

cating these new relations before they become problems and suggesting solutions is likely to be the most effective activity of the Council. The emphasis must be on inter-relationship among many aspects of the environment. Only with such an emphasis will adequate knowledge and adequate planning be mustered to solve ecological problems. Without such breadth of view, new solutions may only beget new problems: a roadway to solve transportation problems can endanger irrigation water from a watershed, which in turn may alter pesticide use, which in its turn disrupts recreational use of lakes and streams, followed by loss of property values and tax loss leading perhaps to federal monies being used for relief programs, etc., in a cascade of costly pallatives when planning could have secured mutual benefit for transportation, agriculture, recreation, real estate, etc.

Clearly, we cannot continue to ignore our nation's ecological problems, when misunderstanding or lack of understanding, poor planning or lack of planning costs money and reduces the quality and potential enjoyment of life; when costs of cleanup, emergency relief, tax support of abnormally high maintenance, and loss of revenue from water use, soil depletion, and mineral wastes continue to extract an unnecessary toll.

One way that the council could bring into focus the magnitude of the problem is to assess the financial loss from environmental neglect. This could be useful to emphasize the real economic loss and to muster aid in enforcing the current laws, while equally important, providing a basis for evaluating various measures of control and prevention. Figures frequently appear on the costs to the public of air pollution and water pollution but to my knowledge there is no agency that is responsible for the official set of figures supporting the broad basis of economic loss resulting from unplanned interaction with the natural environment.

In spite of this somewhat lengthy reply, I am by no means an expert in this area. I hope, however, that the foregoing will prove to be of some small assistance to you and, in any event, I want to thank you for your interest in my opinion.

Sincerely,

W. H. PICKERING,
Director.