

# Four Ways To Save The Environment

Four major proposals to help save the environment have been put forward by Dr. K. Mann, head of biological oceanography for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

Dr. Mann quoted the conclusions of 47 of the world's leading ecologists during a speech to the National Symposium on Engineering and Environmental Management.

He said the 47 have urged: A moratorium on technological innovations, large-scale recycling, an intensified program to curb population growth and a boycott of all processes that might benefit war-making.

Dr. Mann said there has been a "continuous stream of comment on the environmental crisis to the point where one wonders whether it is all greatly exaggerated or, alternatively, whether the problems are of such staggering proportions that the only way to stay sane is to pretend that they do not exist."

Dr. Mann said to put the matter into perspective, he would summarize a statement signed by 47 of the world's leading ecologists.

"Their basic facts are: 'The present population of the earth is estimated that 3-1/2 billion and is expected to be 6-1/4 billion by the year 2,000;

'A child born in the United States today will consume during his lifetime at least 20 times as much and contribute 50 times as much pollution as one born in India. In terms of environmental impact the most

industrialized countries are the most densely populated;

'Industrial society is using up as many of its non-renewable resources and mismanaging potentially renewable ones, so that the earth is beginning to run short of some materials of critical importance to a technological society;

'Despite technological advances, malnutrition and the threat of major famine is still with us;

'The quality of the environment is deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. The most widely recognized examples are the penetration into food chains all over the world of poisonous substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, DDT and other chlorinated organic compounds; and;

'There is the ever present possibility of large scale nuclear, chemical or bacteriological warfare.'

Dr. Mann said that in the opinion of these ecologists, "not only the probability of vast increases in human suffering in the immediate future, but the possibility of the extinction, or virtual extinction, of human

life on earth."

He said, the groups proposals were:

"A moratorium on technological innovations, the effects which we cannot see, and which are not essential to human survival, that is, new weapon systems, luxury transport, new and untested pesticides, new plastics, and vast new nuclear power projects;

"Large-scale recycling of materials to slow down the exhaustion of resources, and the rapid establishment of international agreement to control pollution;

"An intensified program to curb population growth all over the world, accompanied by a decrease in the level of consumption by privileged classes and a more equitable distribution of food and the other goods among all people; and,

"Since the consequences of global war would be immediate and irreversible, individuals and groups should refuse to participate in research of processes that might, if used, result in the extermination of human species."

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