

to flourish. For the prolonged period of the industrial age, the space age, the atomic age this layer is too thin to sustain life if we continue to expend and proliferate our present industrial uses, and to reproduce the human race at the current unprecedented rate. More lungs are consuming our finite supply of air and more products of modern technology are contaminating it . . . so much so that air pollution has become a menace to the health of the individual and a threat to the survival of the human race.

What domestic progress has been made in our war against pollution — and ironically, what has brought an equal measure of progress and compromise to the international cold war — has resulted from a fear-filled recognition of the dangers of atomic radiation. The hazard of atomic fallout — a form of air pollution — generated the first significant postwar treaty between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. As a result of this first great step toward diplomacy and compromise, greater agreement on other subjects has been reached. But it was this realization — that God and nature given air refuses to know or respect international political boundaries and would impartially spread atomic fallout over the nation of the victim and the aggressor alike — that humbled the great political powers of the world and brought them to the conference table.

Modern civilization has reached such a high plateau of technological sophistication that we cannot afford to ignore or postpone our responsibilities for the adverse side effects from the great industrial revolution that has brought us so far. We all know that vehicles, factories, businesses and even residences utilize combustible material of some form. Approximately 90 percent of the air pollution in the United States consists of invisible but potentially lethal gases that result from the incomplete, imperfect or uncontrolled combustion that energizes and accommodates our society. Nearly half of this nation's contamination can be attributed to carbon monoxide released from the exhaust pipes of automobiles, trucks and buses. The second major source of gas pollutant is composed of oxides of sulphur produced by home, power plant and factory combustion of coal and oil containing substantial quantities of sulphur. In addition, open air burning produces poisonous gases in one or another chemical composition.

With the advent of the urban growth, the proliferation of industry and the metropolitan residential explosion, air pollution is affecting the health of our citizens, our natural vegetation, our agriculture and our live stock. Cities with major smog problems like Los Angeles, London, Düsseldorf and other highly industrialized, highly motorized