

MEMO FROM
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STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

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Dear Senator Allott:

I really enjoyed and admired your treatment of this subject as it appeared in the Congressional Record. I might admit, however, that the sentence marked (!) was in part addressed to the policies you so successfully cultivated with respect to the rollback of NSF funding in the 89th Congress -- believe me they have been very slim encouragement to the kind of "post-industrial" technological development we both view as absolutely indispensable to the further progress of the nation.

These are, of course, complicated questions that have many sides. I earnestly hope we may have the means to facilitate the essential "cross-cultural" communication that can help lead to a more productive assignment of priorities.

Yours sincerely,

cf Science 10/11/68

important that we were wise enough to use our economic gains to meet our real needs and to anticipate those of a new generation. The condition of our cities and the relic of poverty tell us otherwise.

The GNP, as economists have always pointed out, is itself a technical artifact that tells very little of the real standard of living. By the conventional accounting, it costs, and is somehow therefore worth, ten times as much to maintain a garden in Chicago as in Cuernavaca. And if we hire a hundred policemen or soldiers, instead of ten, we must, I suppose, be producing ten times as much.

ecologists have begun to persuade America much of the economic growth we had res net income is actually the exploitation of resource, the common environment. The imply that growth is nothing but exploita- industrial capitalism would be inviable if o nourish itself on real growth instead of the earth; they say it will never voluntari- nder its power and prerogative to pollute fit. Despite the untimely survival of the tion tax allowance, these ancient charges answered by progress such as the income regulated stock exchange, powerful labor and antitrust laws. Environmental law, and re within our reach too.

ry of our fears are fed by the unjustified m" of the power industry and mass- s of low-technology products who see an multiplication of present patterns of con- 1. In fact, the cost of power has begun to the first time in decades. This, together re sophisticated lines of products promises er our total energy needs -- a computer s far less power than a steam shovel; and onic or microfilmed newspaper could help the forests.

Senator Gordon Allott (Rep-Colo.) has out, we will not pass through the industrial n twice. The post-industrial, "technology onomy will have to give greater concern to n than its natural resources.

technology can also find an ex- (and profitable) challenge in the is and remedy of pollution itself. each and tame that high technology re- s heavy, continued investment of capital tion as well as in hardware. Wasteful mis- ns in other spheres are then all the more or example, we must indeed defend our- out every dollar spent in a futile war or in strategic systems is a mortgage on the of our life and even our military security w.

The Rockefeller Commission could do an important service by re-analyzing the growth or decline of our real national product, taking account of the depreciation of our environment and the cost of restoring it. We could then calculate the rate of population growth our economy can support, on the same terms as we press such calculations on others.

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This communication relates to a column "Science & Man" distributed weekly by the Washington Post.

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