

Indeed because of herbicide attacks not only on forest areas, but on food crops, together with the massive assaults by more conventional weapons, the war in Vietnam represents, in my opinion, the first ecological warfare conducted by the U.S. since the attacks on American Indians. The technological failure of biological warfare as a suitable means of defense (for there is no way to test artificial infectious agents, much less use them, without incurring serious risks to ourselves) was recently acknowledged when the government ordered the abandonment of its entire biological warfare program.

If there is little reason to regard the environmental movement as a diversion from the anti-war movement, its relation to the racial issue is less clear. Some approaches to the environmental problem seem to run counter to the interests of the blacks. This was dramatized recently at San Jose State College, where a student environmental program was climaxed by the burial of a brand new car, as a symbol of environmental rebellion. The event was picketed by black students who believed that the \$2500 paid for the car could have been better spent in the ghetto.

The San Jose burial reflects a kind of personalized approach to the environmental crisis which is now fairly common among some student groups. They reason that pollution is caused by the excessive consumption of goods and resources by the U.S. population; a favorite statistic is that the U.S. contains about 6% of the world population, but consumes half of the planet's total goods and resources. Since the wastes generated by this intense consumption pollute our environment, the eco-activist is advised to "consume less" (to quote a recent publication, "Eco-tactics",) In the absence of the added statistic