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REMARKS

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CLOQUET HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 6, 1970

IF YOU ARE READY AND WILLING TO MAKE THIS COMMITMENT..
...THEN LET'S CHANGE FROM RHETORIC TO REALITY.....LET US CON-
CENTRATE ON SOME POSITIVE AND IMMEDIATE STEPS THAT CAN BE
TAKEN.....STEPS THAT WILL NOT ONLY HAVE A VISIBLE IMPACT ON
MANY OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, BUT WILL MOST CERTAINLY
WIDEN THE SCOPE OF ACTIVE COMMUNITY AWARENESS TO THIS VERY
CRITICAL SITUATION NOW CONFRONTING OUR SOCIETY.

I RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS ESTABLISH
THE 1970s AS THE DECADE OF PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT AND PEACE - THE
"PEP" DECADE, AN ENTIRE DECADE DEDICATED TO PEOPLE.....RECOG-
NIZING DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS.....AN ENTIRE
DECADE SET ASIDE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BATTLE THAT MUST BE FOUGHT
AGAINST POLLUTION.....AND A DECADE BORN IN THE FRUSTRATIONS OF WAR
AND DEDICATED TO A PEACE THAT PROVIDES MEANING FOR OUR ULTIMATE
GOAL OF BUILDING TOGETHER IN PEACE A BETTER WORLD FOR TOMORROW.

*upon which to concentrate
our attention.*

~~THESE ARE A FEW OF THE THINGS.~~ WE SHOULD HAVE FOUR
LEVELS. -- WHAT CAN YOU DO AT THE LOCAL LEVEL; WHAT CAN
YOU DO AT THE STATE LEVEL; WHAT CAN YOU DO AT THE NATIONAL
LEVEL; AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE FINAL -- WHAT CAN YOU DO
AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. *well,* AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IT REQUIRES
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, REWARDS AND AWARDS; AT THE STATE
LEVEL IT REQUIRES ~~CAN~~ STATE LAW, STRICT AND ~~NEARLY~~ *effective*
STATE ENFORCEMENT.

(1) *L* WE SHOULD CALL UPON EVERY LEGISLATURE TO PUT AT THE
TOP OF ITS AGENDA FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION STARTING 1971
THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

(2) AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL WE MUST CALL UPON THE CONGRESS
TO ESTABLISH STRICT STANDARDS ON ALL FORMS OF POLLUTION.....
STANDARDS THAT WOULD PREVENT THE FAMILIAR ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL
WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HERE IN MINNESOTA, WHERE A MAJOR
EMPLOYER CASTS ASIDE THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND PUTS A GUN TO THE
COMMUNITY'S HEAD BY THREATENING TO CLOSE HIS PLANT AND PUT

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OUT OF WORK IF MADE TO CONFORM TO EVEN

THE MINIMUM POLLUTION ABATEMENT MEASURES FOR AIR AND WATER,

WITH FEDERAL LEGISLATION, COMPANIES SUCH AS THIS, WHOSE *prime*

INTEREST *is* THEIR ANNUAL PROFIT, WOULD BE *forced into*

Pollution privilege by moving to ANOTHER STATE WHERE POLLUTION REQUIREMENTS *is governed*

by state laws but the requirements are less

demanding.

(3)

~~AT THE SAME TIME~~ THE CONGRESS SHOULD REVIEW EVERY

LAW REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT THAT IS NOW ON THE BOOKS.

THESE LAWS SHOULD BE UPDATED.....MAKE SURE THE PENALTIES FOR

POLLUTERS ARE STRONG ENOUGH.....AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, MAKE

SURE THE INCENTIVES TO TAKE CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO STOP

POLLUTION ARE REALISTIC IN TERMS OF TODAY'S LONG RANGE COR-

PORATE PLANNING.

(4)

International L AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, WORKING THROUGH THE

UNITED NATIONS, WE SHOULD NEGOTIATE AND RATIFY TREATIES AND

AGREEMENTS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, TO ESTABLISH ENFORCEABLE

STANDARDS FOR CLEAN AIR; STANDARDS FOR CLEAN WATER; AND
STRICT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF
INTERNATIONAL RIVERS AND THE OCEANS.

2 A UNITED NATIONS BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO SUPERVISE AND MONITOR ALL ENVIRON-
MENTAL CONTROL EFFORTS.

at the community level --

(5)

2 I PROPOSE A COMMUNITY COALITION FOR A CLEAN ENVIRON-
MENT -- A MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS OF ALL
AGE GROUPS AND ALL SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY.

2 WE NOW HAVE AN URBAN COALITION IN OUR MAJOR CITIES,
BUT THE COMMUNITY COALITION FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE
MUCH BROADER AND COULD GO INTO EVERY PART OF THE STATE AND
BEYOND THE STATE, TO THE NATION.

(6) TO COORDINATE ALL OF THE ESSENTIAL EFFORTS IN SUCH
A PROGRAM, I SUGGEST THAT ["]THE STATE ESTABLISH A CITIZENS'
ADVISORY BOARD ON ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION. ["]
THIS STATE BOARD WOULD WORK WITH SIMILAR BOARDS ORGANIZED IN
EACH COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA TO ESTABLISH LOCAL
STANDARDS ~~CONSERVATION~~, AS WELL AS, PROVIDING GUIDANCE,
INFORMATION AND DIRECTION TO ITS LOCAL CITIZENS AND INDUSTRY.
THIS IS WHAT WE REALLY MEAN BY "CITIZEN PARTICIPATION" IN THE
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. LET'S TAKE POLITICS
TO THE PEOPLE -- WHEN I SAY POLITICS, I MEAN THE WHOLE CON-
CEPT OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION TO THE PEOPLE.

(7) I PROPOSE A SPECIAL HONORS PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNITIES
WHERE THE STATE OF MINNESOTA WOULD PRESENT AN "E" AWARD FOR
"EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENT".

(8) LIKewise, THERE SHOULD BE A REGULAR REPORT ISSUED OUT
OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AS TO RESULTS IN BEAUTIFICATION AND

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION OF OUR STATE.....THE RESULTS OF WHAT
LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE DOING IN THEIR PARKS, AROUND CITY HALL
AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS.....INCLUDING HOW WE ARE CLEANING
UP THE AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARDS, HOW WE'RE CLEANING UP ALONG
ROADSIDES.

(9)

L EACH COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE APPOINTED
OFFICER, VOLUNTARY OR PAID, THAT WOULD SERVE LIKE A LOCAL
CONSERVATIONIST OR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER.

IN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THERE ARE LOCAL FORESTERS
AND LOCAL CONSERVATIONISTS THAT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A
PARTICULAR AREA. L WE CAN DO THE SAME THING HERE IN OUR RE-
SPECTIVE CITIES. THIS MAN CAN BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL
CITIZENS' BOARD ON ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION.

10

L WE SHOULD CALL ON EVERY YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN THE
STATE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THEIR
NUMBER ONE TASK. BOY SCOUTS, BOYS' CLUBS, FUTURE FARMERS AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GIRL GUIDES, CUBS, BLUEBIRDS, ETC.

John

*Air Pollution
Reports*

(11) I PROPOSE THAT THE RADIO, TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS START INCLUDING WITH EACH WEATHER REPORT A DAILY AIR POLLUTION COUNT FOR THEIR PARTICULAR COMMUNITY.

~~THE INFORMATION CAN BE READILY MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OR THE CITY AND COUNTY POLLUTION ABATEMENT BOARDS. THESE AIR POLLUTION REPORTS WOULD PROVIDE AN ACCUMULATIVE COUNT OF THE TOTAL OF MICROGRAMS OF SOLID MATTER IN THE AIR YOU BREATHE IN THE PRECEDING 24 HOURS. ALL OF THIS WOULD BE REPORTED IN RELATION TO THE 75 MICROGRAMS WHICH IS THE ESTABLISHED LEGAL MAXIMUM ANNUAL AVERAGE. DO THIS ONE LITTLE THING AND YOU'D SOON SEE AN OTHERWISE APATHETIC CITIZENRY BECOME ACTIVELY CONCERNED WHEN THEY FIND -- AS THEY DO IN THE TWIN CITIES RIGHT NOW -- THAT THESE DAILY COUNTS OFTEN RUN MORE THAN 20% ABOVE THIS LEGAL LIMIT OF 75.~~

(12) ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION IN THIS STATE -- TOGETHER WITH THE WATER QUALITY LAB IN DULUTH -- SHOULD~~

PROVIDE A WEEKLY PUBLISHED REPORT OF WATER POLLUTION
IN THE LAKES, STREAMS AND RIVERS OF THIS STATE.

NOW I REALIZE THAT THIS IS QUITE A FORMIDABLE
TASK AT FIRST THOUGHT. HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT SUCH
AN ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM COULD BE ESTABLISHED BY USING
EXISTING FACILITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTIES.
NOW A WATER POLLUTION REPORT, SUCH AS THIS, WILL BE OF NO
VALUE IF THOSE MAKING THE SAMPLE ANALYSIS DRAG THEIR FEET,
HIDE THE FACTS, OR ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE INTIMIDATED BY
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS -- BE THEY POLITICAL OR INDUSTRIAL.
JUST IMAGINE HOW QUICKLY A REPORT SUCH AS THIS WOULD POINT
OUT AREAS NEEDING IMMEDIATE CONCENTRATION ON SUCH CORRECTIVE
MEASURES AS NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT CENTERS. THIS WOULD ALLOW
US TO DISCOVER THE PROBLEM AND TAKE REMEDIAL STEPS BEFORE IT
BECOMES TOO LATE.

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