

north Korea had socialist revolutions. They seized control of their national wealth from the native aristocrats and foreign businessmen and set about developing the wealth for the benefit of all.

They have solved their hunger problem. North Vietnam actually managed to feed its people and increase agricultural output while fighting an enemy that has bombed, strafed and even chemically poisoned her soil. China, which once suffered from the worst famines in world history, may actually have surplus wheat to export in a few years. Here is what E. L. Wheelright, who traveled over 5000 miles across the country in 1966, had to say about China and food:

For example, wherever I went, there was no evidence of malnutrition, let alone starvation; food is plentiful and cheap; even in the poorer areas I never saw anyone who looked as though he could do with a square meal, although I did see what I considered to be inadequate clothing in some of these areas. But these were exceptions, and the vast majority were well clothed. The younger generation in particular were in fine physical condition, the teen-agers being already taller and heavier than their parents in many cases.

They are developing economically. North Korea, which was totally devastated by U.S. air power in the early 1950's, has increased industrial output eleven times above the last pre-war year, 1949. Today they no longer import food and are almost self-sufficient in machine production. In just two decades, China has become a world power with a huge industrial base. Cuba is re-investing 31% of her Gross National Product to speed development, a figure unmatched by any Third World country.

Their population growth is *slowing down!* China has reduced its growth rate to 1.4%, approaching our own of 1.1%. Within 30 years it will probably be lower than ours. In one decade Cuba has cut its growth rate 20%.

Bear in mind that this has happened without forced population control. People have not been sterilized in these societies, nor have laws been passed telling people how many children to have. Family planning is possible, if couples want it: contraceptives are available, and it is possible to get medical abortions.

Just as important is the changing role of women. They have more freedom to choose the kind of work they want to do. Women are no longer bound to the hearth, and so they have fewer babies.

Our newspapers don't tell us such things about these revolutionary countries. They go to great lengths to assure us that the people are not better off, not happier.

Perhaps they are afraid that revolution could prove tempting to the remaining two billion people in the Third World. Perhaps the wealthy and powerful men who control America's newspapers, corporations, universities and government are worried about their other investments in hungry Third World countries. Perhaps what scares these men the most is that hungry people rise up to take back what is their own as their lives become more desperate and their numbers grow.

The point of all this is simple. Overpopulation is a red herring. World hunger is not a "people" problem. It is the problem of a system which causes the land and resources of nations

to be developed for the profit of a few at the expense of the people.

Now, what does all of this have to do with pollution?

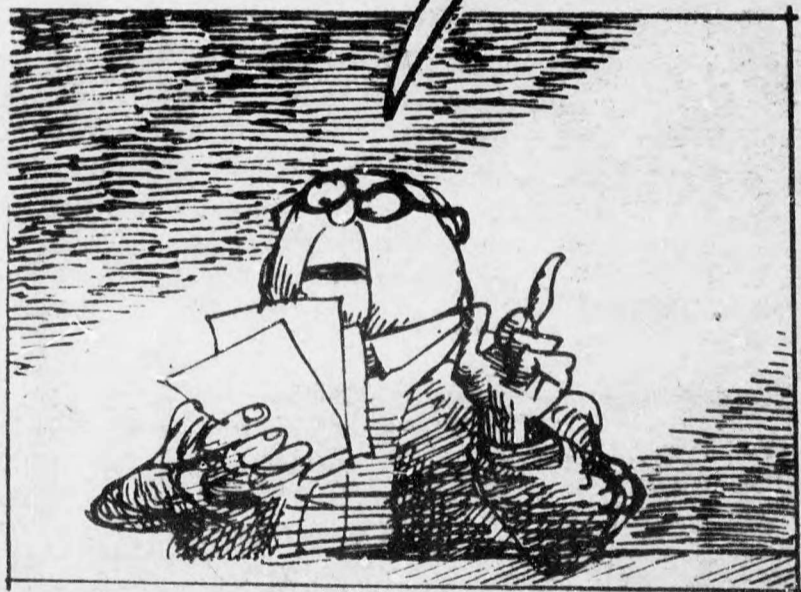
"PEOPLE POLLUTE!" That should have a familiar ring by now. First we hear how hunger and overcrowding is due to people—too many of them. Now we're being told that the pollution of America is due to people—too many of them.

Is it really our fault that breathing city air is like smoking three packs of cigarettes a day? Did we kill Lake Erie, or muck up the beaches of California, Louisiana, Florida and Maine with oil? Did we command the bulldozers and cement

who is guilty of polluting our land?

trucks that paved under a million acres of America last year, substituting a million acres of shopping centers, tract homes, motel strips and industrial parks? *Do people pollute?* And if not, who does—and why?

The best way to answer this question is to take a deeper look at the things they tell us about pollution—where it comes from, how it can be stopped, and who is going to stop it.

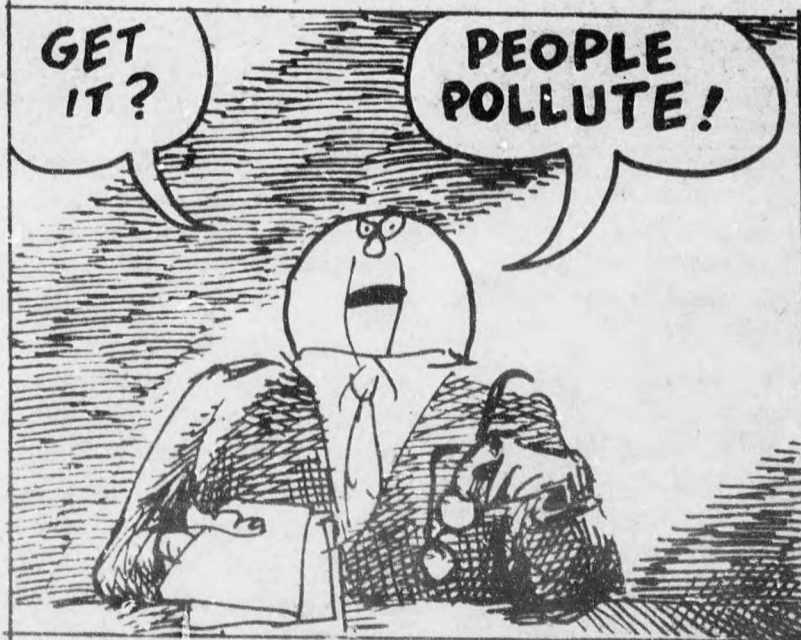


"UNLESS YOU STOP POPULATION GROWTH, THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN CONTROL POLLUTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT."

— REP. PAUL McCLOSKEY
(R. CALIFORNIA)

"FOR THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE IS NOT SOME PROFIT-HUNGRY INDUSTRIALIST, NOR SOME LAX PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHO CAN BE REPLACED. THE VILLAINS ARE CONSUMERS, WHO DEMAND (OR AT LEAST LET THEMSELVES BE CAJOLED INTO DEMANDING) NEW, MORE, FASTER, BIGGER, CHEAPER PLAYTHINGS WITHOUT COUNTING THE COST IN A DIRTIER, SMELLIER, SICKLIER WORLD."

— NEWSWEEK, JAN. 26, 1970
SPECIAL ISSUE ON "THE RAVAGED ENVIRONMENT"



"THE POINT IS, AIR POLLUTION IS A PEOPLE PROBLEM. IT COMES FROM MAKING AND CONSUMING THE THINGS MORE PEOPLE WANT, NEED, REQUIRE. INDUSTRY STILL DELIVERS THE GOODS, ALL THE NECESSITIES FOR MODERN LIVING. PLUS ONE MORE THING — CLEANER AIR."

— FROM AN AD PLACED IN WEST COAST NEWSPAPERS BY THE BAY AREA LEAGUE OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS