

On Cleaning the Clean Environment Movement

There's a growing indication of disenchantment with the clean environment or anti-pollution movement.

In many respects, this disenchantment has sound motives.

But we think most of the disenchantment is directed against excesses in the movement, rather than reduced concern about the need for a clean environment.

The growing desire of some to disassociate themselves from the anti-pollution effort, we think, stems from some of the following factors:

—The tendency for those who know the least and do the least about cleaning the environment to try to become leaders in the anti-pollution drive. This results in disenchantment by those who have been doing the work and know what the real problems are.

—The tendency of some to treat the environment issue as strictly a political issue which is capable of immediate solutions by political means. This approach ignores the long-term nature of the problem; pollution has been a growing problem for decades, even centuries.

This approach also ignores the deep social and economic issues, the need to get broad-based community support in order to make any effective effort toward solution; it ignores the tremendous costs of a clean environment, a cost which can easily exceed hundreds of billions of dollars nationally, perhaps even costing trillions of dollars to get an environment as clean as some would like to see it. The cost of cleaning up even small communities can be many millions.

To ignore this cost factor completely, as some anti-pollution proponents do, is to ignore reality and to invite disenchantment and stiff opposition from businessmen and others who have their feet on the ground.

Pollution must be considered in the context of many other problems such as mushrooming welfare rolls, need for new and better highways, inflation, growing general government services, and increasing concern about ever-rising taxes. In a very real sense, anti-pollution must compete for both the dollars and time of government, business and the public. Real progress against pollution may simply have to wait its turn — until we can solve, or at least make some progress on, some of the other issues.

—There's growing disenchantment because of an association, partly real and partly imagined, between anti-pollution, demonstrations and radicals.

While it is true that radicals have seized on anti-pollution as a weapon in their effort to tear down the "system," this fact should be separated from the fact that there are real pollution issues and problems.

—There's growing disenchantment over specific instances in which anti-pollution crusades, both by well-meaning citizens and radical trouble-makers, have caused serious problems in both the public and private sectors.

For instance, there's the electrical power crisis. This crisis, of which "brown outs" and "black outs" are an outward indication, has stemmed in large part from a determined battle over many years by citizens and radicals to stop the construction of atomic power plants, and other types of power plants as well. It is probably safe to

say that if power companies had been allowed to proceed as they planned, there would be no electrical power shortage today. Because the fight to stop and slow down expansion of electrical power was waged primarily in the name of anti-pollution, those who are now irked by the power shortage rightfully blame it largely on the anti-pollutionists.

On a broader scale, the growing national concern about an energy shortage involving coal, oil and gas, as well as electricity, has some of the same roots. Environmentalists in Alaska's North Slope and elsewhere stopped or slowed necessary expansion of power production. Those who are aware of these electricity and power problems and the causes of them are increasingly disenchanted with the anti-pollution drive.

There are many other examples, such as the environmentalists' crusade against pesticides; some would actually invite mass starvation in order to save the environment from the marginal damage of pesticides.

The anti-DDT crusade is a specific example of how environmentalists' have created problems which have turned off many potential supporters. The numbers of lives that DDT has saved in this country and around the world by stopping disease carrying insects can be measured in the millions. As previously reported in this space, some countries which have banned DDT have been forced to return to it to stop epidemics. In our own country, we invite the killing of vast acreages of forest by the gypsy moth by refusing to use DDT on a selective basis — at the same time we use other chemicals which are far more dangerous to man and his environment.

Likewise, those who are disenchanted with inflation look at anti-pollution as a cost of production and a factor in increasing prices. Those who are disenchanted with higher taxes look at anti-pollution as another factor in rising taxes. In part they are right, even though pollution itself is very costly to communities and their citizens who have to put up with it, even pay for it in the form of depreciated property, property loss, and even increased medical costs.

—Perhaps there is also some growing disenchantment with the clean environment or anti-pollution drive because of the increasingly militant attitude of the movement's proponents. There is a growing attitude among some that only clean environment people have rights, that those who pollute should be made, by whatever means necessary, to stop it.

There is a decreasing tendency to try to understand the problems and to solicit co-operation; the trend is toward use of force. We hear increasing reference to replacing the carrot with a stick — which prompts us to note that this may prove to be fine if people turn out to be like horses, but it may not work so well if people turn out to be more like mules. We suspect that even if the stick approach is successful, it will be successful at very high costs, high costs in the form of farmers who refuse or cannot farm under the threat of a stick and businessmen who will not or cannot operate businesses under the new conditions. The cost of alienating those who produce is, of course, reflected in inflated prices and higher taxes for the rest of us.

—There are many other factors behind the growing disenchantment with clean environment movement and some of them aren't appealing. Some polluters simply don't think pollution is a worthwhile issue, or they don't want to spend the money or take the time to help solve the problem even when they can afford to do so. Rather than solve pollution problems, these polluters ask individuals and communities to suffer the esthetic and financial losses which stem from pollution.

In conclusion, there are some very basic, sound reasons why there is growing disenchantment with the clean environment movement. Because these reasons will continue and probably even become more compelling, at least for the next several months



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Follow Pesticide Recommendations

All types of gardeners and farmers will be using numerous kinds of spray materials for the next several months. The control of pesticides is a public issue getting considerable attention at various levels of government. Pesticides can play a very important part in this country in the production of food and fiber; however, they must be used correctly. All producers are urged to follow the label and the instructions on the container or package. Its mis-use of spray materials that can cause trouble. Be Careful.

To Harvest Forages At Proper Stage

One of the most important practices in getting top quality hay or silage is to cut the crop at the proper stage of maturity. Small grains will yield the most feed value for silage or hay when cut in the blossom stage; grasses in the heading stage,

and legumes such as alfalfa and clover in the bud to early blossom stage. An Extension Circular titled "Silage and Silos" is available covering the subject.

To Protect Shade Trees

Trees continue to be an important part of our environment; they always have been and deserve proper attention. Trees along the street, in parking areas, and near backyard patios are often endangered because the ground area around them is covered with blacktop. Some folks will water around the trunk of the tree because this is the only surface area open. We'd like to remind all tree caretakers that the feeder roots are not near the trunk but mostly out at the drip-line of the branches, actually, the feeding root zone area of a tree covers the same area as the limbs and foliage above the ground. Don't starve the tree by covering this root zone with blacktop or concrete.

Though they seem contradictory of each other, we must never forget either of them. Without the remembrance of our unworthiness, the knowledge of God's glorious love becomes a cheap and common thing. Without the reality of his grace, the fact of our sinfulness becomes a burden too heavy to bear.

We see both of these elements combined in the message to Hosea:

*When Israel was a child, I loved him
... I took them up in my arms. I led them with cords of compassion
... I bent down to them and fed them.
(Hosea 11:1-8)*

The more I called

There, of course, is also the theme of man's unworthiness:

*The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols.
(11:2)*

This is not so much the condemnation of an angry judge as it is the cry of a rejected father. These are not mere criminals, but rebellious, errant children. The injury involved here is not concern for a broken law, but the pain of a broken relationship:

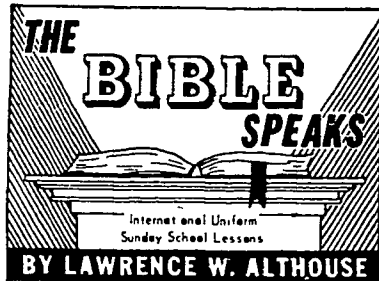
*How can I give you up, O Ephraim!
How can I hand you over, O Israel!*

This is difficult to understand for man often gives love only upon certain conditions. "I will love you if you will be loveable," is the basis of much human affection. Often this is only the promise of a conditional love. Do this — "get good grades," "buy me a car," "do what I want," etc. — and then I will love you.

What God gives to his children, however, is not a proposition, a deal, a promise of something to come, but the declaration of something which already exists: God loves you now, as you are! It is the knowledge of this unconditional love from which there comes the power to change and become what he desires us to be.

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ATTEND THE
CHURCH OF YOUR
CHOICE SUNDAY



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Lesson for May 16, 1971

Background Scripture: Hosea 11:14,
Deuteronomy 10:16-17, 30:19.

The prophecies of Amos and Hosea were alike in that:

—Both accused Israel of breaking her covenant with the Lord.

—Both condemned the people's indifference to the injustice festering within their land.

—Both condemned the substitution of insincere worship for the practice of righteousness.

—Both decried the growth of self-indulgence as a way of life.

—Both attacked the idolry which the Israelites had learned from their neighbors.

—Both proclaimed suffering and destruction for Israel unless the people would repent and return to God.

But Amos and Hosea were different in that while Amos was a prophet who spoke solely of the judgment of God, Hosea also spoke of God's persistent and compassionate love.

The love of a father

The difference, of course, was largely the result of Hosea's own experience with Gomer, his wife. Through this experience Hosea had come to a deeper understanding of God's nature. In the hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," by Elizabeth C. Clephane, we sing

*And from my smitten heart with tears,
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of His glorious love,
And my own unworthiness.*

These two wonders, each pulling in a different direction, keep following us throughout the Bible

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