

films OF THE WEEK

THE VERTEBRATES. Series of six 8mm or super 8mm film loops, color, silent. Introduces the most familiar and highly developed group of animals—the vertebrates, or animals having a backbone. Shows basic characteristics of the five major classes: drawings and animation to illustrate structure and nature photography to show adaptations, habitat and way of life. Titles include: Introducing the Vertebrates; Introducing Fish; Introducing Amphibians; Introducing Reptiles; Introducing Birds; and Introducing Mammals. Audience: Intermediate. Purchase series \$107.50 or each loop \$20 from Coronet Films, Dept. SN, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

SEAWEEDES. 16mm, color, sound, 22 min. Introducing this relatively new and undeveloped industry, the film provides background on the general types of seaweed harvested, its industrial and popular uses, and the need for continued scientific research in the area of seaweed farming if the industry is to grow and make use of this natural marine growth without upsetting the ecological balance of the sea. Audience: high school, general. Purchase and loan information from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. SN, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y. 10036.

THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE. 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 16 min. Filmed in the Florida Everglades, Alaska and Aleutian Islands, this film shows the habitat, life cycle, nesting and feeding activities of our beautiful national bird. Scenes include the famed "Eagle Man," Charles Broley at work banding young eagles in their nests. Close-up and action pictures show eaglets at various stages of growth and adult birds catching prey and feeding with other animals on shore after the salmon runs are over. Demonstrates the need for protection of these birds who are endangered from hunters, pesticides poisoning their food supply, and loss of their natural habitat to roads and construction sites. Emphasizes the ecologists' concern with vanishing species and the relevancy of ecological studies today. Audience: high school. Purchase \$195 color or b&w \$97.50 from Coronet Films, Dept. SN, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

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to the editor

Advisory groups and the public

Your article concerning my testimony on bills dealing with advisory committees (SN: 6/26/71, p. 434) badly misstates the argument of my testimony. The U.S. Department of Commerce's position on the bill in question is against requiring *all* advisory committees to have members who are public representatives as distinguished from other members. Based on the purpose and nature of some committees, this simply doesn't make sense, and at best would be a pure artifice if applied to all committees. An example is the National Bureau of Standards Statutory Visiting Committee, which reports to the Secretary on the efficiency of the bureau's scientific work. It logically is composed of persons prominent in the areas of science and technology.

On public representation, I stated: "In the case of some of our committees, it is possible and proper, however, to have distinguishable representation of the public at large or of particular public interest groups. We have seven committees that clearly have one or more distinguishable public interest representatives in their memberships." (These statements immediately followed the quote in the article from my testimony, which was used to conclude that I said no public representation is necessary on advisory committees. The quote was obviously used out of context.)

Regarding the National Industrial Pollution Control Council, I said in my testimony, "The council is, of course, merely one of many sources of advice and action on pollution problems in furtherance of objectives of the Executive Branch. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality and the Council on Environmental Quality are particularly to be

noted in that regard." I pointed out that the President established NIPCC—as part of the total antipollution effort—to encourage the industrial and business community to improve the environment and to advise on industry programs to solve environmental problems. It is logical that such a council be composed of persons who speak for the business community, but by no means did my testimony say or imply that the council should be viewed as representing or reflecting the "broad public interest." The council merely reflects one relevant sector of the public interest. We believe conservationists, other groups and the public at large should be and are effectively represented through other means and mechanisms as part of the process of developing and carrying out public policy in the broad public interest. As pointed out in my testimony, making a public debating forum out of every advisory group would be self defeating.

Larry A. Jobe
Assistant
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

(The quote in question says, in effect, that public representation is not needed on advisory committees because expertise, per se, is a guarantor of the public interest being served. This dictum was expressed generically, and no effort was later made by Mr. Jobe to separate the NIPCC from its impact. The truth is that the NIPCC does publish quasi-official reports without benefit of comment or editing by conservationists or the general public. These reports are not subject to review by the various other environmental councils and agencies Mr. Jobe mentions.—Ed.)

Help from Hamlet

Your summary of our project to educate young medical students about psychiatry, "Help from Hamlet" (SN: 6/26/71, p. 430), was well and accurately done. SCIENCE NEWS is making a definite contribution and a good one.

I hope that you will continue with the excellent job that you are doing.

Frederick W. Barnes
Brown University
Division of Biological and
Medical Sciences
Providence, R.I.

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