

# Finds inconsistencies in January letter

In response to a letter by Mr. Markham H. Lyons in the January 13 issue. I wish to mention a few inconsistencies and points of disagreement. I can agree with Mr. Lyons that we all share the responsibility for the protection of our environment, and that Congress has been lax in its handling of potential pollution problems. However, the following points express my disagreements:

1. Mr. Lyons criticized a "partisan attack" by Democrats, yet he makes the statement, "Public protection is Republican philosophy." If that isn't a partisan statement, then what is? It is true that there are Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the fence. Republican Senators Edward Brooke (Massachusetts) and Robert Packwood (Oregon) have good environmental records. But the same can be said of Democrats Gerry Studds and Edward Kennedy.

2. President Ford's environmental record was atrocious. He was in favor of strip mining, nuclear power, predator poisoning, clearcutting, weakening the Clean Air Act and offshore oil drilling. He opposed solar energy, the ban on non-returnables and energy conservation. The list is much longer than space will permit.

I do not agree that it is inevitable that we must accept future spills due to oil drilling. Andrea Leonard and I have been proposing a viable massive solar energy program for several years now. Solar power is the cheapest, cleanest, safest, and most abundant alternative energy source available today. We must conserve our oil reserves, forget nuclear power and start tapping that enormous amount of energy from the sun directly. I'm hoping, along with many others, that Jimmy Carter will be the great leader for rational change that we have sorely lacked in the last decade. Only time will tell.

In conclusion, I agree with Mr. Lyons that some of the criticism of the Coast Guard was premature and incorrect, that anti-pollution legislation is a necessity, and that Congress must act positively and quickly. However, Mr. Lyons should avoid partisan attacks himself and strongly consider new and more equitable solutions to our energy problem.