

field. A proposal (H.R. 16729) now before a House-Senate conference committee would permit funding during one year for expenditures for the following year under certain education programs.

The Committee on Federal Legislation of the New York County Lawyers' Association recently recommended long-range funding and stated:

... [it] is not novel. Whenever it has become clear that long-range planning with knowledge that funds are available is indispensable to the effectiveness of a program, methods have been found to achieve this. Any other course is wasteful and amounts to throwing away a large part of the funds spent, because they cannot be effectively used without long-term planning. . . .

Scientists might well join forces with those working in other fields to further the cause of long-term funding.

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A Matter of Judgment

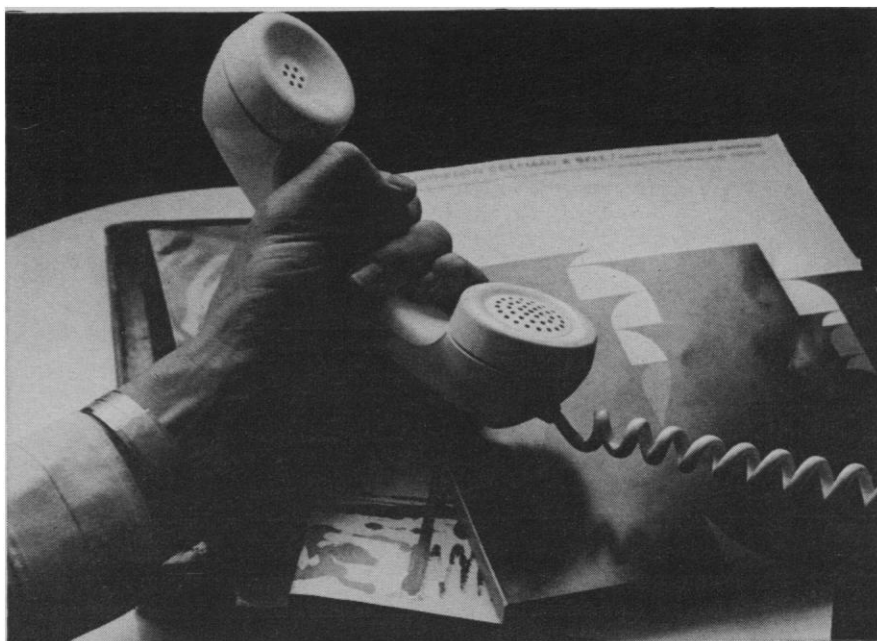
Conservation controversies are disputes in viewpoint. Porter (Letters, 5 July), argues that the proposed mining in Glacier Bay National Monument is desirable because greater benefits would result than would by leaving the Monument inviolate. I would argue the opposite, but for exactly the same reason. The point of disagreement is not one which can be resolved by "objective analysis" of the "facts." These are differences in value and judgment. . . . Most resource allocation problems are not ones of "right" versus "wrong," of conservationists fighting greedy exploiters, but rather they are disputes over what constitutes the best kind of conservation. Certainly scientists can point out the danger of pesticides, but how can they decide the Glacier Bay mining dispute? Does the recent article on coast redwood ecology by Stone and Vasey (12 Jan., p. 157) resolve the Redwood National Park question? I think not.

Criteria for decision-making in conservation controversies (use versus preservation of landscapes) is needed. . . . The search for answers must start with defining the goals, values, and purposes of society. Science does not claim to answer questions of civil rights; is the problem of mining in Glacier Bay National Monument really any different?

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13 SEPTEMBER 1968



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