

Everyone's Backyard

CITIZEN'S CLEARINGHOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTES, INC.

Vol. 1, No. 4 — Fall 1983

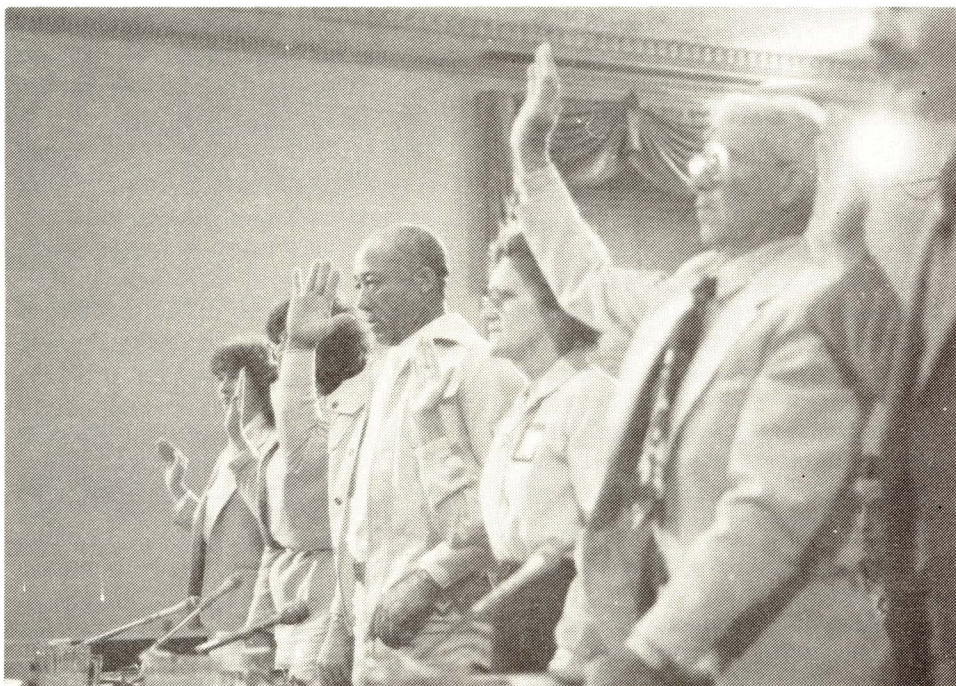
CCHW Helps Victims Tell It to Congress

The Clearinghouse has helped several Congressional investigative committees bring toxic waste victims to Washington, D.C. to testify about the horrors they live with daily. These victims have had the opportunity to open the eyes of the lawmakers, to make them understand the extent of human suffering attributable to inadequate laws, weak regulations, and, most importantly, poor enforcement. Through the testimony of these citizens, the committee members have a better picture of what needs to be done. The most recent set of hearings addressed groundwater pollution. The following people testified.

HERBERT RIGMAIDEN, Sulphur, LA. Herbert explained how he and his neighbors are victims of a leaking landfill, and how his community has suffered from disease, cancer, and other effects of the leaking poisons. As he noted, his drinking water has been contaminated, benzene has turned up in the blood of neighborhood children, and farm animals have died or given birth to deformed babies. The landfill is still open, still operating, still leaking. Herbert asked the representatives how they can allow this landfill to legally operate when lives, homes, and the environment is threatened. He closed his statement by asking the committee to think about where their steak comes from the next time they put one on the grill.

YVONNE WOODMAN and **GAIL SPEICHER**, Jacksonville, FL. These two women testified that their homes are located near a military dump where barrels have been found and

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Herbert Rigmaiden of Lake Charles, LA and Yvonne Woodman and Gail Speicher of Jacksonville, FL testify before Congress on the devastating effects of toxic chemicals in their communities.

Major Corporations, Can You Beat Them? Yes!

When leaders from local toxic waste groups get together, they often find they have more in common than an issue. More and more, they discover they are fighting the same large corporation. Waste disposal is big business, and CCHW has seen the same company names crop up time after time. We posed this question to several local leaders whose groups have been successful in holding large waste disposal companies accountable: "What do local organizations have to do to fight a large corporation?" Here's what they said:

1. Peggy Franklin, Sulphur, Louisiana, is working with her community to close and stop the expansion of a leaking hazardous waste dump owned by Browning Ferris Industries (BFI).

"The reason I got involved was I and two other housewives started a petition and people were grabbing them out of our hands. Out of 5,000 signature, only five were negative. So we knew we had over 90 percent support to close BFI's dumpsite immediately."

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"After the petitions were signed, we then notified local politicians about how people felt. Since it was an election year, the politicians had to pay attention. They had to go with the will of the people.

"We're just three housewives — we're nobody, but we can do it. When I get to thinking about what we're doing, I ask, 'What if?' What if my three children get sick and start to die? The overriding factor is — it's either my children's future or BFI's success. I'm not a bit scared of BFI; maybe I should be, but I'm not. I have three children, and maybe the effects of BFI will show up ten years from now.

"No, I'm not scared of BFI. I want them to be scared of me."

2. Baron Hill, Seymour, Indiana, has organized a community devastated by a barrel recycling plant.

"You have to stay on top of the situation, even when nothing seems to be happening — you get your dubbers (spirits) down when nothing happens. But you need to keep on meeting. And always keep minutes, to be sure that you have a record.

"It's important to keep knocking on doors. You'll get rejected, but it's the numbers game. If you keep knocking on those doors, you'll get enough people to help."

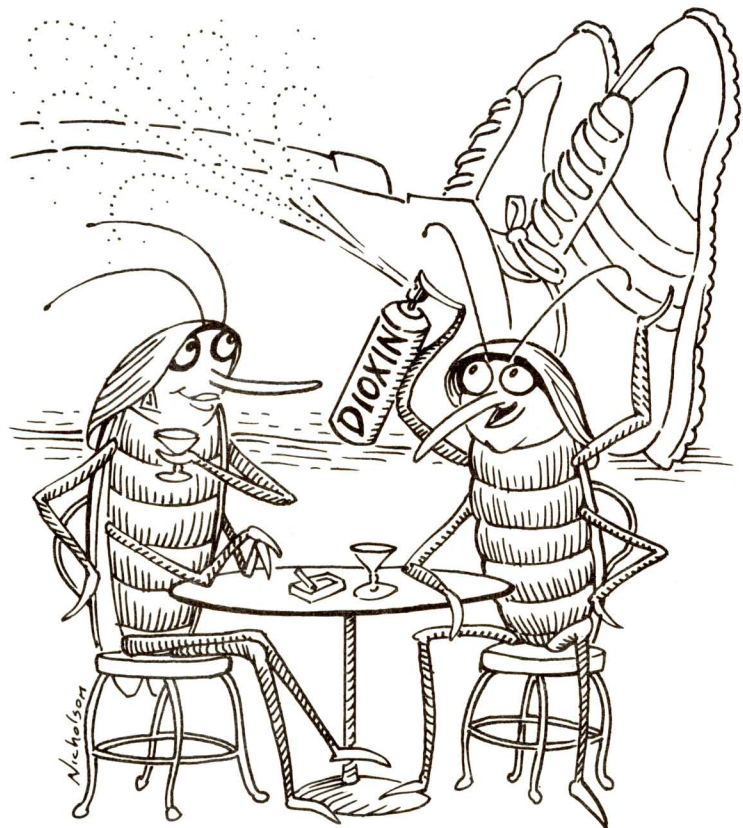
3. John Dyess, Lexington, Tennessee, also fought a BFI landfill.

"There's two things we did that had an impact. We used massive letter-writing campaigns — I mean, several thousands a day — flooded those politicians. We helped people to write them and held classes on how to do them. The politicians understand the meaning of numbers. They saw our letters as the tip of the iceberg, figuring there were lots more people who were upset.

"The other thing was that we used the media as much as we could. We disclosed information we wanted the media to have. Like veiled threats to take action against the potential customers of the landfill, such as economic boycotts."

4. Bonnie Morgan, Anson County, North Carolina, worked with her community to beat a proposed Chemical Waste Management facility.

"While you don't need a highly structured thing, you do need to



THIS DIOXIN'S GREAT!
IT DROPS THOSE PESKY HUMANS LIKE FLIES.

have things going on and have people doing things. And make sure you show that you appreciate what people are doing. You have to feel needed if you're going to do a good job.

"To keep interest up, even if the fight's over, you have to keep people aware that they might be waiting in the bushes to pounce on you. If it's not this company, it might be someone else. Expect the unexpected. You always have to be prepared. If you don't anticipate what might happen, the worst will happen. And when that happens, you'll really be set back."

5. Sylvia Thomas of Glen Burnie, Maryland, is working to clean up the contamination in her community at Hawkins Point.

"Banding together is the most important thing. Get out a drive. Confront officials at the industry, and see what they can do to clean up their act.

"Industry runs the country. Unless citizens band together, there's no fight. Together we stand; divided we fall. We've got strength

in numbers. A single voice is not strong enough."

6. Miriam Johnson, Hector, Minnesota, helped her community win a major fight against a proposed landfill.

"Educate those around us — many don't understand the fight. Stay involved. Help with fundraisers (most effective: dances, meals, garage sales). Get the whole community involved."

7. Joan Scalgo lives in Enfield, Connecticut, where citizens and local officials fought and beat a proposed BFI landfill.

"Getting media and public support is the most important thing. Show the media and the opposition that you have big support.

"Keep a calm and rational attitude. Know what you're talking about; research the community and the corporation.

"Our battle was only for nine months. The first four were good when the fighting was new. After that, it was harder. We would stage an event — motorcades, marches, slide shows especially. We'd go into

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Empowerment of the People

Have you ever sat through a government sponsored meeting held in your community for the sole purpose of “addressing the community’s concerns” or “updating the neighborhood”?

Meetings such as these usually present, for the first hour or *two*, scientists, agency representatives, and elected officials — talking, talking, and talking. The media comes in; then leaves before the first hour is up, when these “authorities” are explaining how responsive they are and how aggressively they are conducting tests to determine the extent of the contamination. However, they go on to say, even though many tests have already been made and, upon analysis, found to contain chemical poisons, they are not sure whether what they have found is accurate, so they must do additional tests and more tests and more tests. They will often admit that some of the chemicals they have identified in the air, water, and soil *are* somewhat dangerous and *can* cause cancers and other diseases, but you, as community residents, should not worry. The “authorities” then conclude that no one knows exactly what to do about the situation, how best to clean



up the mess, or what health effects can be expected in those persons who are exposed to the toxic waste.

After two hours of this, the residents usually have received *no* new information, no answers to their questions — only verbal *assurances* that everyone is doing everything possible to resolve the problem. When it is finally time for people to stand up and ask questions or express their concerns, they are quickly dismissed by the “authorities” as “emotional,” overreacting, blowing the situation out of proportion, or else are patronized and intimidated.

Some of the residents of Missouri recently had this experience and decided they had had enough of government sponsored and controlled meetings. After sitting for *five hours* listening to the authorities, they decided to do something at the next meeting to change the agenda — but they didn’t know exactly what to do. Luckily, a Clearinghouse staff member was in Missouri conducting a site visit on the same day several state and federal officials were to hold a scheduled meeting there — another “addressing the citizens’ concerns” talkfest. The CCHW staffer worked with residents to help them think through ways and means of changing the meeting to get some control and some answers to their questions. With CCHW help, the residents listed what they wanted, brainstormed about how they could change the situation to meet their needs, and debated on strategies to accomplish their goals.

That afternoon, the community

leaders followed through with their strategies. They insisted on being placed *first* on the agenda, explaining with incontrovertible logic that the “authorities” could address their concerns only if they knew from the beginning, from the residents, what those concerns were. With this reasonable — indeed, incontestable approach, the citizens had an opportunity to present *their* case rather than accept a defensive role in an official-dominated meeting.

The Missouri residents saw great results from this simple change. First, they were spared having to listen — again — to the typical government and “scientific” rhetoric, and they took their own good time to voice their questions and give the officials needed information. Second, the elected representatives realized that these residents were “a force to be reckoned with” and made a strong commitment to the community. In addition, the media carried the story, complete with quotations from citizens. Finally — and most importantly — the residents felt *terrific* after the meeting. Before this, they had never thought they could change a government sponsored meeting; now they had empowered themselves and would never again sit through another frustrating and downgrading meeting again.

We can all learn from this success. Remember this strategy the next time your community is faced with one of these meetings. You *can* turn it around and make *their* show *your* statement. □

from page 2

the home of a supporter, full of neighborhood residents. We’d show slides and then make a pitch for donations and volunteers. We got a lot of both that way.

“The local officials were against the proposal, but they wouldn’t have fought it so bitterly without so much pressure from us.

“Keep a positive attitude. If you believe you’re going to win, you will. You’ve got to be determined enough, got to know you’re willing to fight it to the end. There are periods you’re sure you’re going to lose, but if you make it through the night, it’ll look better in the morning.”

These groups won their battles, yet the war goes on. Do you have any advice on what groups might do to succeed? Please write CCHW so we can share your advice with others. □

Organizing Toolbox IV: Grassroots Fundraising

by WILL COLLETTE

Grassroots fundraising raises money for your work from your own community. You don't have to write proposals or worry about government rules and "strings attached." Everybody does it. You do it every time you pass the hat to meet a pressing need. Well-planned grassroots fundraising can provide steady income for your group. Your plan should include: Who are we? Why do we need the money? Plus the following questions:

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

Members have money and good reasons for joining. Are dues high enough? Dues should be affordable, but high dues represent a serious commitment. Who else can give? People might share your concern but are "too busy to get involved." Businesses and other institutions (churches, farm and civic groups, county government agencies, etc.) might share your concerns. You're not going to know they support you unless you ask them and provide concrete ways to give and good reasons to give.

WHY DO PEOPLE GIVE?

"Self-interest." For many, self interest is clear — they have a stake in your fight. Others feel good when they give to a worthy cause. Businesses can get tax deductions, please a good customer, or improve their image. "Self interests" vary, so tailor your appeal. You always do better face-to-face.

SOME FUNDRAISING METHODS.

- Membership Dues. Set realistic but serious levels, with several categories, so people can give based on their means.
- Direct Appeals — at the door, through the mails, or even over the phone. Tie these appeals to your issue.
- Sell Goods, Services. Auctions, bake sales, car washes, flea markets, buttons, T-shirts, posters, etc.
- Special Events. Includes *entertainment* (dances, outings, fairs, concerts), *eating, gambling* (raffles, bingo, etc.), *sports* (bowling, softball, marathons), and *socializing* (testimonials, rallies, coffee hours, conferences).

- Ad Books. Sell ads in a program book for a special event (annual meeting, rally, testimonial, etc.)
- Non-Cash Gifts. Things your group can either use or sell or raffle off. Businesses and individuals can deduct their "fair market value." This is attractive to businesses who give old, depreciated gifts, as furniture or equipment. The end of the year is the best time to ask.

Look at what other community groups do. Check out the churches; they're the best example of groups supported entirely by grassroots fundraising.



MN-POWER raised \$3,000 at their summer get-together and had a good time too. Here, residents pay to throw softballs at State Rep. K.J. McDonald, aiming to drop him in a dunking tank.

WE'RE NOT INCORPORATED OR TAX EXEMPT. IS THAT A PROBLEM?

Yes. Solve it by either taking on the paperwork (and headaches) of incorporating or using a tax-exempt ally (church or civic group) as a "sponsor." Channel gifts through the sponsor to your group. *Pluses* of this route: you avoid the headaches and responsibilities of incorporating and can "borrow credibility." *Minuses* are that some people may not like your sponsor or, worse, you and your sponsor may have a dispute.

TEN SIGNS OF A PERFECT FUNDRAISER:

1. Little or no up-front cash investment.
2. High rate of return.
3. Little or no risk.
4. Fun. Makes people feel good.

5. Easy to do.
6. Gets lots of people involved in a positive way (builds new leaders, gets and keeps members involved).
7. Donors feel good so you can ask them again.
8. Your group wants to do the activity anyway.
9. Fits into an overall plan.
10. Improves your group's image and fits into your mission.

Avoid professional gimmicks like candy bars, pens, calendars, and cookbooks. Girl Scouts sell a lot of cookies, but they have up-front cash and an established market. Also, the cookie company gets most of the money.

Fundraising is people talking to people, just like organizing. What makes you give or refuse?

Rehearse. Here are four sure-fire phrases for your "pitch":

1. "I am (your name)."
2. "We are (your group and what it does in 25 words or less)."
3. "This is (what we're doing now — a petition, a meeting, a campaign, a health survey, etc.)."
4. We want (you to sign a petition, come to a meeting — whatever. AND show your support by becoming a member or making a donation)."

Go get 'em! If you need help in making a fundraising plan, call CCHW. We can help. ☐

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Here's a grassroots fundraising project going on right now that your group can do: the "First National Let Them Eat Cake Sale."

Sponsored by dozens of local and national groups (CCHW included), "Let Them Eat Cake" is a way to get your message out to the public. Hazardous waste groups can use the designer cake boxes to call attention to the current Administration's neglect of environmental law enforcement and public health. You'll also raise money, have fun, reach new people, and be a part of a coordinated national effort. These are all *key* qualities of a great fundraising campaign.

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LEGAL CORNER

By Lewis M. Milford and Ronald Simon

QUESTION: We've been fighting for months now to keep a big multi-national corporation from putting one of those new high-tech waste disposal plants in our community. Just recently, however, the corporation's public relations people told our local newspaper that they're "tired of irresponsible people (meaning us) telling lies about them" and threatened to sue for libel and slander. I want to know: Are they serious? What can they do to us? What's likely to happen? What can we do about it?

Some of our members are getting nervous and I'm worried that even if we don't get sued, this scare will make our group more timid. What should we tell our members to keep this from happening?

Signed,
Threatened in Ohio

ANSWER: Citizens whose organizing is successful are often told that they will be sued for libel and slander if they do not be quiet. As you've probably figured out, you need to make a lot of noise to be successful in bringing your issue to the attention of the public and public officials. It is in the

interest of the companies to keep things quiet.

Although the threat to bring a libel action is common, it is not done very frequently. Litigation is expensive and time consuming and libel and slander litigation is difficult to win. The threat to bring the litigation, as well as the lawsuits themselves, have the effect of harassment and intimidation. The companies are not looking for monetary awards from the citizen group; they are simply looking for a way to get the citizen group to shut up.

Libel and slander cases involve factual issues — did the person say something he or she knew to be false with the intent to hurt someone else? From the citizen's point of view, they should not say things that they know or believe to be false. Citizens should not stop talking, they merely should say what they think is true based on the facts that are available to them. Since the overwhelming majority of people are doing this already, my advice may seem rather obvious. However, the obviousness of the advice makes it clear that the use and threat to use libel and slander cases is primarily an intimidation tactic.

Of course, if you do get sued, you will have to defend the suit. When and if you get a lawyer to represent you in other aspects of your problem (such as to close or clean up a dump or get compensation for victims) you may also want to make an agreement with the lawyer to defend any lawsuits that are filed against the group or individuals. Some lawyers may suggest that they review and veto all statements by the group before they are made. However, this is an important *political* decision and the lawyer *cannot* and *should not* make all of these decisions solely on a legal basis or alone.

Finally, some people have suggested incorporating their group to prevent the individuals from being sued. This is not an effective remedy since individuals can be sued even if there is a corporation. □

Lewis Milford and Ron Simon represent citizens exposed to toxic chemicals and are lawyers on the faculty of The American University Law School in Washington, D.C.

We invite your questions about legal issues that concern you. Please submit them to Legal Corner, CCHW.

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We've included a drawing of the "Let Them Eat Cake" box designed for environmental groups. They cost less than 50¢ (closer to a quarter) and will help you get anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a cake.

For more information about the first national "Let Them Eat Cake" sale, designed to raise consciousness about the effects of Reaganomics, contact "LTEC," 918 F St., NW, Washington, DC 20004; phone — 202/347-6060. □

Good Guides to Grassroots Fundraising:

The Grassroots Fundraising Book, by Joan Flanagan. Order from the Youth Project, 1555 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009. \$7.25 + \$1.25 postage.

The Grassroots Fundraising Journal. Bimonthly. \$15/year. Box 14754, San Francisco, CA 94114.

The Rich Get Richer, The Poor Write Proposals, by Nancy Mitiguy, Citizens Involvement Training Project, University of Mass., Amherst, MA 01003.

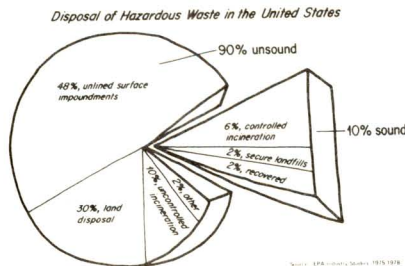


**PLEASE REMEMBER CCHW
THIS CHRISTMAS.**

If you're looking for an alternative to conventional gift-giving, for yourself or for others, how about a tax-deductible gift to CCHW?

All the new regulations in the world will not make landfilling an environmentally sound disposal practice, for a very simple reason: it is (scientifically and technically) impossible to contain waste in the ground forever. EPA's own research into the effectiveness of landfilling uncovered the fact that "even with the best available land disposal technology, it (migration of wastes) will occur eventually."² In spite of this, the Reagan administration has ordered the agency to "ignore" both the scientific evidence and the poor performance record of state-of-the-art "secure" landfills and to support, instead, industries' efforts to continue existing disposal practices. As a result, little is being done in Washington to face up to the realities of landfilling and to seek and understand the alternatives that *DO* exist and that can be implemented *NOW*.

How Are Wastes Disposed?



NOTE: Recent scientific evidence indicates that there is no such thing as a "secure" landfill.

Is Landfilling Necessary?

According to the EPA, 90% of the hazardous wastes generated today can be disposed of safely without landfilling. There are many alternatives to land disposal of toxic wastes THAT ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, feasible, affordable, and safe. These alternatives include waste reduction at the source, recycling, use of state or regional waste exchange systems, neutralization, stabilization and incineration.

WASTE REDUCTION: The ideal solution is to reduce waste at the source by changing the industrial processes so that hazardous by-products are not produced. Equipment could be designed to provide for chemical reuse rather than once-through processing. Where processes cannot be changed, safer ones should be substituted which do not generate extremely hazardous wastes.

WASTE RECYCLING: Recycling (re-using waste materials) and resource recovery (extracting valuable materials from a waste stream) can reduce dependence on landfill disposal.

WASTE EXCHANGE: One man's garbage is another man's fodder. This proverb is the essence of the waste exchange concept. A waste exchange referral system makes it possible for one industry to buy from another a waste stream that the generator can no longer use (and would otherwise dispose of). Industry would be able to obtain chemical raw materials at a cheaper price. Waste exchanges can be established regionally, statewide, even nationally. Several regional systems are currently in operation.

PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT: Many treatment processes have been developed that render waste material completely innocuous, reduce toxicity, or substantially reduce the volume of material requiring disposal.

INCINERATION: Many organic materials that cannot be effectively recycled or treated can be incinerated. With proper safeguards, high temperature incineration can destroy 99.99% of the wastes. (However, storage and transportation could create other problems.)

SOLIDIFICATION/STABILIZATION OF RESIDUALS BEFORE LANDFILLING: The use of encapsulation techniques can "solidify" wastes and make them less "permeable," thus containing the wastes and providing additional protection for groundwater resources.

Though these alternatives are presently available, they are generally not being used by industry, largely due to costs; landfilling is less expensive. This is especially true of small industries which cannot afford to change their processes or build new facilities. Therefore, there is a need to give industry economic incentives and small

industries additional assistance to encourage the use of these alternatives.

It would be unrealistic to expect to establish a program to eliminate landfilling immediately and across the board. However, with proper planning, a comprehensive national waste management strategy, combining economic incentives with available technology, it could be "phased in" over a short period of time. A recent report prepared by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), "Technologies and Management Strategies for Hazardous Waste Control," carefully documents the availability of existing technology and management options for reducing dependence on land disposal methods and is an excellent resource for anyone interested in alternatives.³ The State of California has already developed such a strategy; it has begun implementing a statewide policy to phase out the land disposal of hazardous wastes and to encourage industry to adopt alternative waste disposal methods.⁴

Armed with this information, it is not only O.K. but also imperative that people develop the NIMBY's. For years the American public has been unwittingly making the sacrifices of accepting unknown risks. This has resulted in disasters like Love Canal and Times Beach. Meanwhile, industry has continued to pollute and make high profits. It's time to turn the tables: let industry pay the higher costs of safe disposal of wastes (with the help of tax and other incentives), and let citizens stop sacrificing their health and environment, as well as the future of their children. When industry has done everything they possibly can to reduce their hazardous wastes and some still remains, then come talk to me about my backyard — not before. Right now, "I've got the NIMBYs — and I'd rather fight than switch." For more detailed information on alternatives, contact CCHW. □

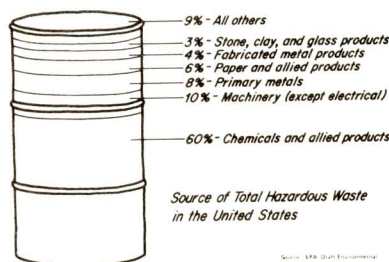
¹ William Sanjour, Chief, Hazardous Waste Implementation Branch, U.S. EPA, testimony before Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries, U.S. House of Representatives, May 12, 1983.

² Federal Register, Vol. 46, No. 24, February 5, 1981.

³ Copies of the report and a summary can be obtained from Congressional Relations and Public Affairs Office, OTA, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC 20510; 202/226-2115.

⁴ For more detailed information: Office of Appropriate Technology, "Alternatives to the Land Disposal of Hazardous Wastes," Publications and Information Office, 1600 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 94814; Phone — 916/323-8133.

Who Generates the Wastes?



ANNOUNCEMENT

CCHW is Moving.

We are growing so quickly that we've outgrown our present office space. Please note the change in the phone number as of September 15th.

◆ 703/276-7070 ◆

The address will remain the same for now.

*Have you subscribed to CCHW's
ACTION BULLETIN?
Write to us for details.*



Richard and Marian Arlington, Frank Furl, and Herbert Rigmaiden take a break from their hearings to see the sights of Washington.

VICTIMS, from page 1

where explosive materials may be stored. Each day they live in fear that the dump may blow up or that their families will become sick. They suspect that their drinking water may become contaminated. Yvonne and Gail brought the committee a gift — a rusted, crushed barrel labeled *corrosive materials* that they found lying on the dump. They left it with the committee and asked the members not to destroy it as they need it in court. [We wonder where Congress stores their hazardous waste evidence?]

FRANK FURL, Lock Haven, PA. Using a slide presentation, Frank told the story of the chemical dump in his community and how it leaked into the river and the surrounding environment. Although the dump has received

some clean up action, it is still a major polluter. The citizens of Lock Haven are working closely with chemical workers from the plant that created the problem. They reported to Congress the alarming amount of bladder cancer, birth defects, miscarriages, and other diseases in the community.

RICHARD and MARIAN ARLINGTON, Fort Edward, NY. The Arlingtons gave a moving account of what it is like to be unable to drink the water from your faucet. They explained how General Electric contaminated their drinking water with TCE and how just before Christmas they were told not to drink it. Marian and Richard described the difficulty of making Christmas dinner with no tap water. Even simple actions like brushing their teeth in the morning

became complicated chores. They made it quite clear how impossible it is to live without what most people, Congressmen included, take for granted. The Arlingtons made the committee think about everyday things like bathing, cooking, flushing the toilet, or washing your hands, things a single jug of water was never meant for.

All the victims provided direct, moving, and effective testimony. Their often traumatic stories left a lasting impression on the committee members, who now have a first-hand understanding of what actions are needed. More importantly, the communities involved received media attention, further educated the public of their plight, and applied pressure to the *powers that be*. □

Everyone's Backyard is published by the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, Inc. CCHW is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, public interest center which primarily focuses its work on grassroots environmental organizations across the nation.

Lois Marie Gibbs, PRESIDENT

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CCHW
P.O. Box 7097, Arlington, VA 22207.
703/276-7070.

YES!

I want to fight the improper disposal of toxic wastes and help suffering families. Include me as a member of CCHW. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 for citizens' groups or sponsoring individuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 for sustaining members* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 for corporations/institutions or individual patrons* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 for lifetime members* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 for the newsletter only (non-member) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> CCHW T-shirt (circle one: S, M, L, XL) |

*Individual donors of \$50 or more receive a free, autographed copy of *Love Canal: My Story* by Lois Marie Gibbs. All members receive CCHW's quarterly newsletter, *Everyone's Backyard*.

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I've Got NIMBY and I'm Glad I Do!

People across the country are being accused of having "NIMBY." What is it? — A disease? — A sickness? — Is it like leprosy? Too often, we hear government or industry people say, "They've got NIMBY; stay away from them or you might catch it!" And once you have NIMBY there is nothing — absolutely nothing — that can be done for you suffering people — but leave you alone.

NIMBY, or course, is not a dreaded disease, but rather government's term for most communities' reaction to the placement of a new landfill in their neighborhood: "Not In My Backyard!" To make matters worse, government and industry have even successfully made people feel guilty about having the NIMBYs. Yet NIMBY can be one of the best things you'll ever acquire in your lifetime. It's not only O.K. to feel that way; it's also very justifiable. Today, there are safe ways to dispose, reduce, recycle and detoxify wastes without dumping them in someone's backyard. At a recent Congressional hearing an Environmental Protection Agency representative was asked if there were *any* wastes that needed to be landfilled. Sanjour replied, "I have put this question to many scientists and engineers, both inside and outside EPA . . . and they have yet to come up with a single example." Yet the Agency and Congress continue pursuing legislation and developing regulations "to prevent future Love Canals" without understanding what caused Love Canal in the first place: i.e., the land disposal of hazardous chemical wastes!

see ALTERNATIVES, page 6

**Will the contents of this barrel be in
your backyard someday?**

