agricultural crops is negligible. We are currently studying rural groups 12 miles north of Aligarh which illustrate these principles. These groups maintain outstandingly good productivity with very little cost or damage to villagers. Under proper rural management, rhesus monkeys provide a source of income and cultural interest for local people, and at the same time a valuable biological resource is fostered. We hope the ideas of Bermant and Chandrasekhar find wide distribution and favorable consideration.

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Intourist: A Pleasant Experience

Romer's letter (23 Apr., p. 326), complaining about his experiences with Intourist in the U.S.S.R. should be considered in relation to general conditions in that country and to the conditions encountered by any tourist not speaking the native language. I spent May and June 1970 in the U.S.S.R. on the exchange program of the U.S.S.R. and U.S. national academies of science. After traveling once to Norosibirsk on my own, I was thereafter most pleased to have the help of Intourist. Thanks to this organization, the foreign tourist benefits from a special waiting room at airports with uncrowded meal facilities, on domestic airlines he can board the plane (one class, with no reservations) before the Russian travelers and thus can select the preferred seats and stay with his friends, and finally, he does not have to stand in line for either reservations or baggage registration. Thanks to the representative of Intourist in the Moscow hotel of the U.S.S.R Academy of Sciences where I was staying, I was provided, on short notice, with tickets for the opera or the ballet at the Bolshoi Theater, for concerts, and so forth. These events could not be attended without the help of Intourist because of the great demand for tickets.

Considering the still-limited tourist accommodations in the U.S.S.R. and the existing bureaucratic procedures, I found that Intourist was most helpful in relieving the foreign tourist of the numerous difficulties found when traveling alone. Is Romer aware of the vexations of the non–English speaking foreign tourist who, on arrival in the United States, attempts to book a flight or a hotel room, or reserve a seat at the Metropolitan Opera? It is even difficult for him to call home, since the New York operators handling the international lines to Europe do not speak or understand the foreign language involved.

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I have twice visited the U.S.S.R., once as a tourist in 1958, and again as a representative of the U.S. government to the 9th International Conference of Wildlife Biologists in 1969. For that conference Intourist arranged five tours and handled groups of 30 to 75 biologists flawlessly.

I personally took two tours, one near Moscow, another to eastern Siberia with a group. In 20 years of traveling around the world, I have never seen groups better handled. For example, after we visited Lake Baikal, Intourist informed us that the next day we would be flown to Brask to tour its massive hydroelectrical development. We, being biologists, objected and indicated that we would much prefer to spend time in primitive woodland habitats (the taiga). After some discussion, Intourist agreed, flew us to Brask, bussed us to the taiga, turned us loose there for half a day, fed us, and then gave us a quick tour of the hydroelectrical development. We were all flown back to Irkutsk, and the tour returned to Moscow while my wife and I took the Trans-Siberian railroad to the east coast. Accidentally, one of our bags was returned to Moscow with the tour group. Four days later at Khabarovsk our bag had been located, shipped across the U.S.S.R. by air, and returned to us.

A curse—yes, if the meeting organizers have not communicated their wishes effectively; a tremendous boon if matters have been properly arranged.

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Nutrients in Lake Erie

Hubschman suggests (12 Feb., p. 536) that massive harvesting of unspecified organisms from Lake Erie could remove sufficient nutrients to improve the polluted condition of the lake. Quantitative considerations indicate, however, that the amount of common nutrient element removed under such a program

would be small compared to inputs and very small compared to amounts already accumulated in sediments or solution.

For example, input of phosphorus into Lake Erie is estimated to be 2.3×10^{10} g/year, with 24 percent from runoff and 76 percent from municipal and industrial wastes (*1*). Loss to Lake Ontario is a small fraction of this amount. Photosynthetic production approximates 1.7×10^{12} g of carbon per year (*1*) and this productivity (66 g of carbon per square meter per year) compares well with Ryther's estimate of 100 g of carbon per square meter per year for productive coastal areas (*2*). An average mass ratio of C : N : P = 40 : 7 : 1 applies to phytoplankton (*3*). Thus, primary production could sequester as much as 4.3×10^{10} g of phosphorus per year or an amount about double input.

It seems unlikely that more than a few percent of this quantity could be harvested on a sustained basis. Harvesting of phytoplankton is clearly impractical, and harvesting of animal species would involve trophic levels near 2 at best. Commericial fishing now removes only about 1.4×10^{8} g of phosphorus per year or about 0.6 percent of input. This corresponds to an average trophic level of about 3, if the calculation is based on carbon and the current catch of 4.5×10^{9} g (dry weight) per year is assumed to represent the maximum sustainable yield (*1*). The harvest of lake organisms might depress biological productivity, however, by removing the growth-limiting nutrient, provided the nutrient accumulates only slowly in the lake and is neither nitrogen nor phosphorus. We are unaware of data which clearly determine the growth-limiting nutrient for Lake Erie.

It would seem more efficient in terms of energy and technology to intercept nutrient elements from cities and industries before they become part of the lake system.

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