

Editorial

Breathe Deeply

AN editorial in the Chronicle-Herald of January 9 theatrically entitled "the air we breathe" contends that air pollution is not as serious a problem as is the mucking up of our waters. The editorial says, however, that we should not become complacent about foul air.

The offering is interesting for many reasons, not the least of which is the paper's new-found concern about environmental contamination - witness the Mail-Star of Jan. 6, which ran two front page photos of this and other magnificent Nova Scotia Light and Power smokestacks belching clouds of airborne garbage into our atmosphere. The only trouble is, there was no story with the pictures.

When there is a story, it is seldom worth reading. The paper never takes a stand that counts but consistently apologizes for industry and its lackeys in government. The "old women of Argyle St." have reluctantly jumped, or been pushed by public opinion, into the tail end of the fastest growing bandwagon today.

THE editorial in question is a fine example of the way in which the Herald takes the word of government officials on matters such as these without bothering to inform itself of the facts.

The Paper, and E. L. Rowe of the N. S. Water Resources Commission, would have us believe that however nasty garbage-brown air and choking fumes may be, water pollution is more serious, at least in Nova Scotia. Despite the shock associated with Rowe's admission that pollution does exist after all, his premise is false... and so regional an attitude is ridiculous in view of the facts.

According to the Toronto Pollution Probe, we have no more than 12 years of air left (most experts agree on a figure of 5-15 years). Next year at this time, there will only be five years left to breathe if nothing substantial is done... and the nice-guy attitude of 'forces' like the Chicken-Herald practically guarantees it.

IF an all-out attack on pollution and those causing it in the interest of private profit is not mounted within six years... by 1976... it will be too late. Mankind will perish in one gargantuan coughing, gurgling mass.

Yet the Herald talks of asking industry to install filters on their stacks, the kind that make the crap look cleaner by removing solid pollutants while allowing the carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and assorted other poisonous goodies to escape into our air. They say that water pollution is more serious because E. L. Rowe of the Water Commission says so, and tell how Rowe, the best friend that Anil Hardboard and Scott Paper ever had, is going to clean up the water for a mere \$150-million or so... standing downstream from their garbage outlets, cleaning up after them like a meek man-servant instead of handing them the responsibility and forcing them to clean up or get out.

As the saying goes - the air, the air is everywhere... and the Chronicle-Herald and Mail-Star are nowhere... except maybe out to lunch.

