regulators of man's numbers, famine and pestilence, have arisen. Man has learned to control and subdue these hostile elements effectively, largely through vigilance and technological advances. His numbers are increasing. He is living longer. His standards of living are improving in direct relationship to his utilization of these advances.

In modifying his environment, man has made tremendous gains in his well-being, but these gains have been accompanied by some unfavorable aspects. While gains have vastly outweighed losses, there is still need to deal effectively with the residual unfavorable aspects and to strive for products and activities with a more favorable gain-to-loss ratio.

Continued real progress can be made by the best use of available technology to reduce or erase unfavorable factors, man-made or otherwise; and by constant efforts to attain greater knowledge, better understanding and improved means for still further improvements in environmental health.

Perfect environment and perfect well-being are not attainable though we strive toward continued improvement. We do what we can with what we have now.

The involvement of all society and the limitations of man's present capability create specific problems within the overall area of environmental health. Principal among these are:

Technical Problems—Despite our advanced science and technology, man does not know all the answers or even know all the questions to ask. Technical problems demand full use of present knowledge and continuing research toward extension of that knowledge.

Social Problems—Since every segment of our society is involved, both as it is affected by and as it affects environmental health, every segment feels its interests must receive full consideration in any solution. These interests are numerous, varied, diverse, overlapping, contradictory, and unequal. The reconcilation of these interests and acceptance of any step to improve conditions require a weighing and balancing of the gains and sacrifices.

Economic Problems—Increased costs of raw materials, productive capacity, manpower, talent, time, goods, services, and taxes enter into the price of gain in environmental health. Again, all of our society is involved, this time in economic roles as consumers or taxpayers. These added costs must be evaluated in the hnadling of each particular problem. A practical balance of gain with cost is critically important.

Organizational Problems—Steps to alleviate the environmental health problem will require action by all society. Specific actions must be taken by individuals and by groups, yet each must be an integral part of an effective and equitable total. A need thus exists for an accepted public policy which is based on and which encourages constructive action by individuals and groups. Furthermore, self-initiated action based on responsibilities accepted voluntarily by individuals and groups of our society has always been more effective than action imposed solely by regulation.

The chemical industry of the United States has direct identification with several aspects of the nation's environmental health problem as a contributor of materials and services favorable to man's well-being and because these materials and services also entail some concurrent unfavorable aspects. Industry must therefore assess and act in accord with its responsibilities.

II. THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The chemical industry's responsibilities in environmental health matters derive from the nature and use of its products, from its research and production activities, and from its role as a segment of the economy and society. Effective action requires a high level of individual and corporate responsibility, and a continuing effort:

1. To advance knowledge and increase competence to deal with these responsibilities within the total problem of environmental health.

2. To assure the fitness and appropriateness of its products in relation to man's environment by best use of present scientific knowledge and by continuing to improve fitness and appropriateness as growing knowledge permits.

3. To plan and carry out production operations so that they:

(*a*) conserve health and safety of all those employed in the production of chemicals;

(*b*) conserve environmental resources, particularly by controlling and limiting emission and disposal of industrial wastes.