present student generation that inherits our rapidly deteriorating environment, and this generation

"whose commitment will determine whether we reverse the present trends toward dirty water, air and a fouled landscape.

"Hopefully, our young people, in a day of nationwide environmental review, will set specific goals for the 70's, goals for a decade of national effort which will recognize that environmental quality deserves the same priorities of expenditure as did the moon-shot effort of the 60's," the co-chairmen continued.

"It is appropriate, by the 200th anniversary of the founding of this nation in 1776, that we be well on our way to solving the problems of population growth and the preservation of clean air, water and open space. The key to achievement of this result lies in mobilizing the idealism, the motivation, and the energies of this student generation. We are confident that they are ready, able and willing to do the job."

Nelson and McCloskey noted their conviction that environmental problems now rank with Vietnam and racism as the major issues on campus.

"The enthusiastic student support around the country for conservation is a dramatic indication of this," they said.

Nelson pointed out that since he proposed the Teach-In at a speech on September 23 in Seattle, Washington, his office has been receiving heavy mail and phone calls from around the country, mostly from students, expressing overwhelming support for the Teach-In.

As an especially meaningful endorsement, Nelson cited a \$10 contribution to the Teach-In from an American teaching volunteer in Vietnam who said he wanted to do something for the quality of life in this country.

According to Nelson and McCloskey, it is hoped the Teach-In will deeply involve communities, environmentally-concerned organizations, and high school and grade school levels, as well as college students.

"More than any other issue in this country today, the environmental concern cuts across generation, political parties, and attitudes, and we anticipate that a successful National Teach-In will involve more diverse elements of our society working toward a common goal than this country has ever seen before," the co-chairmen said.

Nelson, an ardent advocate in environmental causes during his entire career in public office, is a major spokesman in the U. S. Senate regarding policy on matters ranging from protection of Everglades National Park to ending automobile air pollution by requiring a substitute for the internal combustion engine.

Prior to entering Congress, McCloskey was a well-known conservation attorney in California, attracting national attention on a citizen fight against AEC power lines in the hills near San Francisco. In the House, he serves on two conservation subcommittees and has sponsored a variety of environmental legislation.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1969

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- An amendment to delete \$10 million for continued construction of the Corps of Engineers' Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project was introduced today by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

The Wisconsin Democrat said he was offering the amendment to the Public Works Appropriations Bill to prevent destruction of the Everglades National Park in Florida.

Nelson, who was also an opponent of the proposed Everglades jetport because of its threat to the park, said the amendment is necessary to compel the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior to reach a satisfactory arrangement to provide an adequate water supply from the Corps project to the park.

"When such an arrangement is reported to Congress," Nelson explained, "I would support the immediate restoration of the \$10 million in a supplemental appropriation bill."

He said conservationists have supported the flood control project only on the understanding that it would be regulated to provide the water needed by the park to survive.

"Water is the life blood of the park," Nelson continued. "Its normal inflow is absolutely essential, if the extraordinary life processes which in themselves provide the uniqueness of Everglades National Park are to be maintained."

The Department of the Interior pointed out to the Corps of Engineers in 1948, Nelson said, that the problem at the Everglades was not one of too much water but of too little water. It was seen at the time that timely releases of water from the project could be complementary to the park.

"The park has now become critically dependent on releases from the Corps project for its water supply," Nelson said, "and cannot survive on the rain falling within its boundaries. It is for this reason that the supply to the park must be resolved."

Nelson said water shortages in the Everglades have destroyed multitudes of fish and wildlife and encouraged an unnatural succession of vegetative changes which may forever alter the unique ecology of the subtropical park.

Projected plans for water use in Southern Florida indicate the life of the park will be gravely endangered and the Everglades will face "gradual but positive dehydration," Nelson added.

"In spite of all the assurances that the Park would have an adequate supply of water," Nelson said, "a mutually satisfactory arrangement for protecting the park's water supply from future demands still does not exist."

Nelson argued that he was moving to strike the \$10 million from the bill, because the "history of the Corps project clearly indicates the Corps and the Department of the Interior will not reach an agreement unless they are compelled to do so."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, NOVEMBER 19, 1969

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Legislation aimed at making classroom instruction more relevant to the questions of pollution and the problems of living in a highly industrial, urban society was introduced Wednesday by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

The Wisconsin Democrat said he was introducing the Environmental Quality Education Act to authorize the Commissioner of Education to make the development of environmental education programs a matter of the highest priority.

"We are a highly urban nation," Nelson explained. "Our environmental crisis should largely be viewed from that context, and many of the past assumptions about conservation education may no longer be valid."

Nelson said the Commissioner of Education is authorized by the bill to make environmental education part of all the curriculum--pre-school, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, graduate, adult and community education and teacher training, as well.

"New teaching techniques and curriculums are a necessity in order to make greater use of the environment as a teaching resource and to teach ecology in a more imaginative and exciting manner in the classroom," Nelson added.

The Nelson bill would also make money available to make grants and contracts with educational institutions and related organizations to prepare, test, evaluate and disseminate environmental curriculum materials.

The bill encourages through grants and contracts special training programs for teachers and related educational personnel.

The bill would also make funds available to support organizations that would offer community education on environmental quality and ecology and support preparation and distribution of materials for use by the mass media.

Nelson, who is already leading a massive national effort on the crisis of the environment in the form of a teach-in scheduled for April 22, said that education is the best way to influence the values of a society.

"There is a dire need to improve the understanding by Americans of

the ominous deterioration of the nation's environment and the increasing threat of irreversible ecological catastrophe," Nelson argued.

The Wisconsin Senator said the gravity of the environmental problems and the extensive interest the national teach-in idea was showing prompted him to introduce the bill for environmental education.

"Too often elementary and secondary school teachers are uncomfortable with the thought of using the outdoors as a classroom," Nelson continued.

"New techniques are being devised for teacher training to help break down this barrier so the relationships between man and his artificial world and nature can be viewed as a whole."

Curriculums in the classroom are being expanded to steer away from the generally more "superficial approach of memorizing tree and bird charts toward making the student and the learning process a part of what is happening today," Nelson said.

"Only when the students are talking about the relevant and important things in the society in which they live can the students be properly prepared to take a meaningful roll in society," Nelson argued.



THE GAYLORD NELSON NEWSLETTER

Washington, D.C.

Year-End Newsletter -- December, 1969

Support Growing Rapidly Teach-In Set For April 22

The Spring date for the national teach-in on the Crisis of the Environment planned for college campuses across the country will be Wednesday, April 22.

The teach-in idea, formulated by Senator Gaylord Nelson, is designed to stimulate the constructive energies of American youth in a massive educational effort to halt the accelerating pollution and destruction of the environment.

Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, a conservationist and a California Republican, has agreed to co-chair the teach-in effort with Nelson.

Growing Interest

The teach-in proposal was first announced by Nelson in September. Since then, calls and letters have poured in from students, faculty members, civic groups, conservationists, labor, political, business, industrial and farm groups, educational organizations and interested citizens.

All are expressing support and are requesting information on how to get started with a teach-in of their own. There is growing interest that the teach-in become international, and Nelson is having discussions with United Nations officials and has been invited by U. N. Secretary General U Thant to discuss the matter with him in New York.

"Students all over the world should become interested in the teach-in because environmental pollution is clearly an international problem," Nelson explained. "Air pollution, the rapid deterioration of the Great Lakes and the pending destruction of the oceans are certainly problems that can be solved only by international action."

Student-Directed

Nelson said that a student-directed staff is taking over the teach-in and that the staff has opened a Washington office. The office will be a communications and coordinating center to get information on what other groups are doing.

In a joint statement, Nelson and McCloskey said they are hopeful that the youth of the nation "will set specific goals for the 70's, goals for a decade of national effort which will recognize that environmental quality deserves the same priorities of expenditures, as did the space effort of the 60's."

Solving Problems

The co-chairmen agreed that, by the 200th anniversary of the founding of the nation in 1976, the country must be well on the way to solving the problems of population growth and the preservation of clean air, water and open space.

"The key to achievement of this result lies in mobilizing the idealism, the motivation, and the energies of this student generation," they added. "We are confident that they are ready, able and willing to do the job."

Common Goal

Nelson, who has long been identified in America as a leading conservationist, said that "more than any other issue in this country today, the environmental concern cuts across generation, political parties, and attitudes, and we anticipate that a successful national teach-in will involve more diverse elements of our society working toward a common goal than this country has ever seen before."

Milwaukee Job Center Will Open

A new Federal Job Corps center will open in Milwaukee this Spring to train unskilled and underemployed young men.

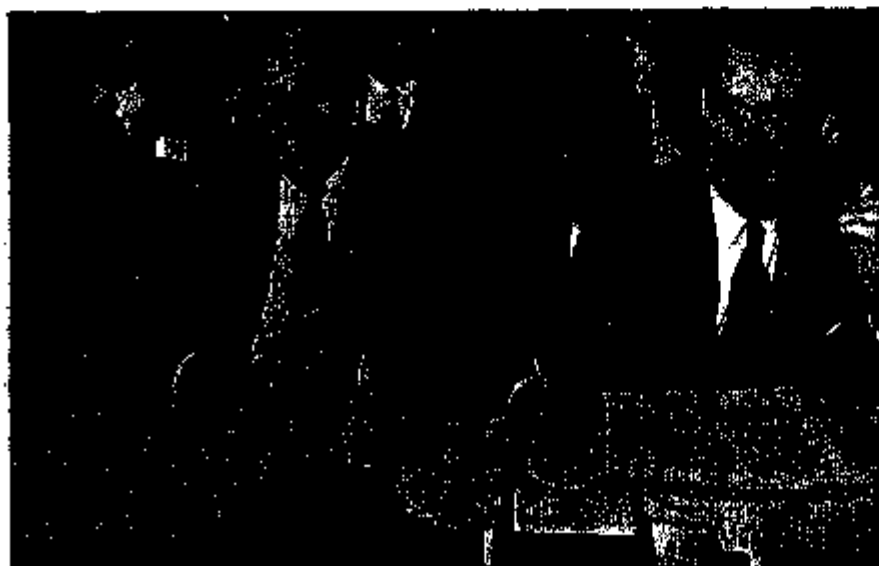
The decision to open the center was made after Sen. Nelson worked with Milwaukee groups and met with the U. S. Labor Department to argue that the center was necessary to help youths with few or no skills receive the proper training.

"The training these young men will receive," Nelson explained, "will help make them responsible members of the community, capable of holding jobs."

Clam Lake

During the past year, the Senator also persuaded the Labor Department to turn the abandoned Clam Lake Job Corps Camp (Bayfield County) over to the Wisconsin State University system, which will use it as a conservation and forestry training center.

He also helped win approval for another year of funding for the United Migrant Opportunity Services program in Milwaukee. The program helps displaced migrants with education, housing and jobs.



UN Food Conference

As a Senate delegate to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization conference, Senator Nelson listens to a discussion of the world's food problems with the delegate from the United Kingdom.

Milwaukee River Ugly With Debris

The ugliness of pollution and the disregard for the rivers of the nation can be clearly seen in this recent photograph of the Milwaukee River. Dr. John S. Hirschboeck of the Wisconsin Regional Medical Program, Inc., sent this photo. He said that from his office window he could see a mass of bottles, logs, boards, tires, barrels, and other debris floating on the river.



Nelson Warns:

Sanguine Can Harm State

The Department of Defense announced last month that initial research on the controversial Project Sanguine might make it possible to build a more compact system in Northern Wisconsin.

The proposed massive radio transmitter, originally planned as the world's largest transmitting antenna, would sprawl in a grid over some 21,000 square miles involving 26 counties of the state.

In announcing the research development that might permit a smaller system, the Navy promised the extremely low frequency transmitter would not be built "unless our nation's strategic deterrent force required it and unless it could be built in a manner entirely compatible with its surroundings."

Senator Questions

For more than a year, Senator Nelson raised several questions about what the massive power running through the soil of Wisconsin would do to people, plants, wildlife, and the soil in the massive area affected by the project.

Nelson's concern about the potential harmful effects of the project was echoed by many Wisconsin residents, including many who formed the State Committee to Stop Sanguine, and from hundreds of letters that came into his office from all parts of the country.

In reacting to the Navy's statement that it was taking a harder look at Sanguine, Nelson said he had several reservations that would have to be resolved before he would consider agreeing to the project in any way.

He cited his reservations:

***"There has been no serious debate in the Congress to prove, even if the system will work, that it is necessary or a justifiable expense.

Therefore, once the system has been tested, it will be necessary for Congress to debate in full the issue of whether or not the benefits claimed for it justify an expenditure of billions of dollars.

***"All of the possible hazards to people living in the area and inconveniences must be carefully evaluated when the Navy presents its data.

***"What are the ecological implications? This is the most difficult question of all."

Nelson agrees with the Secretary of Defense that Sanguine would not have much impact on Northern Wisconsin's unemployment problems.

"When all Navy-supported scientific studies are completed, there is no doubt that there will be unanswered questions which will have to be further studied. And, in my judgment, it will be necessary to have an independent group of scientists evaluate the results," he said.

Nelson Offers Plan For Ending War

If the South Vietnamese are not ready to take over the responsibility of defending their own country now, then they will never be able to take it over at all, Senator Nelson said in a recent Senate speech.

The lawmaker, who has been a consistent opponent of the American involvement in the Southeast Asian war, said it was not acceptable to have American troops continuing "to do the fighting for the South Vietnamese in that nation's civil war."

He said the American people have been patient in seeking an end to the war and argued that the South Vietnamese must take over their own fighting.

Three-Point Plan

His plan to end the war includes three points:

**A cease-fire with international supervision, with no further troop movements to seek strategic advantage through the occupation of additional territory.

**Free elections on a province-by-province basis with both sides withdrawing troops and the elections

supervised by the United Nations or other acceptable international authority.

**North Vietnam and the United States should agree upon a date for complete withdrawal of all combat troops, with the peace indefinitely supervised by international authority.

Not Acceptable

"It is no longer acceptable to tell the American people that peace is coming when it is not. It is no longer acceptable to ask for more time when too much time has already passed. It is no longer acceptable to demand patience when the American people already have shown remarkable patience. And it is no longer acceptable to wage war when the American people want peace," Nelson argued.

In emphasizing that he feels Americans have the right to be critical of the war, he said the "grave moral, military and political mistakes of Vietnam have for too long been defended by requests for support for secret solutions that were 'just around the corner'."

Dairy Import Quotas Questioned

Present System Hurts Farmers

Year after year, American dairy farmers have been advised that, if they would seek a better balance between supply and demand, the result would be improved prices.

Over the past four years, the number of dairy cows has dropped from 17.6 million to 14.1 million. In that same period, dairy farmers reduced milk production by nearly ten billion pounds, from 127 billion pounds in 1964 to an estimated 117 billion last year.

Export Subsidies

But during that same period, imports of dairy products heavily subsidized by foreign governments increased by almost 5 billion pounds, which, along with inflated produc-

tion costs, nearly wiped out any real price improvement for American dairy farmers.

In February Senator Nelson wrote the President and requested a review of new import quotas. Although conferences have been held, no further action has been taken to change the quotas.

Three Objections

Nelson cited three major objections to the January quota plan, which were added by the White House but were not recommended by either the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Tariff Commission:

1) A 7.5 million pound quota of "other cheeses" was allotted to New

Zealand, despite the fact that that country has no historical record of sending those cheeses to the United States.

2) The unlimited importation of cheese selling for more than 47 cents per pound presents a loophole for further abuses, ranging from kick-backs to under-the-counter deals.

3) The chocolate milk crumb quota of 17 million pounds annually is not only higher than requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture but is even higher than the Tariff Commission's recommendations.

"Many foreign countries are presently faced with huge dairy surpluses," Nelson said, "and are spending vast sums of money in export subsidies to ship excess produce to the United States."

France has offered 80¢ pounds of butter for 30¢; Germany, \$14 cases of condensed milk for \$8; and the Netherlands, 55¢ pounds of natural Cheddar Cheese for 17¢.

Danger To Trade

The import quota system was established to provide an orderly procedure for foreign products to come on our domestic market. However, through the use of export subsidies and products specially created to avoid quota categories, several foreign countries have deliberately attempted to circumvent the whole dairy quota system.

"The failure to put an end to this evasion will further erode much of the present support in Congress for world trade expansion. This would be an unfortunate blow for free trade," Nelson said.

Social Security Amendment Seeks Payment Increase

A 25 per cent increase in Social Security payments and an expansion of Medicare coverage were major parts of an amendment to the Social Security law introduced by Senator Gaylord Nelson.

The bill the Wisconsin Senator offered earlier this session calls for:

1. An immediate increase in monthly benefit payments to \$100 for single persons and \$150 for couples;

2. An automatic increase in benefits to accompany rises in the cost of living of 2 per cent or more;

3. Inclusion under Medicare coverage of the cost of prescription drugs, eye, dental and hearing care, and routine physical examinations.

4. A raise in the amount persons may earn without losing benefits from \$140 a month to \$200 a month; and

5. Reduction in the heavy burden of Social Security taxes placed upon employers and employees by inclusion of general tax revenues in Social Security payments.

Living Wage

Nelson said he introduced the bill because, "despite the program's broad coverage on paper, it still falls short of providing a decent living wage for the majority of elderly Americans."

The Wisconsin lawmaker argued that, when a person retires, his income is usually reduced by 50 per cent or more, while at the same time, the living costs rise and his purchasing power dwindles.

"It is a sad fact that the aged are the single largest group making up the poverty rolls in America," Nelson explained. "This represents almost one-third of all Americans over the age of 65."

Nelson said the present minimum monthly benefit of \$55 is "inadequate" and contended the Administration's 7 per cent increase recommended for inactment this year will be quickly "wiped out by the increases in the cost of living."

Under the present rules, those under 72 may earn only \$1,680 annually before beginning to lose benefits. Under this plan, persons earning between \$1,680 and \$2,880 lose one dollar for every two dollars earned. After \$2,880, they lose one dollar for every one earned.

Manpower Committee Sets National Hearing Schedule

Senator Gaylord Nelson will hold a series of hearings in cities across the country in 1970 to discuss the manpower problems and how they affect urban communities.

The Wisconsin lawmaker, who is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty, said he will be taking testimony from citizens, business, labor and local officials to find out how present manpower programs are working and what improvements are needed.

Service Jobs

One of the proposals the Nelson subcommittee is considering is for a major program that will create public service employment jobs, especially in areas like hospitals where there has been a need to find people to fill service positions.

Nelson has completed his first

year as chairman of the subcommittee which held hearings on improved training for the hard core disadvantaged to turn unemployable dropouts into self-sufficient taxpayers.

Nelson reported that his subcommittee hearings have pointed out that many of the poverty programs "are either starved for funds or choked off before they have any effect."

Food Stamps

The Federal food stamp program, he argued, reaches only about 6 million of the 25 million living in poverty and misses the "hungeriest of the hungry."

As floor manager of the Senate bill to continue the War on Poverty for two more years, Nelson won major expansion of the programs for Headstart classes, day care centers and emergency food and medical services.

Drug Industry Hearings Continue

Investigation Of Pricing Practices

The investigation of the competitive practices of the prescription drug industry continued into its third year in the Senate Small Business Committee's Monopoly Subcommittee.

Senator Nelson, who is subcommittee chairman, has presided over 64 days of hearings since the legislative session began in May, 1967.

More than 150 witnesses have testified before the subcommittee, filling 14 volumes of transcript records.

His criticisms of the pricing and promotional policies of the drug industry have been confirmed by an independent government task force on prescription drugs set up last year.

Hearings Reviewed

Subjects covered at the hearings over the past year included:

**The relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and many of the leading medical organizations. Representatives of many leading medical organizations testified they are to a large extent financially

dependent on the pharmaceutical industry and accept drug advertising in their publications.

**The possibility that tranquilizers are being heavily promoted and overused with possible harmful psychological effects on the individual.

**The potential conflict of interest

problems inherent in the present method of testing drugs for safety and efficiency before they reach the market by the drug firms who developed the drug. A bill to establish a drug testing and evaluation center within the Food and Drug Administration to insure objectivity was introduced.

Senator Proposes FDA Control Of Drug Testing

A bill to create a national testing and evaluation center to pass on new drugs before they can become available for public use was introduced this session by Senator Nelson.

He said this legislation will remove the responsibility for testing a new drug from the pharmaceutical firm that developed it and has a financial interest in its success.

Safety Proposal

Presently, the Food and Drug Administration determines the effectiveness and safety of a new drug solely on the basis of information supplied by the company seeking the right to market the drug.

Under the proposal, FDA has the responsibility for testing the drugs to determine if the drugs meet the requirements for commercial distribution. FDA would contract out the testing which will be paid for by the pharmaceutical companies.

DDT Ban

Senator Nelson's long campaign against the unnecessary use of DDT has resulted in a near-total ban on the persistent pesticide by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The agency has cancelled all nonessential uses of DDT, effective by the end of next year. Nelson initially proposed a DDT ban in 1966.

As I See It

by Gaylord Nelson



This past year may become known as the year of awakening to the crisis of the national and world environment.

The awakening was too long in coming, but several encouraging things have happened to indicate that pollution will no longer be tolerated and that the national priorities are changing.

The grim warnings of ecologists like Dr. Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University who predicts the end of all significant life in the seas within the next decade, and the easily visible pollution of the air, destruction of the forests, oceans, lakes, rivers and streams have added to the awakening.

Municipal Sewage Treatment

This year, 31 Senators co-sponsored my amendment to the Water Quality Improvement Act to establish strict controls on pesticide water pollution nationwide. The amendment passed unanimously.

Congress is expected to approve legislation to establish a Board of Environmental Quality Advisors and an Office of Environmental Quality in the White House to assure that the Federal Government acts as a trustee of the environment for all people.

National Concern Growing

Across the country, the response of concerned Americans about the crisis of the environment has been even more noticeable.

A Gallup Poll revealed that 51 per cent of all persons interviewed expressed "deep concern" about the effects of air pollution, water pollution, soil erosion and the destruction of wildlife and the natural resources.

My proposal last summer for a national teach-in on the Crisis of the Environment has brought overwhelming support from students, labor, business and industrial representatives, as well as organizations of all types. All want to become involved, and representatives in foreign countries are asking that the teach-in be international.

On April 22, the national teach-in day, I expect to see a coalescing of widely diverse elements of society in an attempt to find ways of dealing with mutual environmental problems.

In the November elections across the country, voters in San Bernardino County, California, rejected a power plant that could have polluted the air, even though it added to the tax base; residents in a suburb of Seattle rejected a golf course that would destroy a wooded park; and in Maine voters rejected a million-dollar plan for highways while passing a million-dollar bond issue for municipal sewage treatment plants.

Bill Of Rights

One significant vote was the passage of an amendment to the New York state constitution called the "Conservation Bill of Rights." The amendment makes preservation of natural resources a matter of state policy and directs the state legislature to write laws to reduce air, water and noise pollution, thus providing constitutional grounds for conservation battles in court.

California and Virginia are planning similar bills, and a "Conservation Bill of Rights" to the U. S. Constitution has been offered in the House of Representatives. The amendment is being described as a new source of common law legislation.

Clearly, the time for the environment has come, and 1969 appears to be the year of awakening.

... legislative memo

from Senator Gaylord Nelson



Washington, D. C.

December 31, 1969

The Environmental Quality Education Act

The environmental crisis is finally receiving public recognition as one of our most pressing national issues. It is becoming increasingly clear that a broad program of education is a critical factor in finding long-term answers to this problem. There must be an enlightened citizenry if this country is to confront the problem in a positive and constructive way.

Therefore, on Nov. 19, 1969, I introduced the Environmental Quality Education Act. The bill provides a firm mandate and a higher priority to the Office of Education to support bold, imaginative and innovative programs in environmental and ecological education. All levels of education, from pre-school to community and continuing education programs, are included.

The overwhelming response by students, faculty and conservation and education groups to my call in September for a national Teach-In on the Crisis of the Environment (scheduled for April 22, 1970) indicates the widespread need for the bill. The active concern in all quarters about the quality of the environment carries the message that every day should be an environmental teach-in day.

Man has, until now, set himself above nature and exploited it with relative impunity. Under this bill, school curricula would place man in the total environment rather than above it. Through the process of education, we can work at environmental progress and stay the hand that ransacks our most precious resources.

The bill would invigorate and expand the programs and activities of the Office of Education for the purpose of improving understanding by citizens of the deterioration of the nation's environment and of the deepening ecological imbalance.



Environmental education can work against kill-offs like this.

Specifically, the bill would:

1. Encourage and support the development, demonstration and dissemination of new and improved curricula dealing with the environment;

2. Provide training programs for teachers and related personnel;

3. Offer community education programs;

4. Make grants and contracts with educational institutions and related organizations to prepare, test, evaluate, and disseminate environmental curriculum materials;

5. Encourage through grants and contracts preservice and inservice training programs for teachers and related personnel;

6. Support organizations that will offer community education on environmental quality and ecology;

7. Support the preparation and distribution of materials for use by mass media;

8. Authorize the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to appoint an Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality Education to advise, recommend, review and evaluate programs supported with assistance of this Act and, in particular, to recommend criteria to achieve an equitable geographical distribution of approved projects.

9. Enable the Secretary, in cooperation with other Cabinet officers with similar jurisdiction, to render technical assistance to any appropriate private and public (governmental and non-governmental) agency.



Hot wastes from steel plants spill into the Calumet River in Chicago, causing the river to steam, while smokestacks pump pollutants into the air, creating a photographic study of environmental devastation.