

HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCTS CONSUMED OR USED \*

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AN ESTIMATED 2,000,000 TO 10,000,000 CASES OF FOOD POISONING  
IN THIS COUNTRY EACH YEAR.

50,000,000 INJURIES AND 100,000 DEATHS ANNUALLY FROM ENVIRON-  
MENTAL INJURIES AND HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS.

3,000 REPORTED DEATHS EACH YEAR FROM ACCIDENTAL INGESTION  
OF POISONS.

112,500 TO 225,000 DEATHS OR PERMANENT DAMAGE FROM PRODUCTS  
COATED WITH OLD PAINT CONTAINING LEAD.

RADIATION EXPOSURE FROM DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC X-RAYS.

UNNECESSARY RADIATION FROM ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS.

A 50% INCREASE IN THE USE OF FOOD ADDITIVES IN THE PAST TEN  
YEARS, AND A PER-CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF THREE POUNDS OF THESE  
CHEMICALS ANNUALLY.

PESTICIDE RESIDUES ON FOOD CROPS.

TRACES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN MEAT, MILK, AND EGGS.

PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION IN OUR FROZEN SALMON.

LAX STATE LAWS WHICH ENCOURAGE QUACKERY AND "MIRACLE DRUGS".

HARMFUL WEIGHT CONTROL NOSTRUMS.

PRODUCTS IN THE HOME AND MARKET WHICH ARE CORROSIVE, IRRITANT,  
FLAMMABLE, OR EXPLOSIVE.

PRODUCTS WHICH OFFER SERIOUS THREATS FROM RADIATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS? YES!

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION? YES!

HIGH PRIORITIES? SHOULD BE! HAVEN'T BEEN.

PUBLIC INTEREST? POOR.

ADEQUATE LEGISLATION? NO.

PROGRAMS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION? NO.

ACCEPTED BY HEALTH AGENCIES? NOT SUFFICIENTLY.

ANSWERS POSSIBLE? YES.

RELEVANT TO CAMPUS INTEREST AND ACTION? YES.

SO MUCH FOR THE LEAD AND THE CONCLUSION. NOW FOR SOME OF THE "GUTS" OF THE SITUATION.

MANY OF US HAVE BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS MORE THAN AIR, WASTES, AND WATER. MANY OF US ARE AMAZED AND CHAGRINNED THAT THE NEW FOUND CROP OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ECOLOGISTS, AND CONSERVATIONISTS HAVEN'T RECOGNIZED THE TOTALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECOLOGICAL AND PROGRAM INTERDIGITATION OF ALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. MANY OF US THINK THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS INCLUDE NOT ONLY AIR, WATER, WASTES, BUT ALSO PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS, ENVIRONMENTAL INJURIES, FOOD, DRUGS, PATHOGENS, RADIATION, HOUSING, NOISE, AND SPACE. MANY OF US THINK THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COULD BE DEFINED AS "THE AGGREGATE OF ALL THE EXTERNAL CONDITIONS AND INFLUENCE AFFECTING THE LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN ORGANISM, HUMAN BEHAVIOR, AND SOCIETY". MANY OF US THINK THAT POLLUTANTS ARE UNDESIRABLE BY-PRODUCTS OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THUS INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS, NOISE, RADIATION, FOOD POISONINGS, DANGEROUS DRUGS, TOXIC FOOD ADDITIVES, ETC. MANY OF US KNOW THAT THE EFFECTS OF MANY PRODUCTS CONSUMED OR USED RESULT IN INCONTROVERTIBLE HEALTH HAZARDS LIKE DISEASE, DEATH, OR INFIRMITY.

O.K., NOW LET'S GET A LITTLE BETTER ORGANIZED ABOUT THE PRODUCTS WE'VE BEEN REFERRING TO. LET'S LIST SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE PRODUCTS ACCORDING TO A LOGICAL GROUPING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO; NAMELY, THE REASONABLY DISCRETE GROUPING OF AIR, WATER, WASTES, SHELTER, SPACE, FOOD, PATHOGENS, DRUGS, RADIATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS, NOISE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJURIES; (YOU WILL NOTE THAT, AT THIS POINT, I AM ADDRESSING MY COMMENTS TO PROBLEMS RATHER THAN PROGRAMS INASMUCH AS MOST PROGRAMS INVOLVE VARYING MIXTURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM WOULD INVOLVE EVERY PREVIOUSLY-LISTED PROBLEM. THE SAME WOULD BE TRUE OF COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OR INSTITUTIONAL SANITATION.)

ENVIRONMENTAL INJURIES. A LISTING OF PRODUCTS USED OR CONSUMED IN THIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM CATEGORY WOULD INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS FLAMMABLE FABRICS, MANY TOYS, POWER LAWN MOWERS, ABANDONED REFRIGERATORS, PLASTIC GARMENT COVERS, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, GAS EQUIPMENT, GLASS DOORS, POWER SAWS AND OTHER POWER TOOLS, AUTOMOBILES, BOATS, SNOWMOBILES, SKIS, GUNS, FIREWORKS, TRACTORS, AND LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OTHER SIMILAR APPLIANCES, VEHICLES, TOYS, CONTAINERS, EQUIPMENT, DEVICES, HOUSEWARES, ETC. I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT POLLUTANTS SUCH AS THESE ACCOUNT FOR MILLIONS OF INJURIES AND THOUSANDS OF DEATHS EACH YEAR. IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT THE "DIRTY DOZEN" HOUSEHOLD ITEMS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO SOME 114,000 DEATHS ANNUALLY FROM HOME ACCIDENTS INCLUDE

- 1) HOME POWER TOOLS, 2) HEATING DEVICES, 3) CLOTHES WRINGERS,
- 4) POWER MOWERS, 5) COOKING STOVES, 6) HOT SKILLETTS,
- 7) INCINERATORS, 8) GLASS DOORS, 9) APPLIANCE CORDS, 10) ELECTRIC

sockets and extensions, 11) pilots and gas burners, and 12) sun lamps.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS. ANOTHER MAJOR GROUPING OF POLLUTANTS TO WHICH TOO LITTLE ORGANIZED PROGRAM ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN EITHER BY HEALTH AGENCIES OR OTHER ALLEGED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCIES. THIS GROUP INCLUDES SUCH CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, POISONS, AND PESTICIDES.

CONTROL OF PESTICIDES HAS BEEN SHORT-SIGHTED, ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE, HAZARDOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH, AND LARGELY GEARED TO AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY NEEDS, RATHER THAN THE TOTAL PROBLEM OF PROTECTING MAN IN HIS ENVIRONMENT. WHILE EVEN FEDERAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT, INDUSTRY-ORIENTED, AND COVERS ONLY INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS, MOST STATES ARE DOING EVEN LESS. PESTICIDES INCLUDE INSECTICIDES, FUNGICIDES, HERBICIDES, RODENTICIDES, NEMATOCIDES, AND MOLLUSCICIDES. MOST AMERICANS ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH CLASSES OF PESTICIDES AS THE CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS (SUCH AS DDT) AND THE ORGANIC PHOSPHATES (SUCH AS PARATHION). PESTICIDES HAVE CAUSED INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO OUR PLANET'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES; HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS AND SUBTLE CHANGES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT; AND SOME, PARTICULARLY DDT, HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN AIR, SOIL, WATER, AND LIVING ORGANISMS ALL OVER THE WORLD. CERTAIN BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AND ARE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. CHOLINESTERASE INHIBITION FROM ORGANIC PHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS HAS RESULTED IN DEATH OR PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT. THALLIUM, MERCURY, AND ARSENIC COMPOUNDS HAVE WELL-RECOGNIZED EFFECTS. ADDITIONALLY, PESTICIDES HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN ACCIDENTALLY OR GROSSLY MIS-USED, THEREBY CAUSING ILLNESS, DEATH,

AND DAMAGE TO FOOD SUPPLIES, DOMESTIC ANIMALS, CROPS, AND WILDLIFE.

PHOSPHATES FROM DETERGENTS REPRESENT ANOTHER TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICAL WHICH ARE KNOWN AND PROVEN TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY DEGRADING AND ULTIMATELY A HEALTH HAZARD TO MAN IN HIS ENVIRONMENT.

EVEN MOONSHINE WHISKEY MAY BE A TREATMENT INSTEAD OF A TREAT, AS LEAD RESIDUES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FOUND IN 96% OF MOONSHINE WHISKEY SAMPLED.

I HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED THAT SOME 3,000 DEATHS OCCUR EVERY YEAR FROM ACCIDENTAL INGESTION OF POISONS, MOST OF THEM AMONG CHILDREN. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY CORROSIVE, IRRITANT, FLAMMABLE, OR EXPLOSIVE OFFER ADDITIONAL HAZARDS TO ALL OUR CITIZENS. INCLUDED ARE FURNITURE POLISHES, BLEACHES, GLUES, SOLVENTS, CLEANERS, ACIDS AND ALKALIS, POISONOUS SEEDS AND PLANTS, CERTAIN LEAD GLAZE POTTERY, AND THOUSANDS OF SIMILAR ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICAL HAZARDS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY FOUND IN THE HOME OR AVAILABLE AT THE SUPERMARKET.

DRUGS. LAX STATE LAWS AND SEEMING FEDERAL CONFUSION AND CONTROVERSY HAVE DONE LITTLE TO CALM THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN OVER DRUGS. LAX STATE LAWS ENCOURAGE QUACKERY & SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED PEOPLE FALL VICTIM TO "MIRACLE" DRUGS AND OTHER NOSTRUMS. IN SPITE OF EFFORTS AT DRUG TESTING, LABELING, AND OTHER CONTROLS, THEY OFTEN PRODUCE UNFORESEEN SOMATIC OR GENETIC SIDE EFFECTS. WHAT ALL THESE FORMULATIONS MEAN IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICAL INSULT ON MAN IS PRACTICALLY AN UNEXPLORED AREA. MANY STATES STILL HAVE FOOD AND DRUG LAWS BASED ON THE ORIGINAL 1906 FEDERAL STATUTE. MANY OTHERS ARE

STILL PATTERNED AFTER THE 1938 FEDERAL ACT.

ADDITIONALLY, MANY DRUGS ARE ALSO PROMINENT AMONG THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RESPONSIBLE FOR POISONINGS. THOSE INCLUDE ASPIRIN, VITAMINS, MISCELLANEOUS INTERNAL MEDICINES, ANTIHISTAMINES, TRANQUILIZERS, HORMONES, LINIMENT, AMPHETAMINES, LAXATIVES, AND ANTI-SEPTICS.

FOODS: I HAVE ALREADY STATED THAT OVER 2,000,000 AMERICANS ARE STRICKEN WITH FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS EACH YEAR. MODERN NEEDS SUCH AS MANUFACTURING, PACKAGING, STORING, TRANSPORTING, FREEZING, AND MERCHANDISING HAVE CREATED NEW PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES. THE USE OF FOOD ADDITIVES HAS INCREASED 50% IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, AND EACH OF US NOW CONSUMES AN AVERAGE OF THREE POUNDS OF THESE CHEMICALS ANNUALLY. INSUFFICIENT EFFECTIVE EFFORT IS BEING DIRECTED TO PREVENTING SALMONELLOSIS, STAPH FOOD INTOXICATION, CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS IN OUR FOOD SUPPLIES, AND WE HAVE EVEN HAD SOME BOTULISM FROM COMMERCIALY PREPARED FOOD IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THERE ARE SERIOUS AND SEVERE BUDGET, LEGISLATIVE, AND PROGRAM GAPS IN THE TOTAL FOOD PROTECTION PICTURE. SOME ASPECTS OF FOOD PROTECTION ARE PURPORTEDLY ADMINISTERED BY AGENCIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE VERY INDUSTRIES THEY ALLEGEDLY REGULATE. MUCH FOOD PROTECTION LEGISLATION IS ANTIQUATED, AS WELL AS BEING POORLY ENFORCED.

RADIATION. INCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIUM PRODUCTS OFFERING POTENTIAL HEALTH THREATS ARE COMMON. THESE INCLUDE LOST RADIUM SOURCES USED IN THERAPEUTICS, RADIOACTIVE FINGER RINGS, LOST RADON SEEDS, AND LOST RADIUM NEEDLES. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE ALL BECOME AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL HEALTH DANGERS FROM SOME COLOR TV SETS AS

WELL AS NON-IONIZING RADIATION HAZARDS FROM MICROWAVE OVENS.

NOISE. CERTAINLY THERE ARE A WIDE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT WHICH PRODUCE HAZARDOUS NOISE LEVELS. RESEARCHERS ARE ONLY BEGINNING TO FULLY DOCUMENT NOISE DAMAGES TO MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH. NOISE POLLUTION IS OBVIOUSLY ANOTHER POLLUTION -- AN UNDESIRABLE BY-PRODUCT OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

SO MUCH FOR SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS AND HEALTH HAZARDS RESULTING THEREFROM.

HOW DID WE GET IN THIS MESS? THE BASIC AND OBVIOUS ANSWERS ARE SUCH THINGS AS PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY, AND AFFLUENCE. BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC CONCERN, INSUFFICIENT EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION, A NEAR VACUUM IN OFFICIAL AGENCY LEADERSHIP, ABSURDLY LOW BUDGETS, FRAGMENTATION OF EFFORT AMONG A VARIETY OF AGENCIES AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS, AND INDUSTRY SELF-"REGULATION" UNDER THE GUISE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- 1) IMPROVE REPORTING OF HEALTH HAZARDS RESULTING FROM PRODUCTS CONSUMED OR USED.
- 2) RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS AS AN INTEGRAL PORTION OF THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.
- 3) INSURE CITIZEN INTEREST, SUPPORT, AND EXPERTISE IN PROBLEMS OF HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS.
- 4) ADOPT MODERN LEGISLATION DESIGNED FOR EFFECTIVENESS, PUBLIC SERVICE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION RATHER THAN LEGISLATION WHICH IS INADEQUATE BY VIRTUE OF BEING ANTIQUATED, DESIGNED TO CREATE PROCEDURAL DELAYS, OR DESIGNED TO SERVE THE SPECIAL INTERESTS OF A NARROW

