LETTERS

Environmental Task Force Report

Luther Carter's article (News and Comment, 25 Feb., p. 764), concerning the Rockefeller Brothers Fund task force report "The Unfinished Agenda" may have left an erroneous impression as to the ascribed responsibility for the content and conclusions contained therein. The individuals on the task force were not representing their organizations, only themselves. It was made perfectly clear from the beginning that any attempt to have organizational approval of such a broad range of environmental issues would be an impossible task.

Also, the conclusions reached were adopted by consensus and did not require unanimity of opinion. I personally did not agree with at least one of the conclusions, namely, that atomic power should be phased out over the next 10 years. I am not ready to concede that atomic power should be eliminated at the present time as one of our energy options. The best scientists in this field agree we have at least two very serious problems—how to satisfactorily dispose of radioactive wastes and the security and proliferation implications of a plutonium society. If these problems can be solved, it would be in the national interest to take another look at whether the nuclear option of meeting some of our energy needs would be better than burning an equivalent amount of coal in our effort to meet both energy production and environmental goals.

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Antagonisms and Controversies

In the third of the series of articles on multiple sclerosis (Research News, 11 Mar., p. 969), Thomas H. Maugh does a disservice in bringing out the personality conflicts between some individuals in basic protein research. His unfortunate remarks pointing out the antagonisms and controversies in the field do nothing to illuminate the problem and even detract from the scientific value of the article. Every field has its rivals, and the publication of such unattractive sidelights can only add to the bad press the scientific community is already receiving.

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