



Faith Lutheran Church

DURAND, WISCONSIN 54736

CHARLES GAVIN, Pastor

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November 22, 1969

RECEIVED
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OFFICE OF
SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON

Senator Gaylord Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for including me on your mailing list! Your recent "Newsletter" detailing some of your current efforts to arouse concern over the reclamation and preservation of our environment was most welcome. I commend you for the leadership and the stimulation you are providing us on this vital issue-- particularly among our youth and our political representatives.

Of special interest to me is the possibility of additional information and motivation which might be provided by the Washington office (mentioned in your "Newsletter") soon to be established for the coordination of your proposed "Environmental Teach-In". Would you please see that I am put on the mailing list of that office when it is established.

The City of Durand has long had an extremely (in my judgment) calloused attitude toward the problem of municipal sewage and the Chippewa River. At one time the State of Wisconsin even had some legal action pending against the community. Unfortunately, the whole problem is further complicated by the fact that our local newspaper refuses to print any kind of news other than community gossip or advertising. Thus, the community at large is virtually ignorant of the original suit--or the eventual outcome. What I have outlined does not seem to be peculiar to this community only. So, I am wondering if your idea of an "Environmental Teach-In" might not have some real possibilities for small, rural communities where there is such a dearth of reliable information?

Just a couple of weeks ago, a member of my congregation described what it used to be like to swim in the Chippewa River on a summer night when the moon and stars were out. This individual has spent most of her life around the Meridean area (downriver from Rock Falls, Wis.). A couple of years ago, the husband of one of our members told me that a spot on the Chippewa River south of Durand, used to be one of the favorite bass fishing areas for the now famous Mayo brothers of Rochester, Minnesota.



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I am sure that you could do a far more accurate and colorful job than I can of documenting the cavalier disregard that small, rural Wisconsin communities have exhibited.

So...again...your idea of a national "teach-in," might be a unique opportunity to help some of these small communities wake up and get off dead (literally) center.

If the soon-to-be-established Washington office for the coordination of your proposed "Environmental Teach-In" has some information for small, rural communities...put me on that list, please. If such a dimension is not in the plans for your proposed Washington office, I would strongly urge you to re-consider, and at least see that some staff person develop some expertise helpful to those of us in rural America.

Power to you! Keep up this vital work!

Sincerely,

Pastor Charles Gavin

Pastor Charles Gavin
R. # 2, Box 238
Durand, Wisconsin 54736



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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/teach in
COPY

December 29, 1969

The Reverend Charles Gavin
Route 2, Box 238
Durand, Wiscons 54736

Dear Reverend Gavin:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Teach-In. I have put your name on the mailing list and you will be receiving more about this as time goes along.

Your point about the use of the Teach-In is well taken. Originally the idea was to have the Teach-In on campuses, but we have found that everyone wants to get involved. We are hopeful that, wherever possible, the project will become a community-wide effort. The Teach-In in a small rural town could take place around the local high school, a group of church, or perhaps a conservation organization.

I would suggest that you begin telling other people in Durand about the Teach-In idea and begin to think about how a successful effort might be created in your area. The materials you will be receiving will give you general ideas that hopefully will be productive to your thinking about making the Teach-In relevant to you community.

I hope this answers your question. Let me know if there is anything more that I can do for you. And good luck in organizing a Teach-In.

Sincerely yours,

GAYLORD NELSON
U.S. Senator

GN:dsjw

Enclosure



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