

Remarks at the
DEDICATION OF
THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION STUDIES

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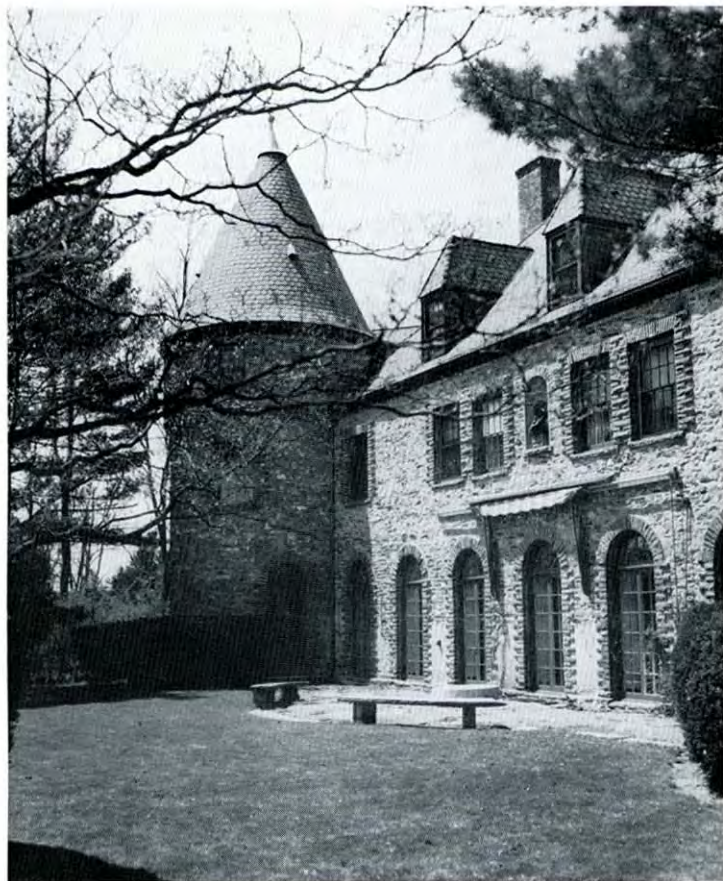
President of The Conservation Foundation

There is inspiration in the vision of the Pinchot family which conceived this cooperative institution. We are grateful to them.

We as people should be sentient, and humble in our way. We know that in the beginning there was no life at all on the Earth. There was no man. How organic life began, how later man began, we do not wholly know. How man, quite recently, has come through ages to dominate the earth is history. How successfully we shall now exert our power, our science, our technology, our wisdom or unwisdom shall be the story of our time.

Will man be humble enough, in his great strength, to understand that he is only *one* living organism in a world of many, interdependent organisms. That all of these in turn are dependent on air, water, the sun's energy and the very rocks that form the soil, from which the forest grows and from which man himself draws the raw materials of sustenance?

Or will man today in his self-confidence bulldoze his way, to greater imagined glory — and insecurity; deterio-



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rating as he goes the complex environment on which life forms depend?

This is today one vital question of our little hour on earth. That question is the reason for a conservation movement, and for creation of this cooperative institution – to enhance the well-being of life tomorrow.

There are economists and technologists among us, who say that man is now superior to nature; that man's inventiveness can produce new resources every day, and substitutes for the old resources fast enough, to increase the gross national product year by year.

Here is our answer: If we – we men and women of today – shall be content with a synthetic future, content to live despite polluted air, polluted streams and seas, polluted soils and foods, on hydroponics and algae, and sterilized substitutes for pure air and clean water, on a cement-covered land, we need no Pinchot Institute.

Yes, man can brutalize the earth, until the earth itself repudiates all life. Or man can learn to live again in harmony with the earth. He can learn to think of the total environment, its health and its beauty, as factors quite as important as the dollar in measuring a gross national product. He can learn to respect again and love the living earth.

We here today – citizens, private enterprise and government – believe that with insight and through education, man and nature and all science and technology, together, can assure the unity and worth of life on earth.

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