along with Congressmen Kupferman, Saylor, Dent, Scheuer, Button, Cleveland, Farbstein, Walker, Edwards (Calif.), Eilberg, and Podell.

The purpose of the amendment is to define the rights of citizens of this country with respect to the condition of our general environment and to the use and conservation of natural resources. "The right of the people to clean air, pure water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment shall not be abridged." The resolution calls for periodic inventories and evaluation of "natural, scenic, esthetic and historic" resources and restrictions on actions that would adversely affect resource values on public lands. A constitutional statement of the nation's will in respect to resources and environment is essential to provide a legal basis for resolving conservation issues. As it now stands, litigation to protect the public from actions damaging to its environment has been only marginally successful. The courts find insufficient basis in existing statutes to give favorable opinions on behalf of the public in conservation matters, and, since these concerns are relatively new, there is practically no protection in common law. The constitutional amendment would set a guideline which the courts could follow.

The Conservation Bill of Rights, now in the Judiciary Committee, faces a long uphill struggle in Congress, and then it must be ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the states. If adopted, it will have far-reaching, positive effects on conservation theory and practice in this country and perhaps on human survival in centuries to come.

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Milkweed Mystery

An unusually large number of the milkweed plants, *Asclepias,* in this area of Nassau County, Long Island, have not formed pods this year. The plants seem to be of average height for this time of year and in all other ways appear normal. Have readers in other areas observed lack of pod formation this year?

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