

I just happen to believe it is practical. Here is the type of study which could have tremendous—I just cite it as an applied problem—tremendous long-term effects for the United States. We might have to revamp our whole food program and things of this sort.

There are, then, certain types of soil bacteria, certain types of soil organisms of which we still know very little in the Tropics, which may have basic long-term effects on human health and welfare.

There are all sorts of problems in the population explosion of human kind which are tied into studies in the Tropics and elsewhere which could be done by biologists. This is just a small tabulation at random of things which I feel are of great importance for the future.

There is, then, an ancillary problem in conservation. That is, that many species will become extinct without our ever having known that they existed, unless we continue to press forward the kinds of systematic work which the Smithsonian specializes in and which we attempt to build and keep a cadre of responsible scientists concerned with, in joint efforts with other museums and laboratories in this country. This kind of work in systematics, in tabulations, documentation of species, is something which, again to use the word "vital," I feel is absolutely vital to our culture and to our knowledge of the world.

And unless somehow we can continue to support systematics and make it a viable branch of the biological profession, I believe that we will have lost a very significant part not only of our culture but also of our ability to assess and expand our knowledge of our environment. This seems to me to be a vital program.

MR. DADDARIO. Mr. Waggonner?

MR. WAGGONNER. Dr. Ripley, I came in after you had finished your prepared statement, but I came in at a point that you were mentioning the lure, or some bait to attract some people to this program.

That disturbs me because on another occasion when we were hearing about this matter, another of the witnesses testified in generally the same vein, that we needed these grants to ameliorate some of the people who might be involved in this program. You are not taking the same approach are you, that we need this to try to pacify some people who might be interested in this biological program?

DR. RIPLEY. Mr. Waggonner, I am not interested in pacifying anybody, but I am interested in giving some people an incentive, the same way as you must pay a lawyer or a doctor to look into your questions of your will or your health.

If you want to get biologists interested in a program, I am sorry to say that you have to attach some sort of bait to it. This seems to me to be simply a function of human nature. And in order to make the program meaningful, we have to divert the interest and energy of biologists who otherwise have a great deal to do into what they may happen to think, because of public opinion within their own professional field, is a matter of somewhat less significance than the particular type of career that they are following at the moment. This is merely human nature.

MR. WAGGONNER. When you are saying human nature, it is simply that that does not involve any dedication to any particular effort or