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American Teilhard Assoc.

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It's People or Rabbits

"The rabbits are all gone",
Someone said.
"I haven't seen a rabbit in years
They used to be everywhere."
And in Halifax the other day
At a meeting of retired school teachers
Someone asked,
"Do you ever see rabbits any more?"
And everybody shook their heads
And wondered.

On the way from Raleigh to Chapel Hill Tuesday,
I saw six runover possums
And two raccoons
And three thousand pushed over trees
And fifty earth movers
Smoking and chugging
And doing the only thing they can do:
Clearing and grading.
So the creatures had to flee.
Where could they go?

Someone answered,
"That's what it means to have a job.
You have to have a job to get money
And you have to have money to live
And having a job
Means you have to be doing something
And everything you do
Does something to the world.
So you see. It's in the cards
The creatures have to go.
It's just the way it is.

"Rabbits and possums and raccoons
And trees and woodpeckers etcetera,
What do they matter?
Roads! That's what North Carolina is all about
Roads! Man!
North Carolina's about roads
And about automobiles.
Automobiles! That's what it's really about.
Automobiles! God! Automobiles.
Don't talk about rabbits to me.

"You ever see something called a leading indicator?
It's a government measure of prosperity.
Well, the really important indicator
Is construction.
Clearing, grading, paving, building.
And the place where you do that
Is where it hasn't been done before.
No repairing or renewing or improving,
But doing new construction. Those machines
Don't pay for themselves except
Where the world is natural, undisturbed.
And that's where the rabbits are.
So the rabbits have to go.

"And you know that thing they call growth?
What that means is this:
When those machines and the people on them
Get through paving everything between Raleigh and Chapel Hill
They got to go do the same thing somewhere else.
Only the next time they got to do a little bit more.
That's what growth is.
Otherwise you would have to put the machines up
And lay the people off.
And then the people wouldn't have jobs or money.
We can't have that can we?
Something's got to give. It's people or rabbits.

"Don't ask me where it all ends.
Go ask some of them hot shot economists.
Ask a politician, or a tycoon somewhere.
They got answers; they know everything.
There's maybe enough unpaved area around
So that it will be a few more years before
Everything's gone.
And that's all we got to worry about.
You think your grandchildren are going
To miss rabbits? I doubt it.
Have a good day.
Shoot an environmentalist."

April 27 The 18th annual meeting of the American Teilhard Association for the Future of
12 Noon Man. To be held at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Registration,
Sherry, Lunch.

At 1:45 Reverend James Parks Morton, Dean Episcopal, Cathedral of St. John the Divine will give the address. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is a meeting place for many of the persons and movements working to bring about the new Ecological Age. Rene Dubos, John and Nancy Todd, William Irwin Thompson, Amory and Hunter Lovins, Hazel Henderson, Robert Muller, Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme have spoken there. The Paul Winter Consort and other artists give their expression to the changes that are emerging. Dean Morton is largely responsible for bringing together these movements and personalities and for making the Cathedral an extraordinary center for shaping the future.

May 2 A meeting at the Center to consider the problem of food in a bioregional context as it relates to North Carolina.