

adult-food preparations would also come under regulation.

One individual working in the Bureau of Sciences told me that the cyclamate issue has been so demanding of time that they have simply not been able to get to the necessary work on glutamate. If this is the case, now that cyclamates are banned, perhaps glutamate can receive its due share of attention.

*John W. Olney, M.D.  
Department of Psychiatry  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Mo.*

### Tunnel vision

The tunnel vision of Dr. Wayland J. Hayes Jr., "DDT—Fears Out of Balance" (SN: 10/25, p. 376) is exactly the kind of thinking that has precipitated and is prolonging the world's environmental crisis.

According to Dr. Hayes, the chances of injury to the general population through repeated absorption of small amounts of DDT are statistically negligible. Why, then, has the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently issued a new booklet for sportsmen and homemakers giving recipes for reducing the amount of DDT in fish for the family table? Why has the U.S. Government confiscated shipments of DDT-infested coho salmon from Lake Michigan that were bound for markets?

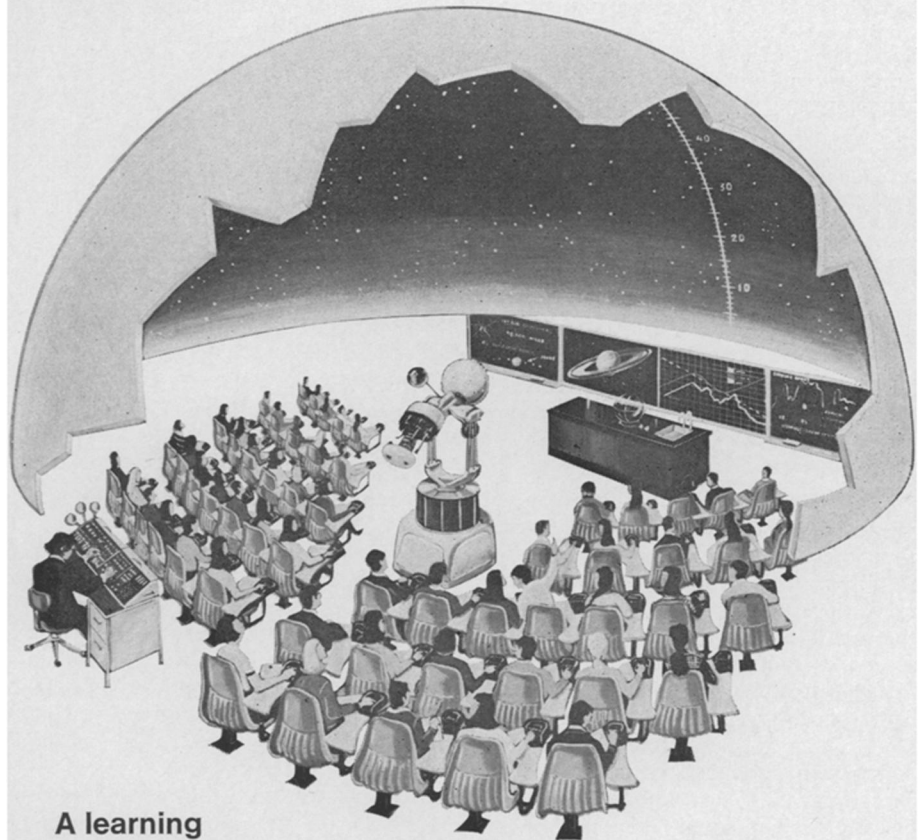
We know relatively little about DDT and its effects, but we do know that it persists for a long time and that it concentrates itself in the fatty tissues of organisms relatively high up the food chain. We know that DDT affects the fertility of lower organisms, that its shell-softening ability is lethal to the eggs of birds, that even in extremely weak concentrations it kills crab larvae. There is apparently a fair amount of evidence that it causes cancer in human beings.

But Dr. Hayes is probably inadvertently right about the minimal danger of a worldwide epidemic of DDT poisoning in human beings. Before we are able to concentrate enough in our tissues we may have destroyed the food- and oxygen-producing abilities of the world's oceans. And if that happens, there won't be much of a general populace left to worry about DDT poisoning. But I must insist that there is a better than negligible chance of general injury to the human population so long as the present use of DDT and the other hard pesticides continues, even if we are getting only trace amounts in our food.

*Gary A. Soucie, Executive Director  
Friends of the Earth  
New York, N.Y.*

november 22, 1969

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\*To paraphrase Marshall McLuhan

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