

lish scientific papers, first in the *Proceedings*, then, after 1900, in *Science*. Oddly enough, *Science*, though it has long been the official journal of the AAAS, was not owned by the association until 1944. The magazine was first started in 1880 by a long-forgotten editor named John Michels, and it was chiefly bankrolled by Thomas A. Edison, but within 2 years it died of financial malnutrition. In 1883 another famous tinkerer, Alexander Graham Bell, tried to revive the magazine. He bought its name and goodwill from Michels for the overly generous price of \$5000, but the magazine continued to lose money—more than \$80,000 in a decade. Despite an emergency appropriation from the AAAS and further financing by Bell, the magazine died again in 1894. Finally, another rescuer—James McKeen Cattell, head of the department of psychology at Columbia—came along and picked up the magazine that had originally cost Bell \$5000 for a mere \$25. Cattell, who seems to have been something of a publishing genius (his empire eventually included seven scholarly journals plus *American Men of Science*), succeeded where the others had failed. In 1900 the AAAS made an agreement with Cattell whereby *Science* became the official journal of the AAAS. Cattell agreed to provide every AAAS member with a subscription, and the AAAS agreed to pay Cattell so much per head. This arrangement continued until 1944, shortly after Cattell's death, when the AAAS bought the magazine from the Cattell estate at a cost of \$270,000 over a 10-year period—a price that many AAAS leaders felt was exorbitant.

The arrangement between Cattell and the AAAS seems to have been mutually beneficial. Cattell got a guaranteed circulation base and a source of items for his journal, while the AAAS was able to attract members more effectively by offering the magazine as an inducement to join. The fact that *Science* was for so long independently owned even though it served as the AAAS journal probably accounts for the flavor of the journal even today. Dael Wolfe, long-time executive officer of the AAAS, observes that *Science* has not changed fundamentally from the early days to the present—he says it has served more as a “news magazine of science” than as a “mouthpiece for the AAAS.”

Over the course of its first century of existence, the AAAS's perception of

Nader Group Sees “Water Wasteland”

A Ralph Nader task force has come up with a harsh and apparently accurate assessment of the government's efforts at cleaning up water pollution. After 15 years (the National Water Pollution Control Act was passed in 1956), seven laws, and the expenditure of \$3.5 billion, says the report, the level of filth has not been reduced in a single major body of water. Industry's share of pollution—now four to five times as much as that from domestic sources—continues to rise. The country's ranchers, loggers, and farmers, who form the agricultural pollution sector, continue to be the “worst polluters in the entire nation.”

The report, *Water Wasteland*,* was compiled over an 18-month period by a team of 26 graduate students, headed by Harvard law student David Zwick. It combines the brisk élan and meticulous documentation characteristic of Nader products, and no bureaucratic inhibitions mark its plunges into the politics, legalities, economics, and unsavory facts of water pollution.

The Federal Water Quality Administration, now the Water Quality Office (WQO) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has been distinguished by passivity and “perennial listlessness,” says the report. It points out that in only one case has the agency brought court action against an offender (St. Joseph, Mo., in 1960), and that 22 states are still delinquent in formulating federally approved water quality standards, 3½ years after the final deadline.

The main problem, as the task force perceives it, is in the “weakness of basic federal laws regulating pollution.” Abatement conferences and hearing boards are required to look for solutions before the government can ask for court injunctions against polluters, and the administrator of EPA is allowed broad discretion on whether or not to investigate and act on suspected violations. The federal law, says the report, leaves too much responsibility to the states, which, subject to local political pressures, have less stringent codes on pollution and are often even less willing to take action than the federal government is.

The task force feels that the WQO will have to give up the idea of trying to solve problems in a chummy “partnership” atmosphere with polluters and state officials. Instead, the WQO should adopt an “adversary” stance that will not tolerate endless compromises, empty assurances, and the repeated pushing back of cleanup deadlines.

The 700-page report not only catalogs the government's errors of omission, but is critical of what it does do. The WQO's research and development program has produced no solutions worthy of widespread application. The resurrection of the 1899 Refuse Act, which forbids discarding waste into public waterways without a permit, may turn out to supply “licenses to pollute.” The massive amount of federal subsidies for the construction of municipal sewage treatment plants only “encourages industrial waste output . . . at the taxpayer's expense.”

Water Wasteland has been praised not only by public interest groups, but by government pollution officials. William Ruckleshaus, EPA administrator, termed it an “important report” and called on the WQO to “analyze its contents in depth.” Senator Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) called it “revealing” in its insights and “disturbing” in its revelations. Bills submitted by Muskie and President Nixon take steps to deal with many of the ills described in the report, by extending WQO jurisdiction to intra- as well as interstate waters, strengthening and simplifying abatement procedures, and making provisions for citizen lawsuits against polluters. But the task force feels the proposed legislation still falls short of giving the EPA administrator and the public adequate leverage against the powers of Big Pollution.—C.H.

*The report will appear as a book at the end of this year. It is now available in two mimeographed volumes for \$25 from the Center for the Study of Responsive Law, 1156 19th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.