

Writer Writes ADT About DDT

Box 1051
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July 11, 1969
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Mr. Robert Atwood, Editor
Anchorage Daily Times (A.D.T.)
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Editor:

I was deeply disturbed and angered by the implications and your apparent philosophy in your editorial, "Pollution's Price" of July 10: "It is still cheaper (we think?) to dump our wastes on nature and let them take care of themselves than to make the tremendous expenditures necessary to bring pollution under control." The dumping of pesticides into the Rhine River is lightly passed over as something that could never happen in Alaska with our vast supply of natural resources (including healthy people)!

In the current issue of TIME, the unwise, widespread use of DDT throughout the world is gruesomely described in text and illustrated by diagram.

I may be overly pessimistic (or realistic?) but I foresee potential similar, catastrophies in the very near future for Alaska. Witness forest industry. It appears that things can go only from bad to worse, unless something is done soon!

And what is being done? Exactly nothing of any consequence, as far as I am concerned. We do not have adequate state and federal laws regarding chemical pollution. What are our Washington and Juneau delegations doing about this? I doubt that they are even aware of the problem!

I should add that I am a research biologist formerly with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Currently, I am a member of the Sierra Club, Alaska Conservation Society, and the Izaak Walton League. Therefore, I feel I am eminently qualified to discuss matters dealing with conservation of our natural resources with the public. In the future I would suggest you contact the dedicated biologists working for the State of Alaska for sound information. These biologists are, by the way, grossly underpaid (no overtime), overworked, unappreciated, away from their families, etc. all in the cause of protecting Alaska's natural resources.

Don't get me wrong, I am all for economic development and our natural resources, of course, are the State's No. 1 money maker; but I hate to see us become filthy rich with a thick scum of DDT covering Alaska. It is simply not worth it. Is it? Or does anybody really care?

Sincerely yours,
Mike Geiger

CC: Anchorage Daily News
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Tundra Times
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Fairbanks News Miner
Juneau Daily Empire
Alaska Sportsman (Jim Rearden)
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Howard Pollock
Jay Hammond
Ben Hilliker
Ken Middleton
Steve Pennoyer
Leroy Larsen
Bethel News (paper)

Men will lie on their backs, talking about the fall of man, and never make an effort to get up.

—THOREAU