

Survival.

That's what Earth Week is all about.

Ours is not, of course, an exclusive undertaking. Others equally dedicated, have gone before us and continue to devote their intellects and energies to the same cause that motivates us: survival.

The ecological movement of the 70's has its roots in the civil rights and peace movements initiated in the 60's. We share the concerns, commend the motives, and support the struggles being waged by those who are wholly committed to the elimination of racism and war. It is obvious that survival must not be measured merely by our national ability to extend life by a year or two, but by the quality of life available to all citizens. The brutalities perpetrated by man against man differ only in kind from those which man works upon nature. The dynamics and the perpetrators, however, are the same.

We believe that man has a right to live in harmony with himself, with others, and with nature. He has a right to be free of the intimidations of poverty, racism, involuntary servitude, and national policies which can lead to sudden extinction. But equally important, he has a right to pure air and water, unpoisoned food, and national policies which will insure that he is not immersed in his own litter. In short: survival.

The concern—no, call it what it is: the *fear* that at any moment the nuclear dagger may be unsheathed, that “minor” wars will continue to defoliate the flower of American youth, and that these same adventures will further divert attention and resources from our domestic struggles is real. And it affects us all. For the essential consequence of this course reveals itself in the psychological, sociological, and ecological domestic holocaust which we are rapidly approaching.

The goal of the Earth Week Committee and its thousands of sponsors and supporters is not to strive for survival by merely hanging on for another day or another year. That would be both absurd and unacceptable.

Our immediate objective is to replace apathy with a public awareness of the dangers and challenges of the ecological crisis which confronts this nation. Subsequently, we will endeavor to translate the concern aroused into commitment—individual, corporate, and political—that will bring about the *action* which survival demands. Yesterday's whimper will become tomorrow's roar.

The question is no longer: Can we afford the price of ecological revival? Rather, it's the more vital one: Can we afford the cost of our own ignorance and unchecked disregard for the planet which we inhabit?

And there are others, similarly vexing, yet equally crucial:

—Can we afford unlimited production and profits . . . at any price?

—Can we tolerate technological advance and ecological retreat?

—Can we accept the human, wildlife, and horticultural casualties claimed by our rising demands for comfort and convenience?