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of the president of the AAAS is the tip of the iceberg. I have no proposal to change the situation, only a conviction that these various pronouncements call for an elite controlling group financially dependent on a large membership. Rieser and his Special Committee on Governance will need the wisdom of a collection of Solomons if they are to resolve satisfactorily the contradictions in our present situation.

E. G. STANLEY BAKER Department of Zoology, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey 07940

"Friends" of the Ecology Movement

I cannot ignore Esther Landau's letter (19 Feb.) criticizing the review by Haefele and Kneese of James Ridgeway's The Politics of Ecology. Those who remember when Senator Joe Mc-Carthy was considered by many to be above criticism must be appalled at McCarthyism in the ecology movement. For example, when two reviewers in Science say that a certain book on ecology is inaccurate, misleading, and in general a pretty poor job, it draws a vituperative letter right along the line of the McCarthy supporters: "Anything said against Communism (today, read 'pollution') is good. Anything said against an anti-Communist statement is bad, and whoever says it must have ulterior motives." Landau proceeds to question the motives of your reviewers, although their true position with respect to ecological problems seems perfectly clear in their review. And she employs that favorite McCarthy ploy: guilt by association.

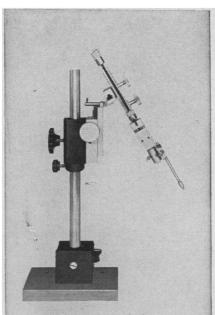
The ecology movement can protect itself against its enemies, but may Heaven protect it from such "friends."

GEORGE ELWERS 1507 High Ridge Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06903

Polywater: Homely and Universal

The reports on the spectrum of polywater by Davis, Rousseau, and Board (15 Jan., p. 167) and Rousseau (15 Jan., p. 170) suggest that polywater is, in the words of Edison, "1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." R. D. MURPHY

Department of Physics, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada



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