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Cover: Ranchers and conservationists disagree over what should be done with bacteria-infected buffalo in Yellowstone. See p. 158. (Illustration: first known drawing of the American bison, 16th century)

**Publisher** E. G. Sherburne Jr.  
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**Advertising** Scherago Associates, Inc.  
11 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036  
Fred W. Dieffenbach  
Sales Director

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231 West Center Street  
Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$10; 2 yrs., \$18; 3 yrs., \$25. (Add \$2 a year for Canada and Mexico, \$3 for all other countries.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to be addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News Letter ® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255). Cable: SCIENSERV.

## Pipeline debate polarized

I found it quite interesting to contrast Meschi's comments (Letter, SN: 8/5/72, p. 83) with those of a prominent Houston oilman.

**Meschi:** "... I must say that I for one am becoming a bit fed up with having *apologists for the oil companies*, official and unofficial, prophesy all kinds of unpleasant consequences if the exploitation of our oil resources is in any way inhibited by law or regulation."

**Houston oilman** (Houston Post; 8/16/72): "*Hysterical environmentalists* are not paying any attention to the welfare of this country. Every day the pipeline is delayed is added severity to the country's energy crisis."

I, for one, fail to see how this type of verbal extremism, in both cases, is beneficial to anyone.

Addressing myself first to Meschi, the pipeline is not intended as a means only of exploiting our oil resources. It is true, however, that the oil companies are expecting to make a profit. I think Meschi needs reminding that our American system of economics is based on profit-making organizations. Another item which should be brought to this gentleman's attention is that there *is* an energy crisis . . . . Some method is absolutely necessary to get Alaskan oil to the areas where it is needed.

I would like to point out to the oilman from Houston that all environmentalists are not hysterical. When, or if, the pipeline is built, it is also absolutely necessary to take all possible precautions for the protection of the Alaskan environment. The oil companies should have regulations placed on them to ensure that all necessary safety precautions are met.

The point I am trying to make is that it is possible to have the best of both worlds. Instead of the oil industry and the environmentalists continuously fighting each other, they should join forces. By doing so, we can devise methods of alleviating our fuel crisis that are environmentally safe. Please, gentlemen, let's all pull together.

Jimmy D. Rosamond  
Houston, Texas

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**ADAPTATIONS FOR SURVIVAL: MAMMALS.** 16mm, color, sound, 16 min. Explains the structural, physiological and behavioral adaptations of mammals in relation to their habits and environment. Skulls of grazers, rodents and carnivores are examined in detail to point out structural adaptations in teeth. Physiological adaptations shown and discussed include the hibernation habits of the 13-lined squirrel and the changes in color of the varying hare. Behavioral adaptations include the migration of the elk. Also examined is the place of man, the most intelligent of animals, who makes radical and sometimes harmful changes in the environment. The film raises the question of how man can help mammals survive these harmful effects. Audience: elementary. Purchase \$225 or rental \$12.50 from International Film Bureau, Dept. SN, 322 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

**AFGHANISTAN.** 16mm, color, sound, 15 min. Recent events have made Americans more aware of the countries and people of the Middle and Far East. This film provides a close-up look at a country which has been little known, but which is beginning to be visited by larger numbers of people. There is no narration, but organization makes this unnecessary. Remote tribesmen travel by camel, skilled horsemen play violent games (including the traditional buzkachi, a kind of mounted soccer), farmers gather their crops, and city-dwellers go about their daily lives in Kabul. Audience: general. Purchase \$210 from ACT Films, Dept. SN, 35 W. 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**PROMISE CITY.** 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Explores the slow death of an Iowa farming community because the small farmer can no longer make a living. The town finds itself with a diminishing population (with 50 percent of the inhabitants over 55), no fire department and no physician. Residents reflect upon the town's past history, and some believe that even the economic conditions existing during the depression were better than current problems. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$315 or rental \$11.50 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**SMOKING.** 16mm, color, sound, 16 min. This film may not make a person stop smoking but it will make him think. It examines the smoking problem from a medical and sociological point of view to understand how the smoking myth evolved. Unlike most nonsmoke films, this one does not rely on the pious nonsmoker to make a point. It also has testimony from the smoker as well . . . why he started, why he can't stop, and whether or not he really wants to quit. Audience: high school. Purchase \$235 or rental \$25 from American Educational Films, Dept. SN, 331 N. Maple Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210.

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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