

Institute would be concerned with would not in all cases be the same field stations that the atmospheric people need. However, there are some that well might be the same.

Mr. DADDARIO. I don't ask the question because I contemplate you have this all fitted into your mind, nor do I believe that you do, Dr. Cole, but you are thinking about the establishment of an Institute, which you would have to in some way work harmoniously into presently existing activities.

Mr. COLE. Yes; we appointed a subcommittee of the Ecology Study Committee to prepare the original proposal for the National Institute and they met out in Boulder and looked over the NCAR organization very carefully, so there was a good deal of input from there into our plans.

If I may, the other point I wanted to touch on has come back to me, and this is related to the Institute. There is a very great need to acquire natural areas, natural ecosystems that can be preserved for research purposes. The analogy has been made that medicine didn't get very far until they began intense study of the healthy human body anatomically and physiologically and the same thing applies to ecosystems. None of us know enough now to look at even such a small ecosystem as one drainage basin for a river and predict just what some particular modification may do to the life there. These things have to be studied in their entirety and they need to be set aside for research before man destroys them, and the same would apply to marine communities and estuaries and bodies of fresh water and so on.

(The following additional information has been supplied for the record:)

A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY: SYNOPSIS OF THE PLANS OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Ecology is the scientific study of life-in-environment. It is not, for instance, the science of management, which is a form of political engineering. It is not the study of resource allocation, which is a form of economic engineering with sociopolitical components. Nevertheless, sociopolitical and economic decisions regarding resource management and allocations are, in significant degree, ecological decisions; professional ecologists have the necessary knowledge, as well as the duty, to participate in such decisions. They expect to do so, not by "calling for a stronger voice for ecology in public affairs", or by combating some hypothetical opposition, but simply by doing better ecology.

STATUS OF THE PLAN

The Ecological Society of America has sought for at least twenty years to find better mechanisms for doing better ecology. It now proposes a *national institute of ecology*, with research-and-development centers on the pattern established by the National Center of Atmospheric Research, as such a mechanism. The proposal has been received in draft form by the Study Committee of the Society (LaMont C. Cole, chairman). It was drafted, with the assistance of a grant (G-6073) from the National Science Foundation, by a small planning group (Charles Cooper, Shelby Gerking, R. S. Miller, chairman) appointed by the Study Committee. At the meeting (Washington, D.C., December 8, 1967) that considered the report, the Study Committee voted to implement the proposal by asking several distinguished ecologists (names and number suggested but left unspecified) to take legal and fiscal advice and incorporate themselves as a national institute. It was understood that operating ownership of the institute would quickly pass to a group of universities, and it was suggested that the founding members should hand over control when five universities had agreed to join the institute. The "committee of founding fathers" has not yet (February 16, 1968) been formed.