

OPINION

ONE DOLLAR

A LOOK AT THE ECOLOGY CON MEN

Gary Allen tells how
the environment doomsayers
are being used to pump for
vast new federal controls.
Also in this issue we feature
such important matters as:

The Canonization
Of Mr. Malcolm X

Why Television News
Is So Dishonest

Henry David Thoreau
Wasn't What They Say

Gaining Power
Over All Others

AMERICAN OPINION

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Dear Reader:

With every little Red schoolmaster booming ecology and smacking his lips over the supposed virtue of Natural Man, it is little wonder that Johnny looks and thinks as if he just climbed out of a tree with a club over his shoulder. Johnny is being hustled in a confidence game as old as that of the snake in Eden.

The perfectability of man in a "natural" environment is an ancient heresy which asks us to believe that as man retreats into savagery he will ascend into heaven, carried aloft on the ethereal gases of wild cabbage, primitive hygiene, and ignorance. And, as always before, those who are behind the promotion of this diabolism are not lovers of nature but haters of man and of his civilization.

All of which might seem obvious on its face in saner times. But we live in a day when every Society To Save The Sewer Rat is taken seriously; when addled hosts of evangelical ecologists are financed by great foundations to trumpet everywhere that we must end economic growth, construction, and development in favor of happy toads and well-adjusted meadow larks. We are told over and over that to prevent the doom of all nature we must tax ourselves hundreds of billions of dollars and permit government control of every phase of building and industry to save the psyches of the newt, the gnat, and the tadpole. It is a carefully induced madness brilliantly treated by Gary Allen in the analysis that begins on page one.

But lest you misunderstand the nature of our warning, we hope that when you have finished Mr. Allen's article you will go immediately on to test yourself by reading Professor E. Merrill Root's commentary on the naturalist hero Henry David Thoreau. It was Thoreau, you will remember, who wrote: "The perception of beauty is a moral test."

Sincerely,

Scott Stanley Jr.

ENVIRONMENT

Doomsday And Dictatorship

Gary Allen, a graduate of Stanford University, is author of *Communist Revolution In The Streets*; Richard Nixon: *The Man Behind The Mask*; Nixon's *Palace Guard*; and, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy* — a sensational new best-seller with 6 million copies already in print. Mr. Allen, a former instructor of both history and English, is active in anti-Communist and other humanitarian causes. Now a film writer, author, and journalist, he is a Contributing Editor to AMERICAN OPINION. Gary Allen is also nationally celebrated as a lecturer.

■ If THERE is anything in America today which is sacred, it is ecology. Who dares to be against Mother Nature? Ecology has replaced Civil Rights, poverty, and the Vietnam War as the reigning cause célèbre of the underdone activists. Instead of picketing munitions manufacturers, the campus radicals are now waving their signs in front of detergent companies and real-estate developers. As if on cue, down came the Vietcong banners and up went the green and white flag of ecology, which now flaps just under Old Glory and the state flag at many of our nation's schools. The ecology fanatics have become the new abolitionists; gimlet-eyed, uncompromising, and often ruthless in their tactics, they are the new centurions of the Left.

How do you suppose such a vast, powerful, and increasingly successful movement sprang up virtually overnight?

Obviously the Establishment has the ability to turn on the money and publicity to build the movements that serve its purposes. And the Establishment's mass

media have pumped up the ecology balloon until it is now bigger than a Zep-
pelin. Two years ago the machines of mass misinformation began touting the ecology issue with propaganda like the following from *Time*: "The environment may well be the gut issue that can unify a polarized nation in the 1970's." The Hearst press saw it as a movement "that could unite the generations." The *New York Times* solemnly predicted that ecology "will replace Vietnam as the major issue with students."

Soon *Time* and *Newsweek* had added an environment department to their weekly hustle, and one could hardly pick up a general-interest magazine without coming across a doomsday article on ecology febrile enough to make Chicken Little blush. Television was a natural for maximizing this hysteria, depicting dead fish lining a polluted stream and eye-irritating smoke belching from the smokestacks of bloated capitalism.

The tactic was to take legitimate problems and inflate them into predictions of impending disaster, mixing a modicum of truth with gross exaggerations, false conclusions, and plain and fancy fright peddling. The average American was simply not equipped to separate truth from half-truth, to determine what is valid and what is hogwash, in the claims of the ecology crusaders. In short, the public was largely at the mercy of what Professor Ross McKinney of the University of Kansas has properly dubbed the "environmental con man."

Ever since time began, Dr. McKinney explains, man has been enchanted by magic; the prospect of something for

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