

use as evidence in her anti-DDT appearances before her village board. Last year she joined the Citizens Natural Resources Association (CNRA), a relatively small but sophisticated Wisconsin conservation organization to which a number of academic people belong, for the purpose of proposing that EDF be invited to Wisconsin to do battle against DDT.

Her proposal was readily accepted, for CNRA had for some time viewed DDT as a major environmental threat. Moreover, CNRA knew of EDF from its earlier pesticide suits in the Midwest, which had received substantial press coverage. The Wisconsin division of the Izaak Walton League joined CNRA in petitioning for the hearings, and last fall these organizations raised nearly \$20,000 to pay EDF's expenses (Yannacone is receiving no fee), the air fares and other expenses of witnesses, and the like. Also, a volunteer organization of about 60 people, a third of them University of Wisconsin scientists and graduate students, was set up to support the hearing effort in various ways, such as carrying on the literature search and providing quarters for EDF people and out-of-town witnesses.

Ecologists "Build a Wall"

The hearings began in December in the Assembly chambers of the State Capitol, but were moved later to the less formal atmosphere of a hearing room of the Department of Natural Resources. The hearing examiner, Maurice H. Van Susteren, while conducting the hearings impartially, seems as intrigued as anyone by what EDF is trying to do. "A legal case is like a wall, and you have to put it in brick by brick," he remarked to a *Science* reporter. "Usually, the scientist has been interested only in his own brick. Now ecologists are trying to put all the bricks together."

The hearings' most striking personality is Yannacone, a dynamic, exuberantly aggressive individual who usually impresses scientists by his quickness in grasping scientific material. His style would go over poorly in a dignified Wall Street law firm. For example, at a meeting of the Littoral Society last fall, Yannacone, as the guest speaker, asked rhetorically what was the course of last resort in dealing with polluters and other despoilers of the environment. Then, grasping a revolving blackboard, he whirled it about so that it proclaimed, in large block letters, **SUE THE BASTARDS!**

Nixon Panel Reports on Environment

Conservationists who fear that the Nixon Administration will be insensitive to environmental problems can draw some solace from a confidential report prepared by a Nixon task force on Resources and the Environment. The report, which was made available to *Science* last week, urges that "improved environmental management be made a principal objective of the new Administration." What's more, there is reason to believe that the report's principal recommendations—including the appointment of a special presidential assistant for environmental affairs—will receive a sympathetic hearing from key officials of the Nixon Administration.

The environmental task force was one of many advisory panels set up after the November election to prepare reports on domestic issues for the incoming Administration. The reports have been kept under wraps by the Nixon forces, but a few have been leaked to the press. There is no certainty that any of the recommendations will be acted on, but the report on environmental problems may carry particular weight, for it was prepared by a group* headed by Russell E. Train, president of the Conservation Foundation, who last week was named Under Secretary of the Interior, a position from which he will presumably be able to lobby effectively for his group's recommendations.

The environmental task force report, which was largely written by Train himself, is a strongly worded document that calls on the new Administration to improve the environment because "the real stake is man's own survival—in a world worth living in." The report particularly stresses the need to improve "the declining environmental quality of our urban areas," where most of the population lives.

The report suggests "no panaceas, no mammoth new programs." Instead, it urges that existing programs be made to work better through greatly increased appropriations, better coordination, new regional approaches, and a strengthened role for industry and for state and local governments.

The most far-reaching recommendation calls for the President to appoint a Special Assistant for Environmental Affairs, who would serve as a "focal point" for the government's scattered environmental concerns and who "would evidence dramatically the new Administration's concern for a better environment." Task force members report that Lee A. DuBridge, Nixon's science advisor, is sympathetic to the idea, though he has not said so publicly.

The task force also recommended that each federal agency whose activities "significantly affect the environment" should establish a "focal point of environmental responsibility"; and that the present inter-agency Council on Recreation and Natural Beauty should be broadened into a Council on the Environment, with the Vice President continuing as chairman.

"The present fragmentation, piecemeal approach, inadequate coordination, and lack of central policy direction and control of [environmental] programs constitute an obstacle to their effective implementation," the task force said. "More than just efficient administration is at issue. Federal programs with major environmental impacts, such as highway construction, should take into account the side effects, such as air pollution, which are the program responsibility of completely separate agencies."

The task force recommended against any major reorganization of government programs without a thorough study, but task force members believe even their relatively modest proposals could bolster the government's efforts to make the world more livable.—PHILIP M. BOFFEY

* The task force included Edward A. Ackerman, Stanley A. Cain, Charles H. Callison, Joseph L. Fisher, Loren V. Forman, Charles H. W. Foster, Maurice K. Goddard, Norman B. Livermore, Jr., Charles F. Luce, John H. Meier, H. Byron Mock, Bernard L. Orell, Nathaniel P. Reed, S. Dillon Ripley, Laurence S. Rockefeller, Leian F. Sillin, Jr., John O. Simonds, M. Frederik Smith, and John W. Tukey.