

Industrialist Urges Effort To Combat Pollution

HOUSTON — The nation must embark on a new era of cooperation among governmental agencies, industry, and research institutions, if it is to solve its mounting environmental pollution problems, a leading industrialist said.

Samuel Lenher, a vice president and director of the Du Pont Company, warned that "our physical environment is being contaminated faster than nature and man's present efforts can cleanse it."

"We must reverse this process before it is too late. We must cease degrading our environment and start to improve it," he declared in a keynote speech at the National Pollution Control Exposition and Conference here. The three-day meeting opened today.

LENHER, WHO SERVED ON a federal task force that recently

issued a blueprint to reduce environmental pollution, said that a consortium of public interest is needed to achieve national goals for clean air and water.

"We can no longer afford an uncoordinated approach. We must have a total approach. At long last we are beginning to find meaningful strides in this direction," he said.

He said he was encouraged by recent trends, which indicate that industry, government and science will pool their resources in "a massive and concerted effort" to develop programs that are technically sound and economically feasible.

"The cost figures for pollution abatement are somewhat staggering," he said. He pointed out that it will cost \$29 billion over the next five years to clean the nation's waterways of industrial and municipal wastes and that the air pollution cleanup will also cost enormous sums.

cooperative arrangements can we solve this problem while we minimize the cost, whether the cost be reflected in higher taxes, more expensive products, lower earnings or a combination of all three," he said.

LENHER, WHO coordinates pollution abatement programs for the world's largest chemical firm, said that Du Pont has invested more than \$118 million in pollution control facilities and expects to more than double this investment over the next five years.

He added that the company is spending more than \$7 million annually on anti-pollution research projects employing 180 scientists, engineers and technicians. He cited a number of new devices and techniques that

IRS Warns Excise Taxes Still Exist

The IRS said Monday if the Tax Adjustment Act of 1968 is enacted in its present form, reductions in excise taxes on autos and telephone service schedules for April 1, 1969, will not take place even though the bill is not approved until after that date.

Under these circumstances, auto manufacturers and phone companies will continue to be liable for excise taxes at existing levels after April 1.

UNDER PRESENT law, the excise tax on manufacturer's sales of autos is scheduled to be reduced from 7 per cent to 2 per cent on cars sold on or after April 1. Similarly, the excise tax on amounts paid for telephone service would be reduced from 10 per cent to 1 per cent effective April 1, 1969.

The Tax Adjustment Act of 1968, as passed by the House and reported to the Senate by its Finance Committee, provides for continuation of these excise taxes at their present rates until January 1, 1970. However, the pending bill re-

MCC Pushes For State Housing Law

LANSING — The community affairs department of the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) today urged the state legislature to pass a Fair Housing Bill it is now considering.

At the same time, the MCC Committee asked the legislature to give top priority to a package of landlord and tenant rights and code enforcement bills and a bill that would establish a State Community Affairs Department.

The Committee's statement also urged that the appropriation for the State Housing Authority be increased so it could stimulate the construction of low-cost housing units "so vitally needed in Michigan."

"THERE EXISTS a great tension and anxiety on the part of many people living in our state's major cities," the Community Affairs Department said in its statement. "This same tension exists in our Michigan Legislature."

"On the one hand, there is considerable commitment and dedication to consider legislation that deals with the causes of civil disorders. On the other hand, there is a great concern in the passage of crime and riot legislation."

"We must constantly remind ourselves that civil disorders are caused by injustice and that acts of repression that bring greater punishment of a man who has been treated unjustly will bring about greater civil disorder."

The MCC Committee said passage of a meaningful Fair Housing Bill is "vitally needed to give hope that legal injustice can be overcome" while the landlord and tenant rights bills are needed to clarify the relationship between landlords and tenants.

ESTABLISHMENT of a State Community Affairs Department, the statement said, is needed to allow state government to utilize its resources in a coordinated way to assist Michigan's urban communities.

"Passage of these bills," the statement concluded, "will have a significant impact in making life better for those who have not shared in America's abundance."

"The Legislature is the voice of the people. Let this voice be loud and clear on behalf of those citizens in Michigan who have yet to attain their dignity or their rights as citizens of Michigan."

are resulting from this research, some of which are being widely used by industry and municipalities.

Observing that the nation's attitude about pollution has changed from apathy to anxiety, Lenher noted that "awareness is a necessary prelude to action. Certainly we are now very much aware of what ails us, even though we lack magic solutions."

He stated that pollution is a by-product of industrial civilization and that, "unlike the old maledrama, there is no single villain who can be dispatched with a single shot."

"Our task is to ensure that every American can thrive in an attractive and healthy environment," he said. "If we are going to get with this job,

we must devote our energies to finding answers, not scapegoats. Because of the urgency of the hour and the scope of the task at hand, it is easy to lose sight of this elemental fact."

HE NOTED THAT THE Task Force on Environmental Health and Related Problems, created by former Secretary John W. Gardner of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, had last June recommended 10 action goals as the foundation for the needed effort in fighting pollution.

Lenher, who served as industry representative on this six-man group, said that despite the costs and manpower-depleting demands of the war in Vietnam, progress was being

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