

We wish to address ourselves, then, to some of the concepts which are contained in the international biological program. Dr. Sudia has already been introduced as the associate director of AIBS. He is also an ecologist and plant physiologist on leave from the University of Minnesota where he has been actively engaged in biological research, at an international level.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences has a membership of 44 adherent societies. That is to say, our organization is a federation, of learned and professional societies. The institute also has an individual membership. We are therefore directly or indirectly representing about 60,000 biologists in this country.

The AIBS has as part of its stated purposes, "to further the advancement of the biological sciences and to cooperate with local, national, and international organizations concerned with biological sciences." It is therefore appropriate, that we are wholeheartedly behind the effort of the IBP. And we have endorsed the program since its inception.

Actually, some of the roots of the international program were developed within the framework of AIBS at a very early time. Actually, there are statements in the Congressional Record going back as far as 1960 when this was indeed an embryonic program, and from those roots and others have developed the program as we know it today.

The gentlemen before me have touched upon the concept of rapid technological developments. Indeed, these developments have moved very rapidly since the industrial revolution, and that unfortunately some advances have outdistanced man in being able to cope properly with his environment. Another way of saying it is perhaps he has "painted himself into a corner," and now has these very real problems facing him.

We must, it seems to me, make adjustments of these natural forces before the natural forces catch up with us. Our planet as we know it as a closed ecological system and, there are only so many natural resources, so much atmosphere, and these are confined to the "envelope" in which we move about. I would place the world population problem at the top of the list, as the number one problem facing man today and the explosion can be heard round the world.

One of my colleagues defined the population explosion as being every bit as dangerous as an atomic weapon or explosion, the only difference being that it had a longer fuse. With more than half the people in the world suffering from hunger and serious disease, the ingenuity of man is going to be seriously taxed during the next few years. We envision the International Biological Program as one of the few hopes for solving these very important problems.

I agree with Drs. Ripley and Blair that the interaction of scientists becomes one of the most important things that can come from an international program. We are concerned with the mobility of scientists, actually being able to take them to various parts of the globe and to grapple with the problems that are facing them. It spills over into the teaching and the training of biologists, wherever they may be, and to early identifying individuals that can interact.

The program that Dr. Blair mentioned a moment ago, that of pulling people together in conferences, is likewise endorsed by the AIBS. We