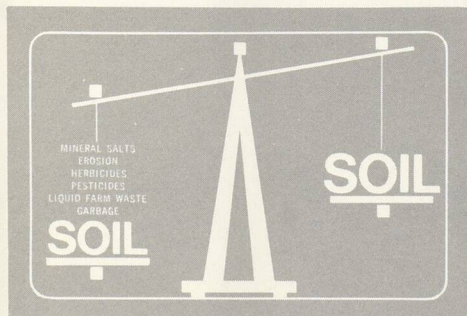
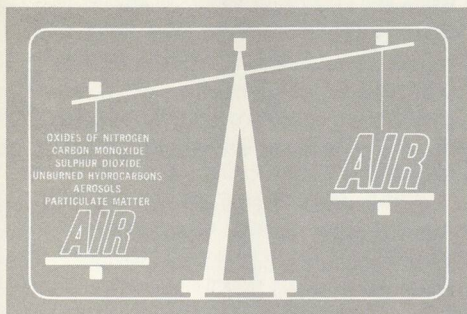
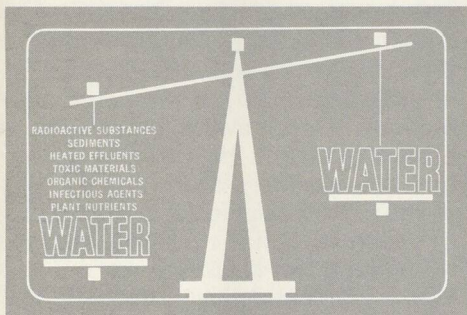


Dr. William Hoar, Chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, is Chairman of the Associate Committee on Scientific Criteria for Environmental Quality.

*Le Dr. William Hoar, chef du Département de Zoologie à l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique est Président du Comité associé sur les critères scientifiques de la qualité du milieu.*



(Courtesy : Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce)

In addition, NRC will establish a National Documentation and Information Centre in its National Science Library to aid the work of the Committee. The Centre, which will assemble world-wide available information on the scientific and technological aspects of pollution, will be established within the framework of NRC's general Scientific and Technical Information (STI) program.

The Council will not become formally involved in formulating standards or legislation which will be required in the fight against pollution. However, standards adopted by responsible authorities to control pollution must be based on the best scientific knowledge available on the effects of contaminants.

The Committee will provide a reference base in the form of an integrated set of quantitative criteria based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence, which will make possible an evaluation and prescription of the quality of the environment with respect to different pollutants and for all uses of the environment.

Authorities responsible for pollution control will be able to use the criteria as reference guidelines for establishing actual standards for safeguarding the environmental quality of a given region and the subsequent control, through legislation or otherwise, of the emission of environmental contaminants from all sources.

While there is at present only a modest effort on pollution and environmental research in NRC laboratories, the Council supports a considerable effort in universities through its grants program. Work is also being done in government department laboratories, both federal and provincial, and in industrial laboratories. But there is no focus to delineate priority research areas and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

"Since our interest is to provide a service," says Dr. W. G. Schneider, President of NRC, "the success of the program will depend both on the usefulness of the unified criteria to all who need them and on the support and cooperation of all organizations which could benefit from it as well as those who can contribute to it."

If this service assists federal, provincial, and municipal authorities to choose standards and objectives of quality for air, soil and water, and if it identifies the most urgent research problems in environmental pollution, "then," says Dr. Schneider, "this program will have fulfilled its purpose."

The Associate Committee will be

served by a number of subcommittees which will consider specific areas. Since membership on these subcommittees will not be limited to members of the main committee, this will enable the Council to bring together a large number of experts from all parts of the country and from government, industry and the universities.

In developing a unified set of criteria new research needs will doubtless become evident and the Advisory Committee will point out such needs. Whether and where such research would be done would be decided by, and in consultation with, those organizations having the greatest direct interest and/or competence. The final decision might involve a federal government department, a provincial research council, a research institute, a university laboratory, an industrial laboratory or a combination of these.

"The task which we are undertaking will necessarily be a continuing one, and one whose benefits should be measured on the long term, rather than the short term," Dr. Schneider says. "It no doubt will take some years to prepare a reasonably comprehensive document and revisions will be necessary as new knowledge becomes available."

