

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 10:30 a.m., in room 2325, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DADDARIO. This meeting will come to order.

We are late this morning because the full committee was called to vote on another matter. That always takes priority over subcommittee meetings.

I would like to say that we have already entered the era of ecological management at the time when man must base his decisions on knowledge of an entire ecosystem and its future status, not just local short-term effects.

I make this rather sweeping assertion because the testimony in these hearings on environmental quality makes it clear that any alternative procedure for society contains great and immediate hazards.

We are all aware of the excited voices which urgently present examples of unanticipated consequences of applied technology—and we need to listen to them. We are all aware that our standard of living depends on an expanding industrial economy, accelerated by scientific research and development—and we want to maintain these conditions for ourselves and extend them to all peoples of the world.

These viewpoints are not contradictory in my opinion—for man is the dominant species. It is not wrong to manipulate nature for the benefit of human beings. Applied science and technology have momentum and direction of themselves but they can be controlled by man.

My optimism stems from the conviction that our instincts and precepts in the progress of civilization have been right and are right today. The complexity of decisionmaking has increased enormously—but so has the collective knowledge and the means of applying it. Courage is indicated, not despair.

Ecology is a major discipline in the IBP organization and I am pleased to have an opportunity in these hearings to bring out more detailed information on this science and profession.

Today we will hear from some outstanding ecologists who have not been content to remain at their “Waldens” but have taken up the task of bringing their profession into the arena of public affairs.

Our witnesses are Dr. LaMont C. Cole, Cornell University, president of the Ecological Society of America; accompanied by Dr. John E. Cantlon, Michigan State University, president-elect of the Ecologi-