

April 14, 1970  
Wadena Senior H.S.  
Wadena, Minn.

INTRODUCTION  
RICHARD CARMAN

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It's with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I present to you the keynote speaker of this symposium. The symposium committee feels we have been very fortunate to secure the services of this outstanding individual. In fact, I am at a loss of words to express the high calibre and great qualifications this man possesses. Just to mention a very few of his accomplishments: pharmacist, college and university professor, mayor of Minneapolis, Senator of Minnesota, Vice President of the United States, Democratic nominee for President of the United States. His list of accomplishments as a public servant and humanitarian go on and on. He is truly a remarkable man. On behalf of the symposium committee and the Wadena faculty, I am extremely pleased to present to you an outstanding Minnesotan, Hubert H. Humphrey.

ADDRESS  
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Thank you very much Mr. Carman. I sort of feel somewhat like, I guess it was that poem by Kipling that "There was that man to the left of them, to the right of them, and everybody around you", but this is the first time I've had this many people in the back of me and supporting me for some time, I might say.

I hope that you will forgive me for this unpardonable delay, but I'm going to lay it on the line and level with you. When I got out to the airport this morning at around a quarter to eight, I found out that my proficient and efficient staff had just plain forgotten to put the stuff in the folder that I needed. So I had to go back to my office and see if I could somewhere or another find some notes that I had prepared for this meeting at Wadena. Now I have not exactly been in communication with God Almighty this morning as I have thought about this miserable situation; or if I have, I hope He has forgiven me for the words that I have used and the evil thoughts that have passed through my mind, because as to put it bluntly, not only was I upset about this, but I come to you with a mild case of the flu and the worst of all, the beginnings of laryngitis. For a man in public life that is worse than death itself to be so afflicted. And tomorrow afternoon I've got to fly to Tokyo, Japan, so I've got to stay in shape somehow. Do you understand?

Now let me just comment just briefly about what is the matter. I'm sure that you're very concerned about it as I am. Last evening I was at the University of Minnesota for the opening of our National Library Week. We had a special meeting there, and may I comment upon it. I hope that you will use your fine library facilities in this community as much as possible. Make them active living centers of learning. We are trying to promote the use of library facilities, and by the way, every library should be well stocked with material on physical environment as well as the social environment.

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But after that meeting, I heard a news flash which stunned me. Namely, that Apollo 13 had to abort its flight insofar as the landing on the moon was concerned. I served as chairman of the Space Council of the United States; in other words, the coordinator and director of all of our space activities for four years. I know the astronauts as well as I know anybody in the United States, and Jim Lovell happens to be a very good personal friend of mine. And McDevitt, whom you heard on the radio or TV last night, is a gentleman that I've known for some years and went to Paris with, with the Paris Air Show. So, I, to put it bluntly, have been sort of sad, worried, concerned. I've always wondered when and if such an event, or such a tragedy, as this might develop, or such a potential tragedy. These three men are there in what we call the LM capsule. I don't know if any of you have seen the LM. I've seen it. It's made out of tinfoil, as its covering. It's very fragile, and it surely is not a very comfortable vehicle in which to be going across the back of the moon. A very cold area in which problems obviously of heat, of thermal control, of both the machine and human body are monumental in proportions. If these three men get back, and I believe they will, it will be a test not only of their fortitude, their courage, and their skill, but also a test of the greatest combination of supervision, direction, and coordination of men and machines that the world has ever known. Nobody knows where they'll land now. No one knows whether it will be in the Pacific, or in the Atlantic, or in the Indian Ocean, or where it'll be. It just depends upon what their usables or their facilities might permit them to do. I must say to you that if ever a man wanted to believe in and should believe in the power of prayer, it is now. These are three great men; three good men; and they have been the victim of a tragic accident of some nature that we do not know about. So even the best of technology and the best of men can err, or should I put it, there can be troubles that no one can contemplate.

Now, why do I mention this? The first people that ever told me about the dangers of air pollution were astronauts. In fact, they reminded me so many times how much better it was once you got away from the earth's surface. They told us when they came back from these first Gemini flights, the first Mercury flights, and then the Gemini flights, and now the Apollo flights; that's the three generations - Mercury, Gemini, Apollo - in the space program. They reminded us that once you got away from the earth's surface - what beauty. But once that you just broke out of what they call the stratosphere and away from the earth's surface, the pull of the gravity of the earth, you could see all the filth, the debris, that was covering like a great mantle on the earth itself. And no matter where you went, it was the same. In other words, as they circled the earth, whether it was over the deserts, whether it was over the United States, whether it was over South Africa, whether it was over some part of Southern Asia, or Australia, no matter where you went, there was a belt of debris, an envelope, so to speak, in which the earth finds itself covered by forms of waste. And this is what we mean by air pollution.

Now the scientists have not yet come to agree as to whether or not this cover around the earth, the debris of particles, of dirt, dust, of gases, that come from human consumption and industrial waste; whether this will melt the icecap and flood us, and destroy all of mankind, or whether it will freeze us. There's a difference of point of view. But one thing they know, that there's only about twelve miles between the earth's surface and up to the end, up to the top of the stratosphere, in which there are the life-giving oxygens and other gases that are required for the sustenance of life. Then once that the, once that the debris and once that the fumes and the

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gases of earth push up into that twelve mile band, there is no escape. In other words, the idea that these forms of radioactive debris, of gases, of dust, of dirt, would pass out into infinity, into space, that has been proven not true. It is locked in. We are like we have a second wrapping around us - the earth's crust - the earth's crust that is around the earth. And then there is another gap of some twelve miles from the earth's surface on out, and that is the life-giving area. That is the band of life that mankind has been given by nature and providence to sustain him. And that band and that space is being filled. And they say that now it is about three fourths filled. And that's why the urgent matter of pollution control is aboundless. Now you say, "Well, it took all this time to fill it. That leaves a lot of time left." The trouble is that more pollution has taken place in the last hundred years according to our scientists than in the preceding thousands of years, because it's in the industrial age, and it's been in the age of population expansion that the pollution has taken place. Now, physical pollution, water pollution, air pollution, land pollution, pollution, as we call it, is the result of man's industrialization and population. Population. And we have to face up to it.

Now these are just some round numbers. There will be some experts with you. Up to the time of Socrates and Aristotle the population of the earth was maybe two hundred fifty million. That's the total population. At the time of Rome, at the zenith of its power, at the time of 1600 A.D., one thousand six hundred, at the time after Martin Luther, and the time beyond the Renaissance, coming into the modern age, the population of the earth was approximately half a billion. Five hundred million. By the year 1860 the population was slightly over a billion. One hundred years later it was three billion. Three billion! And my friends, it is now estimated that in the year 2000 the population of the earth will be over seven billion. Now those figures indicate to you what's happening in geometrical proportions. You cannot talk about physical environment, you cannot talk about environmental control unless you're going to talk about population. Population is involved distinctly, directly, and also the volume of consumption of population. We represent six per cent of the world's population in the United States. We consume forty per cent of the world's goods. One American pollutes the atmosphere and the earth on the average of four to five times as much as a man from India, or China, or Indonesia. So when you start to talk about there are too many Chinamen, too many people in India, they are polluting the earth; just remember that one of us is equivalent to five of them. The amount of debris that we scatter around is unbelievable. The industrial emissions from our smokestacks, from our water systems, from our sewage, is unbelievable.

I put down some figures here on population which might be helpful. Every thirty days we add to our population in the United States a city the size of Toledo, Ohio - four hundred thousand persons. Every thirty days! Every year we add to our population a new Philadelphia, a little over two and one half million people. And in the next two decades we will double the size of Los Angeles and the San Francisco populations; and in the next twenty years we'll have over six million additional persons in New York city alone. And New York city is already almost ungovernable. Our population in America in the next thirty years will be over three hundred million people. We will have to, in other words, in the next thirty years be able to house another hundred million people. It is estimated that over one third of all of the people, or better than that, one half of all of our people in the next thirty years will have to have entirely new shelter, new homes. And here we are right now, may I point out to you, with our housing program one half what it ought to be this year. This is the danger of even current

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events. When you stop and think that in the next thirty years we're going to have to build one half as much of all of the housing that we presently have to house our population. Renewed, one half, fifty per cent of all the homes in America will have to be, there'll have to be that many more. Let's say if we had in America today a hundred million homes, we'll have to build fifty million more. Actually, we have more housing units than that. Now when we're already running behind, you see the dangers in what you might call the social environment involved here.

I guess that we have to talk very openly and candidly, and almost frighteningly about this problem. There's a new awareness about environment, and rightly so. That new awareness has been brought to us by smog in Los Angeles. It has been brought to us by the fact that at one time a few months ago five American cities had to serve notice through their Civil Defense organization -- in one day in five separate parts of this country -- to serve notice to parents to keep their children inside, not to let them go out on playgrounds; if possible, to keep them in bed, because the air was so polluted that there was serious danger to the health of the children. In the United States of America the one thing that you can say about the astronauts with all of their trouble is that they did have a clean environment, and they still do have in the little LM, the peculiar little spider-like machine that lands on the moon, which today is the lifeboat for these three astronauts of ours. At least the environment is clean, and the water is clean. But here on earth we are insisting upon destroying it.

Well now, the facts are quite revealing. Every year two hundred billion tons of smoke and fumes are spewed into the atmosphere. Every year, and it increases every year, that's the point. I saw a picture in the paper this morning of a North Central Airliner, a DC-9, two engines, and the back of the fuselage at the tailsection; one - the old engine, one - the new; the old engine spewing out hundreds and hundreds and thousands of pounds of carbon debris, and the new one - ninety-five per cent free of it. What I am trying to show you is that we already have the machines to do much about this pollution if we are willing to spend the money. It is estimated that it will cost in the next thirty years two hundred seventy five billion dollars. Get that figure - two hundred seventy five billion dollars is the estimate for effective pollution control of air and water and solid wastes. And you say, "My gosh, how can we afford two hundred seventy five billion dollars in the next thirty years?" Well, everything is relative. That's equivalent to less than four years of a defense budget. And I'm here to tell you that your safety is more involved in the air that you breathe, and the water that you drink, and the land on which you live, than anything related to our national security. Anything!

Plus the fact, my good friends, we're working at a rate of a trillion dollars a year in our economy. A trillion dollars a year! We have what we call a potential increase in dividend and federal resources. Just the Federal Government if the economy keeps going anywheres near like it is without any great substantial increases, we will be drawing into that federal economy, that is into the Federal Treasury, anywhere from thirty to forty billion dollars a year additional revenues. We have the means, that's what I'm here to tell you. The question is, do you have the will? The question is, is this environmental period that we're going through now a fad or is it a commitment? Now that's up to you. Are you going to be sunshine soldiers, part-time volunteers, or are you volunteering for the long-term? I have to be frank with you. We haven't finished a lot of things that we started in this country. We got all hepped up about rat control in

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our cities for a while, because thousands of children every week are the victims of rat bites, and the victims of disease because of rats that are multiplying by the millions in our cities and little or nothing being done about them. And people, young people all over America, a few years ago were going to do something about that, but they dropped it. We had sit-ins, and we had freedom rides and freedom marches, and we had sit-ins at lunch counters to do something about civil rights, and we didn't finish that one off either, and we moved on to something else. A while ago it was all Viet Nam, and that hasn't been finished off either. Now I want to know if we're going to stick with it, because I can show you in the time that's mine that we have legislation, and we can get more of it, and we need more of it. I can show you that we have the technology, much of it, and that which we don't have we can develop. We can establish institutes at the federal level where the Federal Government does for pollution control what it does for cancer and heart disease and stroke and neurological diseases. We have National Institutes of Health; we can have National Institutes of Environmental Research, and we ought to have it. We have a Department of Transportation, we have a Department of Housing, we have a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. We ought to have a Department of Environment so that we can control and coordinate and expand the efforts of this great government of ours in the fields of the protection of the air that we breathe, and the water that we drink, and the land on which we live. We can do these things. There isn't a single thing that needs to be done that this country can't do if we make up our mind to do it.

Now listen, you're going to have an election this year. You ought not to let one single person be elected to the State Legislature, to the county board, or to the city council, or the Congress of the United States until you put him right up against the wall and ask him about twenty-five tough questions about population, and the environment, and the social conditions in which people live. Let's hear what they have to say. None of this if and and stuff. Let's level. Are we willing to pay the price? Are you willing to pay a little more for some goods? Are you willing to do something about your tax program? Are you willing to have tax incentives for industry to modernize? Are you willing to penalize the polluters and make them pay, or are you just going to have a conversation? If that's all it's all about, then it's your life.

Listen. May I make a look around here and say any of the gray hairs and anybody over fifty doesn't have to worry too much. We'll still make it; we won't choke to death. You will - you out here in this audience, this young audience. The only thing I have to worry about with you is will you take care of my Medicare, as far as my life is concerned. But your life, twenty-five years from now you're at the apex of your life. And twenty-five years from now you're going to have to, you're going to make decisions this year and next year to determine whether you're going to be living well twenty-five years from now. If the present rate of air and water pollution continues at the rate that it is going on now in the next twenty-five years, this nation of ours will be physically sick and will be a degenerating and degraded civilization. That's why these environmental conferences have interest. That's what we're talking about. We're talking about life and death. Some scientists say that we only have ten years. I've found very few that figure we have over thirty. Now for our fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, eighteen year old young man or woman in this audience, thirty years leaves you at age forty-eight, thirty years leaves you at age forty-five, at the zenith of your life, and you're going to have to ask yourself right today whether or not you are going to be breathing air that's fit to breathe, or

whether you're going to be drinking water that's fit to drink, or whether there's going to be any place to dispose of the garbage that has to be disposed of, or what are you going to do with all those old beat up old cars. We have to get rid of several million every year.

I said we had two hundred million tons of smoke and fumes coming out every year. We have twenty thousand Americans presently dying every year from the effect of air pollution. Every year! Now we've lost forty-three thousand in ten years in Viet Nam, and everybody's in a sweat. Rightly so, but every year twenty thousand asphyxiations, deaths that are directly attributable to air pollution in this country. When you get behind one of those big buses in any one of our cities and breathe in one of those slugs of fumes that they put out, why just chalk up about six months off your life, or six days or something, because that's sheer poison. And no bus company has the right to do it. And we've got to start putting it right up to them. Everything that we speak of here, these air pollutants of lead, of organic compounds, of carbon monoxide, of nitrogen oxides, of particulates, of sulfur oxides which combine with water vapor and make sulfuric acid and other acids, and carbon dioxide - that's what you're breathing. In many of these great metropolitan centers everyone of them are potential poisons. And we now know that they are severely dangerous or very dangerous to our physical health.

How about our waters? Well, they're polluted with sewage and chemicals. We're even now faced with what we call thermal water problems. Our fish are dying out in this great Minnesota, the land of the sky blue waters. The only time I see it is on a Hamm's beer ad. Where are the sky blue waters? What have we done to them? We've filled these lakes of ours with raw sewage. We have permitted fertilizers and all sorts of things to drain into these lakes. The growth of weeds and algae is incredible, and as the algae deteriorates, it takes the oxygen out of the water and it kills the fish. Do you think we have the right to see that our lakes are destroyed? And once that a lake is polluted, it takes from twenty-five to fifty years for it to recover -- if it ever recovers.

And then we see pollution from radio isotopes. This is what the argument is about between the state of Minnesota and the power company - over the Mississippi River. Whether or not what the standards will be in terms of radioactive debris that flows into that river. What about the heat that flows into that river to change the temperature and thereby change the water life, the plant life, the marine life? And I think that the state of Minnesota is to be commended through its Pollution Control Administration. I'm insisting that the Atomic Energy Commission elevate its standards, and if the A.E.C. won't do it, and by the way, the A.E.C. standards are twenty years old - twenty-five years old, from the days of Nagasaki and Hiroshima; if the Federal Government won't do it, then the State should have the right to do it, and I surely want to see that we support them. I hope that whomever runs for Governor in this State, Republican or Democrat, and whoever gets elected, will make sure that we in the State of Minnesota protect our water supply, protect our rivers, protect our lakes, and protect our land. And we don't have to wait for the Federal Government to do it for us. We can do it here, and we ought to ask every candidate for every office, "Where do you stand? Are you going to be one that is pushed around by industry, or are you going to be one that stands up for the people and the long-term interests of the people and even some yet unborn?"

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Well, we see that pesticides can do a little to us too. We had eighty to ninety thousand people injured last year from pesticides. We now find out that DDT doesn't only kill mosquitos, it kills you. DDT. Cancer producing. And at long last the government of the United States is taking it off the market. And there are other pesticides.

Each year we Americans junk seven million cars. Do we really junk them? Frankly, we've been leaving them along side the road. And I want to say to my young friends here, every time you see a car graveyard like that, you ought to find out who owns it and go call on him, and tell him he doesn't have any right to desecrate the landscape. He doesn't, you know. He doesn't have any right to leave that stuff piled around. There are lots of things that we can do individually. We throw away twenty million tons of paper every year, thirty-eight billion cans, and twenty-eight billion bottles. I have a fear that someday ten thousand years from now when some archaeologist is around digging up around this civilization that was ours, he'll say, "I wonder what kind of people they were. What do you think they did?" And somebody's going to say, "They apparently spent their whole life drinking beer or some kind of soft drink in a non-disposable bottle." Because those non-disposable bottles will be here ten thousand years from now. They do not oxidize. So I might suggest that we take a little look at that.

Well now, we've passed a lot of legislation, and I'm not going to burden you with all of that. We started out in our legislative program, believe it or not, in 1899 with the Rivers and Harbors Act. Do you know what the penalty was for dumping sewage in a navigable waters, into the streams, and into the harbor of New York? Two hundred fifty dollars. This act was expanded four years later and increased the penalty from two hundred fifty dollars to two thousand five hundred dollars. The Standard Oil Company was fined once two thousand five hundred dollars. I imagine they could hardly pay for it. After that the Oil Depletion Act of 1924 provided penalties of the Air Pollution Control Act. They were worried about oil in the harbors and the bays even then, and in the streams. And they provided under law a penalty of two thousand five hundred dollars for dumping oil into the navigable water of the United States. This act, however, was weakened by a subsequent court decision that said that you had to premeditate some kind of damage in order to be held accountable. The first real pollution control legislation was in 1948, which was a Water Pollution Control Act for the development of sewage plants. The man that led the fight was a Minnesotan, and his name was John Blatnik. He was the man that introduced the first major piece of legislation, and that was the Water Pollution Control Act of 1956. That act, by the way, was fought vigorously by the administration at that time. And during the two years following the passage of that act, sewage construction plants, or sewage disposal plants, doubled in this country. In 1961 Congressman Blatnik introduced a bill which proposed a Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, and under that legislation, waters both interstate and intrastate were under federal regulation. There are twenty-six thousand bodies of fresh water in the United States, and we have a large amount of them in Minnesota. And only four thousand of these were interstate, twenty-two thousand were intra-, like our little lakes. And Mr. Blatnik's legislation applied to all, both inter- and intrastate. In 1965 he introduced the Water Quality Act for increased construction grants and facilitated multicommunity enlarged construction programs for sewage. And now we have, as you know, the 1969 Environmental Quality Act and the Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966. We've done a lot. We even have some Clean Air Acts to do something about car emissions. Sixty per cent of all the air pollution today is due to automobiles. And of that sixty per cent at least

ninety-five per cent of that sixty per cent can be controlled. You ought to start writing to automobile companies and say, "When are you going to put on control devices for emissions?" Now, if somebody were down the street shooting in your window with a .22 rifle and kept it up twenty-four hours a day, or every time you came out the front door tried to see if they could nip your ear, I have a feeling that you might call him on the phone and say, "Would you mind putting the gun down?" Well, let me tell you that every single day when a car goes down that street, it's like a French 75 cannon shooting at you. And I think it's time to tell the automobile manufacturers to quit putting bullets in the cannon. If they've got to explode it, let it be a blank.

We can take most of the dangerous gases out of the exhaust just as we can do with airplanes. I'd like to just share a little intimate matter with you. For two years I've been on the back of the Federal Aviation Administration, the F.A.A.. Three years. While I was Vice-President I started it. To get the F.A.A., the Federal Aviation Administration, that controls all of the aircraft in this country to put on, to demand of the airlines that they put on engines that did not put that kind of carbon debris that you see as the plane takes off from an airport. You've watched it. In Washington D.C. one hundred five tons of debris come out of Washington National Airport every week over the city. The average cost per household in Washington D.C. because of the extra cleaning bills for laundry, for drapes, for cleaning walls, for cleaning buildings, the average per household cleaning bills is over two hundred dollars. Now imagine if we raised the taxes on somebody two hundred dollars to control environment. Why they'd want to hang you. But as long as it's just done, that you just have to pay the bill and die in the meantime or get sick, you would tolerate it. Were we to have increased the taxes five dollars per household, we could have done something about it. But when you try to raise those taxes, people say no. Now I want to say to the young audience here today. You're not going to control pollution for nothing. You're going to have to pay for it. You're going to have to pay for it by sometimes higher prices. You're going to have to pay for it sometimes by higher taxes, and you're going to have to have industry pay for it out of its pockets. Now those are the three areas where the pay comes, so if you're in some type and you think you're getting a free ride, get off, because the bus stopped. It's going to cost money, and we've got to be willing to pay that money.

Now, what can we do here at home along with these matters? I hope that I've left you with the thought at least that it's urgent. We're not talking about something you can do ten years from now. We are already twenty-five years late. Already. We're trying to catch up. Already a vast majority of our lakes are polluted. Already practically every navigable river in the United States is a flowing sewer. Already every harbor without exception is contaminated. Already certain rivers are a fire hazard. Get that -- rivers a fire hazard, because they're filled with so much pollution that the water burns. Already we see the possibilities of the stratosphere, that vital little area of air that is life-giving, being packed, jammed with gases and fumes and debris. Already we also know that we have a good deal of legislation that can be enforced. We also know that we need more. Already we know that with a minor investment, a modest investment, in research, we can do much better. Now these are things that we know that we can do, but after having done all of this, it's going to require an aroused public.

Now, we did some things out of an aroused public. We got a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 that prevents the nations of the world from exploding nuclear bombs in the atmosphere, thereby filling that atmosphere with

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dangerous strontium 90, which when it settles down upon the earth permeates the food, the grass, the land, everything, the bodies, causing radioactivity and thereby increasing the prospects for cancer several times or many factors. Now, because of the danger of strontium 90 fallout, your government and the Soviet Union finally entered into a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. That was the first and the greatest international pollution control agreement. We've had another one called the Non-Proliferation Treaty, stopping the spread of nuclear technology. Some of you have heard that I have been opposed to the testing and the deployment of the new big missiles called the MIRV, the Multiple Independently Targeted Reentry Vehicles, the huge new nuclear weapons, because they are so dangerous, so costly, and if tested in the atmosphere or in space would so contaminate the air that we breathe that I don't think there would be much hope for any of us.

There are things that even you as a citizen not in government can do. You can sustain your interest. You can learn more about it. All that I told you today is just a smattering of information. You simply have to study. How much population can this earth of ours sustain? What about this delicate balance, this ecological balance? Maybe man has distorted the environment in which he lives to a point where it now threatens his life. Are you willing to pay for a better balance in nature? Are you willing maybe to accept even a slightly lower standard of living in order to live? Are we willing to see to it that before a new plant is constructed, a new airport is designed, or a new sewage system is put in, that it meets standards of health protection? Or do we wait and let them put anything in they want to and let the pollution start first, and then hope that we can correct it afterwards? This is your life, young man and young woman. Your life is on the line, not your grandfathers, not even your parents. I speak today for the young people sixteen, eighteen, ten, twelve, fifteen years of age, and I am here to tell you that unless you take a hand in this thing, you're not going to have a very, very good life, if one at all. It's that serious. That's what these seminars are about.

Now, I want the President of the United States, now, this month, and the Congress of the United States to demonstrate our concern, our national concern, about the problems of population, environment, and peace, because they're all tied up. They're all tied together by a declaration on the part of the Congress and by the President to designate the decade of the 1970's as the decade of Population, Environment, and Peace, to which we dedicate every energy of this country. And for a better, just for a short title, just call it the PEP decade - Population, Environment, and Peace. They're tied together. There will be no peace in an overcrowded world. There will be nothing worthy of the name peace in a world that's polluted, either by war or by dirty air and dirty water. We need to concentrate our attentions on it.

Secondly, once that's been done, we need to take a look at every locality, and in every community starting with Wadena, we should have here a Community Coalition for Clean Environment made up of people of all walks of life and particularly with young people. A Community Coalition for Clean Environment. Some of your best people in every walk of life supervising, monitoring, examining, advising, counseling, on every matter relating to air pollution, water pollution, disposal of solid wastes, and the total environment in which people live. We need in every community across the land, not only in Minnesota, at least one officer that is known as an Environment Officer, just exactly as you have a Public Health officer, just as you have a sheriff, or just as you have a superintendent of schools. And that man to

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work with that community coalition. We need to call upon every young people's organization, no matter what group, from the 4-H Club, to the Boy Scouts, to the Jaycees, down to the Future Farmers of America and the Future Homemakers. We need to call upon them to band together in a kind of a youth coalition to see to it that communities do the little things that count; see whether or not the debris is out of your community, see whether or not there are any programs of beautification and conservation in your community, see whether or not something is being done about cesspools that drain into lakes. Appoint yourself as a kind of guardian of the communities future.

We need to examine every state law; and every man that runs for the legislature in this area, all over the United States, should be asked if he is willing to vote and willing to go to the legislature and re-examine every law in the statute books relating to pollution control. They're all obsolete. They're all like old Tin Lizzie Fords. They're back in the horse and buggy age. Very few new laws have been passed. And you have a right, young Americans, to demand your legislator's modernization of law and enforcement. As I said, you have the obligation to not only demand it but to pursue it in terms of your inquiry and your interrogation of people that seek public office. The Governor, whomever he may be, of this state and every other state, should give reports to the people of the respective states as to what is being done in our respective states to improve the environment. Regular reports, just like the President gives a message on the State of the Union, let the Governor give a message on the State of the Environment. You have a right to know what is being done, what enforcement is under way, what plans are under way, what improvements are under way, or whether we're better off or worse off year after year.

Let the weather services. You get up in the morning, you turn on the radio or the television and you hear the weather report. Insist that you hear the air pollution report, not just the weather, whether it's going to rain, or whether it's going to snow, or whether it's going to be cloudy. You can look out and see whether it's going to be cloudy. That doesn't take too much brains to figure that out, you know. But the important thing is not whether it's going to rain or snow, (that's good for you) and what the temperature is, but what is the count in the air. What's in the air that can damage your health? How does it vary? What is the difference between the air pollution count in Wadena and, let's say, on the corner of Seventh and Nicollet in Minneapolis? Oh boy! I want to tell you the gas attack it takes down there eighteen hours a day, we ought to equip people with gas masks before they go into Dayton's. Have you ever stood on the corners of these metropolitan centers?

We ought to have, for example, not only an examination of every State Law, but of every Congressional Law, to update it. We also need at the United Nations level. By the way, diplomacy today which we're always meeting with the Russians on something or the Vietnamese or something like that. There is no chance for you to have a clean air debris and clean water to drink unless it is internationally agreed upon. The air pollution from Western Europe affects the United States, and the air pollution from the United States affects the Pacific. The air currents carry it, and we must have international controls. You heard of the beautiful Blue Danube. That river -- beautiful river. It is a moving garbage pit. I've seen the beautiful Blue Danube. You can almost walk on it -- and without being very sanctimonious. The Rhine River -- the beautiful Rhine River. Do you remember what happened to the beautiful Rhine River? A few years ago it caught on fire. Filled with debris.

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And the factories of Japan, the great industrial power of Japan, spewing out filth. Japan has a crisis situation. Great Britain, by the way, did something about it, you may recall. They lost several hundred lives here a few years ago, and the British in their traditional manner of doing things when it needs to be done, cracked down. By the way, Britain reduced her air smog by seventy-five per cent. British that had been firing those little, those little burners and fireplaces with soft coal for three hundred years were told they couldn't do it anymore. And they enforced the law. They enforced the law. They did something about industrial waste in the Thames River. And I give you some news. For the first time, for the first time in thirty-five years, somebody caught a fish in the Thames River this year. The fish have come back. There were no fish in that beautiful river. Totally destroyed fish life. Finally it's beginning to come back.

So we can do things. We need international agreements. We need a United Nations Environmental Board to supervise these international agreements.

And then finally here at home, and let me just run down quickly because you have been so patient. I want to see our Governor appoint a State Citizens Advisory Board on Environment. I don't want just enforcement; we want to have people involved. Environment, conservation, and recreation. And I want on that board not less than three or four young men and women of high school and college age, because it's your life that we're talking about.

I'd like to see every community in the state compete for an "E" award. You know you get if you make big guns, if you make a good tank, if you make a real good fighter bomber, if you make some good napalm, they give you a good "E" award from the Defense Department. Excellence in munitions. I want to see an "E" award granted to the community -- to the community that has excellence in environment. Just imagine what that would mean in this state, in a statewide competition of different sizes of cities and different groups in different groupings. If ever you come to a city, on the city flagpole you saw an "E" award - a blue flag with a white E. Clean water and blue air. Blue water and clean air. An "E" award. Why not? Do we just give out "E" awards to the people that can make the biggest and best guns? Why don't we give out an "E" award for people that make possible sustaining life?

Well, those are a few little things that I would like to have us do, and I wouldn't mind having the water laboratory up at Duluth, along with the Conservation Department of the State of Minnesota, give a monthly report on the condition of our rivers and lakes. Rather than having somebody tell you, "Don't jump in the river, it's polluted", let's find out. Let's be willing to pay for these things. Let's be willing to do these things.

Now ultimately, the environment that we're speaking of is the totality of our life. And I have to tell you very frankly that the most important possession that you have, young friend, is your body, your mind. It has been said that "He who has health, has hope, and he who has hope, has everything." The most important possession that your parents gave you and the God Almighty blessed you with is your body, your mind, your spirit. And whatever you put into it in terms of thought, or goods, or materials, tends to either improve it or destroy it. It's only you that make the choice. Now you can go around and talk about air pollution and water pollution from now till dooms day, but if you pollute yourself, what good does it do to worry about the air? And you just have to think about it. Now we're all guilty. It's just like pollution. It isn't just a problem of industry. You can't go out here and point to the industrialist and say, "You did it." You

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can't go on out here to the paper mill and say, "You did it", or to the power company, "You did it". We all do it. We do it to ourselves. We do it as consumers. I saw an ad here, an article, the other day of some students taking big sledge hammers and cutting up and beating up a 1959 Ford. And I said, "What's that all about?" They said, "It's a symbol. We're against pollution." I said, "What in the name of common sense does this have to do with pollution?" "Well, cars pollute and we're just beating it up. We got axes, and we've got sledge hammers, and we're going to beat this car into a pulp." I said, "You're beating on the wrong one. Cars don't pollute. It's when people get in cars that it pollutes." I'm not advocating you beat up each other, but if you got to hit somebody, if you just got to take it out on somebody, why find somebody around and let him have it. You know. Because it's people that pollute. People.

Now what about yourself? Are you interested in the clean environment in our cities for young people and old people alike? Are you interested in seeing that the slums are cleaned up? Are you interested in seeing that the noise and the congestion, that is the life of so many of our people today, is at least reduced? Are you interested in the pollution of racial bias? Because let me tell you, a man that is a bigot or a racist is polluted beyond redemption almost. Mental pollution. Spiritual pollution. The worst kind of pollution. The pollution that brings hatred and anger that destroys you. And we've got all kinds of that kind of pollution. When people no longer regard men and women on the basis of their character, but by the color of their skin. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said to us, "The sciences made the world into a neighborhood, but only the spirit and will of man can make a neighborhood into a brotherhood." The pollution of the mind, of the spirit, the pollution that would deny another man a chance because of the church that he goes to, or the color of his skin, or the accident of his birth. That's the worst kind of pollution. That's evil, sinful pollution. Not just accidental, but premeditated. The pollution of a body that is the victim of drugs. The pollution of a body that is the victim of abuse. So when we wage war on pollution, let's remember that we're really in a sense trying to exercise self-discipline. That's what it's all about.

And I happen to think, if I can say to my people, to friends of my generation, that despite all that we've said about young people today, that they're more aware of this than ever we were. And I don't have to think that my preachment is going to change a young man's mind or a young woman's mind, but you can help each other. You can help each other in your thoughts, in your actions. You can help someone that is polluting his body. You can help someone that is polluting his mind. And then you can remind the older generation in this country that there's something worse than student militancy. It's adult apathy, adult indifference. And there's far too much adult indifference in this country. The willingness of people to say, "Well it's always been this way. I can't change it. I'm not going to get involved." Get involved! Tell your parents, tell your grandparents, tell your uncle, tell your aunt, tell anybody that's a little older that it's your life that's on the line, and that you don't intend to let a government or a society destroy that life without you having something to say about it. That you expect some help. And in the process of expecting some help, set a good standard - a standard of city consciousness, a standard of responsibility. Take care of yourself and you can help take care of others. Ask others to help you take care of the community, and then the community will help take care of you. Think not only of the air that you breathe and the water that you drink and the land on which you live, but think of your own mind, your own spirit, your own soul, your own body. And when you do it, we'll have waged a rather effective battle against pollution of man and his creation. Thank you very much.

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WADENA, MINNESOTA  
April 14, 1970

"THE COLUMBUS CHALLENGE"

IN THE 30 SHORT YEARS LEFT IN THIS CENTURY, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO BUILD AS MUCH AS HAS BEEN BUILT IN THE WHOLE NATION ALTOGETHER SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE WHITE MAN IN 1492. BY THE YEAR 2000 NEARLY HALF OF US WILL LIVE IN HOUSES OR APARTMENTS NOT YET STARTED AND ON LAND NOT YET BROKEN.

POPULATION GROWTH FACTS

IN THE PAST 30 YEARS THE CITY OF BALITMORE HAS ADDED TO ITS POPULATION A CITY LARGER THAN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, ( 1 million, 127 thousand persons); AND IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS IT WILL ADD A CITY ABOUT THE SIZE OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, (1 million, 153 thousand persons).

DURING THESE SAME NEXT TWENTY YEARS OUR NATION'S CAPITAL WILL BE ADDING TO ITSELF A CITY THE SIZE OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (925 thousand persons).

(More on next page)

WADENA, MINNESOTA  
April 14, 1970

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GOOD PHRASES

ECOLOGICAL OBSCENITY

ENVIRONMENTAL INSULT

WHEN CLASSIFYING NATIONS OF THE WORLD, THE TERM  
"UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES" IS A EUPHEMISM FOR "STARVING".  
THESE COUNTRIES COMPRISE TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S  
POPULATION. THEIR GROWTH IN POPULATION IS SO FANTASTIC  
THAT THEY DOUBLE THEIR POPULATION ANYWHERE FROM TWICE TO  
EIGHT TIMES AS FAST AS DEVELOPED NATIONS.

MANKIND'S INALIENABLE RIGHTS

1. THE RIGHT TO EAT WELL
2. THE RIGHT TO DRINK PURE WATER.
3. THE RIGHT TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR.
4. THE RIGHT TO DECENT, UNCROWDED SHELTER.
5. THE RIGHT TO ENJOY NATURAL BEAUTY.
6. THE RIGHT TO AVOID REGIMENTATION.
7. THE RIGHT TO AVOID PESTICIDE POISONING.
8. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM THERMONUCLEAR WAR.
9. THE RIGHT TO LIMIT FAMILIES.
10. THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION.
11. THE RIGHT TO HAVE GRANDCHILDREN.

(from THE POPULATION BOMB by Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich)



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