

Mr. DADDARIO. We are pleased, as we always are, to have Dr. Roger Revelle, who works with our permanent Science Panel, is one of our country's distinguished scientists, and is here this morning under another title as Chairman of the U.S. National Committee for the International Biological Program.

And we are, as I have said, Dr. Revelle, happy to have you here, and as always, are anxious to listen to you. If you would proceed.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROGER REVELLE, DIRECTOR, HARVARD CENTER FOR POPULATION STUDIES; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. T. C. BYERLY, ADMINISTRATOR, COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; DR. HARVE J. CARLSON, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION; AND DR. FREDERICK E. SMITH, SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dr. REVELLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

I have a prepared statement on House Concurrent Resolution 273, which I would like to submit for the record. And if I may, sir; I will talk from that statement.

Mr. DADDARIO. You may proceed in any way you would like, Dr. Revelle.

(The prepared statement submitted by Dr. Revelle is as follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR ROGER REVELLE, CHAIRMAN, U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

In our times of unprecedented change, biologists are well aware of the rapidly growing ability of their fellow human beings to alter the face of the earth through technology. But they are equally aware that these alterations can bring about far-spreading and often destructive changes in the web of life that is stretched so thinly over the surface of our planet. Our technology has outpaced our understanding, our cleverness has grown faster than our wisdom.

Technology produces more than physical change. With his newfound powers man has also radically altered part of his own biology; on a worldwide basis, his average length of life has nearly doubled during the last few decades. In many regions of the earth this rise in life expectancy has not increased human happiness; rather it has multiplied human misery. To achieve a decent life for the living generation, further change in our biology may be needed: we may have to reduce fertility as reckoned on a worldwide basis to levels below any previously attained. To meet the needs of human life and human dignity, there must also be a vast increase in the productivity, and this will be doubly true for the generation that will be born before the end of this century.

Because of our limited understanding of the relationships among living things, we are limited in our ability to predict the effects of technical change or to help the technologists conserve the values and utilize the abundance of the world of life. Our goal should be not to conquer the natural world but to live in harmony with it. To attain this goal we must learn how to control both the external environment and ourselves. Especially we need to learn how to avoid irreversible change. If we do not, we shall deny to future generations the opportunity to choose the kind of world in which they want to live.

Greater understanding will make it possible for man to respond to opportunity as well as to react to need. To gain such understanding is the underlying purpose of the International Biological Program.