

Man 'Taming' the Weather Might Effect World's Ecosystem

"Man is now embarking on a new kind of manipulation—'taming' the weather; increasingly large experiments in weather modification are being contemplated, with little understanding of their effects on the ecosystem..."

Writing in the current issue of *Scientist and Citizen*, Dr. Frederick Sargent II warns that even such an apparently beneficial step as diverting hurricanes, if it could be achieved, could cause a drastic decrease in needed moisture on the east coast.

Dr. Sargent, Director of the University of Illinois Center for Human Ecology, points out that "environment is really a vital resource with finite

dimensions. If it is wisely managed, it is renewable and bountiful. If it is unwisely manipulated—consciously or inadvertently—the consequences can be serious."

The most unfortunate situation, Dr. Sargent states, is that "our present knowledge does not permit detailed prediction of the consequences immediate and direct or remote and indirect—of weather modification for the ecosystem."