Pessimism: real waste

For many years now the population of the United States has been on a move to help purify the environment and to facilitate a living condition favorable to all forms of life.

Ecological groups have been formed to help alleviate much of the present pollution and have done much to push legislation in this direction.

There has been a move of this type on the USC campus and in recent months there has been much done to recycle materials to help alleviate this pollution problem in the Columbia area. Another move of this group was to protest the sale of seat fur in the area of Greenville, S.C. In the eyes of many this was to be a very important protest and with the proper coverage of the press perhaps support would be gained.

This very noble attempt fell short of all hoped success because of a lack of participation. The coverage was thus, minimal, and the results perhaps those feelings of the many pessimists who refuse to support this movement because they feel that in our society there is no way to control the monster of consumption.

Unfortunately, these pessimists fail to see what is really the end results of such apathy. Monsters have been created, but they have also been destroyed by those who make them. Those that started the trends of this society toward the ever present urge to consume on a major scale are now gone. The power of those in this society now living, or perhaps slowly dying, is greater than most perceive it to be. But these people will continue to sit back and say the whole idea of ecology is wasted while in actuality they are the ones that is the real waste.

Nothing could be more wasted than someone saying that there was nothing to be done because no one else was doing anything. Why isn’t anyone doing it? The answer is self evident and if anyone really needs to be answered why don’t they look at themselves deep down and not just the pretty exterior. If every one would get off their fat ones and do something for this cause it could at least be said this era tried to save something worth saving.

Guest column

Castrating the two sexes

By SMITH HEMMSTONE

Columbist

Well, Rep. Richard Harding Poff isn’t exactly a tigress, but he appears to be at least at this time, and that’s too bad.

The 10-term Republican congressman from the hill country of Southwestern Virginia last year by name he dropped from consideration to avoid “a long and divisive confirmation battle” in the Senate on a fourth term. The seemingly strange action became Poff, who had the support of such top Democrats and staunch civil rights advocates, had been greeted by the appeals of New York and former Gov. Pat Brown of California, was opposed by liberal leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, organized labor and the barb of the feminist movement.

On the basis of narrow partisan considerations, one can hardly fault Poff’s opponents for seeking to bar him from the high court. The Radford attorney, who will be 48 later this month, has been the object of consistent record of opposition to the legislative aims, of both the civil rights movement and the organized labor; he got the ladies’ dander up by voting to weaken the adoption of women’s rights amendment to the Constitution.

All of which is to say that Dick Poff is exactly the way the folks back home wanted him to, that he served as their “representative” in fact as well as in name. Which is precisely why they elected him to Congress as a dowdy-looking, rough excited four years out of law school and have beenreturning him ever since. And that is another way of saying that no representative of Virginia’s Sixth District is fit to sit on the Supreme Court.

With all deference to the NAACP’s Clarence Mitchell, to George Meany and to the National Organization of Women, this ob- server must demur. Freed of the constraints imposed by representing his Virginia constituents, Poff might have voted—how his legal stature might have grown—had he been elected to the bench of the Supreme Court. The late Hugo L. Black, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, was a U.S. senator from Alabama, who became the court’s great libertarian, was proof of that.

That the Poff case does illustrate, aside from the almost sectarian bigotry of the lobbies and the opposition of groups, the futility of vouching from the House of Representatives to the Supreme Court.

In all the long history of the United States, only two men have successfully traveled that route, James M. Wayne of Georgia in 1830 and John McKinley of Alabama seven years later. The Senate has proved a better launching pad, with seven of the nine justices of the present court reaching the high court of the land. While Poff, despite his long and not undistinguished service on the House Judiciary Committee and the strong support of its chairman, must have known that the odds on his making it to the Supreme Court from the lower house were, at least in historical terms, not good, particularly since he lacks experience on the bench. And he has practiced law for only a few years.

But it seems unlikely that a man who has been an active candidate for nomination to the Supreme Court at least since 1965 would suddenly and totally reassess his ambitions. And it may well be that Poff has wisely decided to avoid a scoring Senate battle until he can enter the fray from a stronger bastion than Virginia’s Sixth District.

Associate Justice William O. Douglas will be 73 next week and has a heart-pace implanted in his body, Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall is 79 and has been in poor health recently. Thus, assuming he wins a second term, it is more than likely that President Nixon will have at least one more Supreme Court seat at his disposal within the next five years, in addition to the two now vacant.

There are at least a pair of opportunities for Poff. The same would hold if he were to run against Mr. Nixon to the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Two or three years on this circuit would allow him to provide Poff with the judicial experience which he lacks and free him from the political imperatives of representing a Virginia constituency.

Precisely, Virginia Republicans have been looking for a strong candidate to take on a free man in the Democratic column for William B. Spong, Jr., who is up for re-election next year. In a race against Spong, Poff could count on the strong support of Gov. Linwood Holton, a Republican, and at least the benevolent neutrality of Governor McCarty. The son of the late Virginia kingmaker, who bolted the Democratic party recently, has his father’s seat as an independent. Appointment from the Senate, as the record indicates, would be far easier than from the House.

Whatever Poff’s future plans might be, his action in asking that his name be removed from the list of those now under consideration does not mean that one of Mr. Nixon’s forthcoming appointments will not be a Southerner.

The two most prominent contenders now for that “Southern seat” are Federal District Judge Frank M. Johnson, 52, of Alabama, and University of Texas law professor Charles Alan Wright, 44. Both are strict constructionists, Republicans and Nixon loyalists. By SMITH HEMMSTONE

THE GAMEOCK

October 6, 1971

LUCIETTA JONES
MANAGING ED
JIM FARRELL
EDITOR
DAVE LUNDGREN
AD. MGR.

Page 2 — THE GAMEOCK — October 6, 1971

Castrating the two sexes

By SMITH HEMMSTONE

Columbist

Well, Rep. Richard Harding Poff isn’t exactly a tigress, but he appears to be at least at this time, and that’s too bad.

The 10-term Republican congressman from the hill country of Southwestern Virginia last year by name he dropped from consideration to avoid “a long and divisive confirmation battle” in the Senate on a fourth term. The seemingly strange action became Poff, who had the support of such top Democrats and staunch civil rights advocates, had been greeted by the appeals of New York and former Gov. Pat Brown of California, was opposed by liberal leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, organized labor and the barb of the feminist movement.

On the basis of narrow partisan considerations, one can hardly fault Poff’s opponents for seeking to bar him from the high court. The Radford attorney, who will be 48 later this month, has been the object of consistent record of opposition to the legislative aims, of both the civil rights movement and the organized labor; he got the ladies’ dander up by voting to weaken the adoption of women’s rights amendment to the Constitution.

All of which is to say that Dick Poff is exactly the way the folks back home wanted him to, that he served as their “representative” in fact as well as in name. Which is precisely why they elected him to Congress as a dowdy-looking, rough excited four years out of law school and have beenreturning him ever since. And that is another way of saying that no representative of Virginia’s Sixth District is fit to sit on the Supreme Court.

With all deference to the NAACP’s Clarence Mitchell, to George Meany and to the National Organization of Women, this ob- server must demur. Freed of the constraints imposed by representing his Virginia constituents, Poff might have voted—how his legal stature might have grown—had he been elected to the bench of the Supreme Court. The late Hugo L. Black, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, was a U.S. senator from Alabama, who became the court’s great libertarian, was proof of that.

That the Poff case does illustrate, aside from the almost sectarian bigotry of the lobbies and the opposition of groups, the futility of vouching from the House of Representatives to the Supreme Court.

In all the long history of the United States, only two men have successfully traveled that route, James M. Wayne of Georgia in 1830 and John McKinley of Alabama seven years later. The Senate has proved a better launching pad, with seven of the nine justices of the present court reaching the high court of the land. While Poff, despite his long and not undistinguished service on the House Judiciary Committee and the strong support of its chairman, must have known that the odds on his making it to the Supreme Court from the lower house were, at least in historical terms, not good, particularly since he lacks experience on the bench. And he has practiced law for only a few years.

But it seems unlikely that a man who has been an active candidate for nomination to the Supreme Court at least since 1965 would suddenly and totally reassess his ambitions. And it may well be that Poff has wisely decided to avoid a scoring Senate battle until he can enter the fray from a stronger bastion than Virginia’s Sixth District.

Associate Justice William O. Douglas will be 73 next week and has a heart-pace implanted in his body, Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall is 79 and has been in poor health recently. Thus, assuming he wins a second term, it is more than likely that President Nixon will have at least one more Supreme Court seat at his disposal within the next five years, in addition to the two now vacant.

There are at least a pair of opportunities for Poff. The same would hold if he were to run against Mr. Nixon to the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Two or three years on this circuit would allow him to provide Poff with the judicial experience which he lacks and free him from the political imperatives of representing a Virginia constituency.

Precisely, Virginia Republicans have been looking for a strong candidate to take on a free man in the Democratic column for William B. Spong, Jr., who is up for re-election next year. In a race against Spong, Poff could count on the strong support of Gov. Linwood Holton, a Republican, and at least the benevolent neutrality of Governor McCarty. The son of the late Virginia kingmaker, who bolted the Democratic party recently, has his father’s seat as an independent. Appointment from the Senate, as the record indicates, would be far easier than from the House.

Whatever Poff’s future plans might be, his action in asking that his name be removed from the list of those now under consideration does not mean that one of Mr. Nixon’s forthcoming appointments will not be a Southerner.

The two most prominent contenders now for that “Southern seat” are Federal District Judge Frank M. Johnson, 52, of Alabama, and University of Texas law professor Charles Alan Wright, 44. Both are strict constructionists, Republicans and Nixon loyalists. By SMITH HEMMSTONE