Scientist in the Senate

Constance Holden (News and Comment, 18 May, p. 720) wrote that there is only one scientist in Congress—Mike McCormack (D–Wash.), a chemist. Locke White, Jr., writes (Letters, 3 July, p. 112) that another scientist, James D. Martin (R–N.C.), former associate professor of chemistry at Davidson College in North Carolina, is also in Congress. I would like to bring to your attention a third scientist in Congress, Senator Dewey F. Bartlett (R–Okla.). Bartlett was a practicing geologist in Oklahoma for many years until he became governor of Oklahoma, and then senator. He is still an outstanding geologist.

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PCB Formation

Although Thomas H. Maugh II's report "DDT: An unrecognized source of polychlorinated biphenyls" (Research News, 11 May, p. 578) deals with vapor-phase photolysis, it gives the misleading impression that such a reaction pathway is novel and ignores earlier published research. DDT [1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(*p*-chlorophenyl)ethane] was certainly recognized as a source of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) by 1969.

It is correct that Guenzi and his associates (*1*) did not observe the formation of PCB's or DDMU [1-chloro-2,2-bis(*p*-chlorophenyl)ethylene] by photolysis of solid DDT or DDT in hexane after irradiation at 253 nanometers. However, in 1969 we clearly showed that DDMU, dichlorobenzophenone, and dichlorobiphenyl were products of DDT or DDE [1,1-dichloro-2,2-bis(*p*-chlorophenyl)ethylene] photolysis in methanol at 260 nm (*2*). Moreover, we investigated the photolysis of dichlorobenzophenone and reported that 4,4′-dichlorobiphenyl (a PCB) was one of the photoproducts. Our proposed reaction schemes were supported by the identification of many products derived by a series of radical reactions. Among the products was 3,6-dichlorofluorenone, which we had reported as a major photolysis product of DDE in 1969 (*3*). We also found that photooxidation of this compound to 3,3′-dichlorobiphenyl-2-carboxylic acid oc-