

attitudes toward the development of this for agriculture or other purposes in which we are completely wrong and we don't have the information required.

Why don't we have this information? What can be done to make the most productive use of this vast underdeveloped portion of the world's surface?

Your study here under the International Biological Program should be able to provide answers to this sort of thing.

Dr. RIPLEY. Certainly.

Mr. BROWN. Who is responsible for generating this kind of an intense focus upon the significance of these things that create what you might call glamorous goals which could be used to attract public support and, through that, congressional support?

Dr. RIPLEY. Not a very glamorous body, but a distinguished body, at least: The International Union of Biological Sciences, probably quite unversed in glamour mongering.

Mr. DADDARIO. For a moment I thought you were going to say that undistinguished body of the Congress.

Dr. RIPLEY. I feel, Mr. Brown, that there is an implicit weight of public opinion in this country which could easily express itself in some way in favor of this program. I do not quite know that the position has been explained to them and, as I say, one of the problems is that many biologists themselves for a variety of reasons, partly because of time, partly because of the business of their own careers, find it difficult to divert themselves into an area which is not central to their own career specialties, which involves a self-replicating chain of events in any specialized profession. It is my conviction that this problem is central to the welfare of the American people and that over a period of time this will become evident. Environmental problems are so central to the welfare of every one of us that there should be no basic difficulty of the Congress to relate to the citizenry and to explain the circumstances of concern which are manifest here.

On the other hand, we do have the problem that there is no money for this to speak of, and there is no thrust in present-day biological research toward this particular field of enterprise.

Mr. BROWN. Well, I hate to delay a program of this sort which should be able to stand upon its contributions to basic human knowledge and to the security needs of this country. But in a situation just as in Vietnam—and this may be repeated if we become involved in situations in Central Africa, for example, or in the Middle East, where we are spending today in Vietnam the \$50 million that you are talking about for a 5-year program every 12 hours over there, we could have justified that expenditure for this total program if it had been in effect and produced knowledge about the ecology of Vietnam, because it is costing us far more than that to find out some of the things about the environment in Vietnam, such as the different kinds of diseases, plant life and agriculture which can be supported over there. These things we find all of a sudden are very important to us, and we don't know anything about them.

Dr. RIPLEY. Quite true.

Mr. BROWN. And in many other parts of the world there are similar situations.