

ECOLOGY ACTION IS

- ... a movement emphasizing individual action and personal ethics, not a formal organization.
- ... creating new life styles to reduce the waste and destruction of our environment. Since Americans consume more, per capita, than any other country we have the worst impact on the planet's life support system.
- ... using biodegradable soaps and cleaners or none at all.
- ... not taking a bath every day (unless you are dirty or stink).
- ... putting bricks in your toilet tank to conserve water when flushing.
- ... not using DDT and other pesticides with long residual effects.
- ... using natural predators -- not pesticides.
- ... recycling wastes -- paper, glass, aluminum (contact Tom Regan c/o Ecology Action Education Institute).
- ... refusing to buy products in non-returnable/reusable containers.
- ... growing your own.
- ... keeping a compost heap of grass and garden clippings and biodegradable garbage in your yard. No need to buy fertilizers.
- ... to begin or tend a park.
- ... requesting a free tree from the city for your yard (in Berkeley call 841-0200).
- ... being vocal about waste and pollution. Write or phone those responsible and those charged with our protection. And keep informed.
- ... sponsoring neighborhood cleanups.
- ... fighting those individuals and companies which profit by the sale, use, or manufacture of products which are harmful to the ecological system or deplete natural resources. The earth is finite -- greed is infinite; profit is theft.
- ... voluntary birth control, abortions, and incentive programs for family limitation and planning.
- ... grass roots survival education.
- ... not driving a car (use and improve public transportation and smog free locomotion).
- ... finding a project related to our survival and doing it; working alone or with others.
- ... supporting the Ecology Action Education Institute which exists totally by donations of your time and/or money.

For more ideas and information on specific projects contact:

Ecology Action Education Institute Box 9334 Berkeley, Calif. 94709

Text Delivered by Mike Perelman of Berkeley Ecology Action
at UNESCO Conference, November 25, 1969

Today I am fortunate to have the opportunity to confront some people in the highest reaches of our society. I do not mean to be antagonistic when I use the word confront, but I do not feel that our token group of young people has had the opportunity to take part in a meaningful dialogue with the powerful people I am talking about. Further, the great majority of poor people and working people do not even have a token delegation. So it is to these powerful people that I will direct my remarks. Let me say right now if my judgment about you is mistaken I wish to apologize.

We have heard many pious remarks at your convention. You have great faith in the young. Yet we learned from our president's attitude toward the Mobilization how much you really value our opinion. Isn't your hope in us really that we just remain silent?

Oh, you young people are so impatient. I was impatient when I was young. Yet we learned at the Democratic Convention and at People's Park what swift and decisive action could be taken in our society. Do you crack the heads of the polluters? No, you meet with the automotive manufacturers, for instance, and settle with them out of court. Instead of the Chicago 8, I suggest the Detroit 4.

Now some of you are saying, young people think they have all of the answers. We don't say that, but a few years ago when we asked about Vietnam you were telling us that we didn't understand because we didn't have all the facts. You see, you have been short of answers too, that is why we are here talking about the disaster to which your leadership has led us. You should have bowed out long ago.

We have heard talk, but how can we believe that you are willing to act? You and your system have been the main contributors to the problem; how much would you sacrifice to become part of the solution?

We saw your dedication to the war on poverty. There were commissions. Contracts were let to major corporations. Some money even trickled down to the poor. We fear that there might be a war on pollution which will be as meaningless as the war on poverty. We cannot settle for such shams.

You tell us that our system is the best system devised by man. I agree, for you it is the best system devised by man. It is the system that has given you control over most of the world's resources. I merely ask whether our system has served the interests of mankind as a whole or of a select few.

You must see that nature is presenting a set of non-negotiable demands. Either play by my rules, nature says, or I will roll over and quit like I did when I let the fertile lands become deserts or when I let Lake Erie die. To learn these rules you must completely rethink your whole set of values. I will no longer let you smother me with smog and poison me with nitrates. You must give up all hope of outwitting me with bigger and better technologies. You must abandon the automobile. Nature and the car are incompatible.

We can no longer sit back and allow you to continue in your present ways. No more business as usual. You people have misused your power. Many of us do not believe that you deserve it any longer. You people stand in the way of needed change. But please prove me wrong, please, show us that you have some sensitivity for the human element. And God help us if you don't.

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