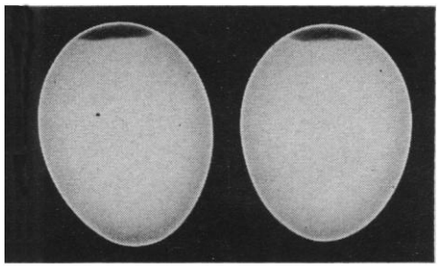

. . . If one can say either end of an egg is inferior, we submit that it is the blunt end that is relatively vacant and contains hot air (see illustration). We are proud to remain two pointy eggheads.

T. HEALEY
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*Departments of Radiology* and *Pathology, Beckett Hospital, Church Lane, Barnsley, Yorkshire, England*

**Open Letter to President Nixon**

We strongly support your efforts to eradicate bacteriological weapons, and suggest that a most appropriate antidote would be to turn the activities of the Chemical and Biological Warfare services toward research that will aid in restoring a harmonious ecological balance.

The detrimental effects of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers have now been devastatingly demonstrated by the volume of dying birds, dying fish, dying streams, and dying lakes. Unless other means are found to replenish the soil and attack insect pests, we face an environmental catastrophe. We therefore urge you to consider the possibility of diverting the personnel and facilities of CBW to the very urgent tasks of (i) finding strains of bacteria and parasites to be used against harmful insects; and (ii) developing nitrogen-fixing bacteria that would enrich the soil without creating harmful side effects. In this way the vast experience and equipment available through CBW can be salvaged and utilized for the improvement of our environment—a "swords into plowshares" program at the biological level.

TAHIR M. RIZKI*
RICHARD W. HILL
*Department of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 48104*

* In addition, 81 people associated with the Department of Zoology signed this letter.

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