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for

August 1982

The Probe, Issue 24 - August 1982

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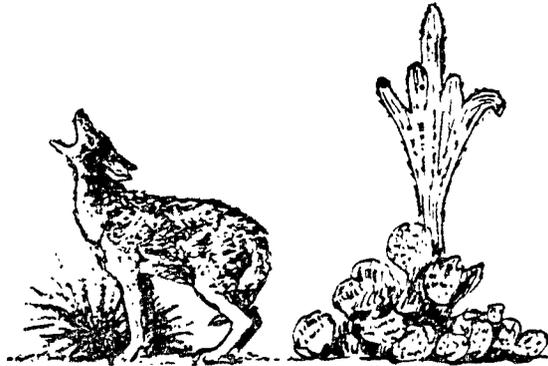
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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 24

August, 1982

1080 REGISTRATION HASSLE

As I entered NADCA as a participant in the move to reregister 1080 for predator use, I get copies of all the testimony from Defenders, school kids, ranchers, lawyers, etc. sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hearing clerk. You won't believe this but by actual measurement, I now have a pile of paper 33 inches high and still coming. Not only the volume of the waste but the garbage wrapped up in it is appalling. When winter comes, I'll finally put it to good use when I need to start fires. If I get time, I'll try to sort them out a bit and pass on some goodies.

According to the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) which is leading the fight to reinstate 1080, they have such a good case so far they cancelled out VP Homer Ford and RD Norton Miner from a trip back to Washington to testify. Unfortunately, we've been there before and know logic and practicality are low on the score card where politics and emotion are concerned. Even if we do get 1080 back, you know there will be some more fights.

NADCA President George Rost appeared as a witness for four hours on May 25th in San Angelo (TX) before EPA Judge Nissen. He was cross-examined by Wimer (EPA) and redirect questioned by Kazman (PLF). The following is his report:

"Much of the questioning was on my statement submitted in writing previously and on research publications by Weldon Robinson showing the early (1949-51) studies conducted on the effects of Compound 1080 bait stations on non-target and fur bearing animals. I was able to establish, for the record, a number of positions which should be helpful to the PLF...Some of the subjects covered were determining weights of baits, non-edible portions of a bait, proper treatment and placement, number per township, placement on national forests to protect marten, bear and mink, and 1080 baits for prophylactic treatment. They were shocked when I stated, rather forcefully, that 1080 should be used during the winter on a piece of range to be used in the spring for lambing where coyotes were present in ample numbers but there was no history of sheep loss. EPA could not understand that since the land had not been used for sheep production in the past there would not be a 'history of loss'. They then wanted to know how much loss should occur before action is taken. I said when the rancher, the only

besides his banker who knows his financial situation, asks for help to stop the loss. I could tell I was giving the wrong answers when the two EPA interrogators would look at each other dumbfounded like I had just committed the 'unpardonable sin'. The only time I came close to exploding was when they (EPA) got on the subject of alternative methods. Without going into detail, I told them...I strongly resent a Washington Bureaucrat making a decision to eliminate a safe, selective tool like 1080 and force me to risk my life using more hazardous and expensive methods to try to accomplish the job.

I was able to establish that the ADC program of the USFWS had the largest number of trained 1080 specialists of any group in the world and were prepared to resume the use of 1080 when it was registered. Also this experience was not obtained in a classroom but on the job. This last point was made because EPA had asked if it would be better to conduct classroom training of people to properly treat and place 1080 baits. With the truck loads of data being compiled showing the safe, selective characteristics of Compound 1080 as a predicide there is more than an even chance that 1080 will be available for use this fall in the ADC program."

On the other side of the fence, RD Madsen sent me an old copy of a newspaper account (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 17 Jan 82, B-19) of a talk by Dick Randall, chief fabricator for the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE. Randall claims predator poison is a political rather than biological issue (we couldn't agree more). He claims Andrus (non-lamented past Secretary of the Interior) took an "enlightened look at predator control." (that's why he banned denning too?). President Reagan has gone back to war mainly because of pressure from the sheepmen. Randall had a few more good quotes such as denial that the sheep industry had been stripped of methods for killing coyotes. "What they actually want is for taxpayers to kill taxpayer's wildlife on taxpayer's land to protect the sheep industry. They've brought arrogance to a new height in their demands." "Alternatives to using poison for predator control exist and could easily be used." "Using toxic 1080 collars on sheep wouldn't work on the open range...The collars only succeed if the coyote goes for the throat and bites into the collar. They can also kill the wearer if he punctures the collar on a thorn or other sheep may chew on the collars." Randall has parlayed himself from a so-so trapper into "...probably one of the country's top experts on animal control and 1080" according to the President of the *Predatory Animal Protection Organization*. You other retirees might consider a second career if you lie with a straight face.

To find a Prince Charming - - you have to kiss a lot of toads.

GOOD ADVICE !!!

Sign in a Waikiki Aquarium: "If a shark should attack, do not panic and splash towards shore...If you have nothing in hand, fight back attempting to punch the animal in the eyes or gills. Try not to bleed."

You're muddled when you look forward to a dull evening.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

The *National Association of Retired Federal Employees* (*Retirement Life*, July, 1982, p.40) published a list of Do and Don't suggestions in writing your Congressmen to get them to act to your way of thinking. I feel these are worth repeating:

1. DO write in your own words instead of sending in canned statements. They should be single-paged, neatly written or typed for the best impact.
2. DON'T try to be an expert on issues you do not understand. Remember your audience and KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid).
3. DO write more than once. Follow up the first letter with another jab. You'll probably get some non-committal answers as that comes with the job - - so ask for more specific answers.
4. DON'T write endlessly on any number of subjects. Congressmen may read their mail on those long 'fact-finding' trips to the Bahamas or the Fiji Islands. They may only remember you as a nuisance when you really have something to say.
5. DO try to know your Congressman on a personal basis. Meet him on his home trips when he isn't collecting that \$75 travel expense for staying in Washington.
6. DON'T get mad and tell him you'll never vote for him again. As that labels you as a lost cause, he'll waste no election cigar on your vote.
7. DO write a note of thanks when he supports you with his vote. Everybody likes to hear something good once in a while and the Lord knows Congressmen really need it.
8. DON'T ever show them any of the above as this is Fitzwater being personal again and not official position from the NADCA Board.

An honest politician is one who when bought - - stays bought.

NADCA PREDATOR CONTROL MEETING - - YOU ALL COME

On July 14th I sent out a flyer on a proposed predator meeting NADCA is sponsoring. I've had several complaints from members on the East Coast who said they hadn't received it yet, two weeks later. This bulk mail is not the best way to go but when you're cheap you can't expect the best. Anyway to repeat the information with some added input:

PLACE: Texas A & M Research & Extension Center on US 87 about 5 miles north of San Angelo (TX).

TIME: 9:00 AM, 10 September 1982

COST: There will be no registration fees for those attending. You will have to make your own arrangements for lodging, meals, and transportation.

PROGRAM: The tentative program set up so far is as follows:

Opening remarks: Dr. Carl Menzies, Director, Texas AES, San Angelo, TX

Purpose of the symposium: George S. Rost, President NADCA, Cedar Crest, NM

The need for an understanding of predation: W. Bert Dennis, President, Texas Animal Damage Control Association, Gail, TX

Predation as a way of life - A natural phenomenon: Dr. Dale A. Wade & Dr. Milo Shult, Wildlife Extension Specialists, San Angelo, TX

Role of predators in wildlife, livestock, & range management:

Charles Winkler, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Austin, TX

Dr. Dean Chamrad, Range Specialist, Texas AES, Uvalde, TX

L.C.Howard, Director, Texas Animal Damage Control Assoc., Meridian, TX

The wildlife damage enigma:

Dr. Maurice Shelton, Geneticist, Texas AES, San Angelo, TX

William D. Fitzwater, Director, bioLOGIC consultants, Albuquerque, NM

View of wild animal damage by the agriculturist: Pat Smith, State Affairs Director, Texas Farm Bureau, Austin, TX

Legal and social aspects of wild animal damage: Dr. Dale A. Wade, Wildlife Extension Specialist, Texas Agric. Ext. Sv., San Angelo, TX

Economic effects of predation on the family, the community, and the country:

Dr. Robert Kensing, Economist, Texas Agric. Ext. Sv., San Angelo, TX

How an animal damage control program develops and works:

George S. Rost, President, NADCA, Cedar Crest, NM

Donald H. Hawthorne, Texas State Super., ADC, USFWS, San Antonio, TX

PROCEEDINGS: The papers presented at the symposium will be published shortly after the conference. There will be a charge, but it is hoped to keep this around \$4.00.

ACCOMODATIONS: There are a number of motels available. This is a sampling:

Jackson House Motor Lodge, 402 W. Beauregard, San Angelo, TX 76903 [915] 653-1351

Dun-Bar West, 1717 W. Beauregard, San Angelo, TX 76901 [915] 655-9523

El Patio Motor Motel, 1901 W. Beauregard, San Angelo, TX 76901 [915] 655-5711

Inn of the West, 415 W. Beauregard, San Angelo, TX 76903 [915] 653-2995

TRANSPORTATION: Rio Airlines goes into San Angelo from Dallas.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Milton Caroline, 118 Highview Drive, San Antonio, TX 78228 [512] 434 4978.

Va never know what happiness is until you're married - - and then it's too late !

DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD GET A COLD FROM A RAT ? FOUR LEGGED ONES TOO !?

If you didn't know that you really should pick up a copy of Walter J. Weber's latest book [we reported on his *HEALTH HAZARDS FROM PIGEONS, STARLINGS, AND ENGLISH SPARROWS (THE PROBE 2:7)*]. Walter's new book is entitled *Diseases Transmitted by Rats and Mice* [Thompson Publications, PO Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791 (\$13.75 postpaid)]. He has done a lot of solid research on the book. Over 200 diseases and pathogens associated with rats and mice are covered. For each entry, he gives synonyms, etiology (description and distribution), health hazards, and an account of the role rats and mice play in its spread to humans. This is a concisely written book that is thoroughly documented. It should be in the library of anyone involved in commensal rodent control.

It's tough to decide which will cost you less - - tell the truth - - or hire a lawyer.

WRAP UP ON SNAKE BITES

There are better methods of treating snake bite than internal application of Seagram's 7 Crown, but according to Richard Straight (Venom Research Laboratory, UT) - - "We've never been satisfied with what is recommended - - lancing the wound, sucking out the poison, or applying a tourniquet between the wound and the heart." However, a technique developed in Australia might be the right answer, he feels. The unwashed

limb (getting it in the butt is when you find out who your friends are) that was bitten is splinted and wrapped with an elastic bandage as tightly as possible over a wide area around the wound. The success of the technique is based on the belief venom molecules are so large they prefer to travel in the lymph vessels instead of the blood stream. The bandage compresses these so they can't move. While the idea is unproven, it encouraged Straight to investigate the transport and action of poison molecules during compression. If his studies prove out, SUPPHOSE two sizes too small might be recommended for snake bite treatment. [Thanks to BULL SHEET (Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture) from SCIENCE NEWS, vol. 121]

A yawn may be bad manners, but it's an honest opinion.

NEED ANY READIN' ?

The Proceedings of the Tenth Vertebrate Pest Conference have just been mailed out. Copies can be obtained from the Vertebrate Pest Conference, c/o Dept. of Food & Agriculture, 1220 "N" St., Sacramento, CA 95814. They cost \$10 postpaid or \$14 to foreign countries. Here's the contents:

- Vertebrate pest management and changing times: *D.A.Spencer*
- Alpha-Chlorohydrin (EPIBLOC^T): A toxicant-sterilant as an alternative in rodent control :
R.O.Baker
- Bromethalin - A promising new rodenticide: *W.B.Jackson, S.R.Spaulding, R.B.L.Van Lier,*
and B.Z.Dreikorn
- Bird limes and rat glues - Sticky situations: *W.D.Fitzwater*
- The urban coyote problem in Los Angeles county: *R.G.Howell*
- The use of fences in predator damage control: *D.A.Wade*
- Monofluoroacetic acid (Compound 1080), Its pharmacology & toxicology: *E. Kun*
- The role of USDA in animal damage control: *J.E.Miller*
- A tiger problem in India: *W.E.Howard*
- Snares for predator control: *M.L.Boddicker*
- Guard dogs and gas exploders as coyote depredation control tools in North Dakota:
W.E.Pfeifer & M.W.Goos
- Mountain lion predation on domestic livestock in Nevada: *H.R.Suminski*
- Predator problems when using sheep and goats in managing brush on rangelands: *J.E.Bowns*
- Development & evaluation of methods to reduce rat damage to coconut in the Philippines:
L.A.Fiedler, M.W.Fall, & R.F.Reidinger
- Traditional approaches for protecting cereal crops from birds in Africa: *P. Ruelle &*
R.L.Bruggers
- Solving tree squirrel debarking problems in Taiwan--A review: *Pao-Chang Kuo*
- Compensation for vertebrate pest damage: *J.B.Gurba*
- Problem vertebrate management in Zimbabwe: *M.J.F.Jarvis & M. La Grange*
- Changes in bait acceptance by rabbits in Australia & New Zealand: *A.J.Oliver, S.H.*
Wheeler, C.D.Gooding, & J. Bell
- The red eyed turtle dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) as an agricultural pest in
Nigeria: *M. akande*
- Commensal rats: A threat to poultry production in Nigeria: *O.funilayo*
- Rodent control in Barbados: *C.O.Browne*
- Calif. registration procedures relative to vertebrate pesticides: *J.H.Shelgren*
- Rodent problems relative to mechanical harvesting: *A.C.Crabb & R.L.Riddle*
- Pulsed baiting--A new technique for high potency, slow acting rodenticides: *A.C.Dubock*
- Green chopped bait for the control of the Oregon ground squirrel: *K.W.Wright*
- Current improvements in baiting pine and meadow voles: *R.E.Byers & M.H.Merson*
- Aluminum phosphide (*Phostoxin*) as a burrow fumigant for ground squirrel control:
T.P.Salmon, W.P.Gorenzel, & W.J.Bentley
- An IPM approach to rodent control on midwestern farms: *R.M.Timm*
- A review of the secondary poisoning hazard potential to wildlife: *D.Kaukeinen*

Reducing starling depredation at feedlots through management: D.J.Twedt & J.F.Glahn
 Urban blackbird roost survey - 1981: S.S.Erdman
 Raptor-mimicking kites for reducing bird damage to wine grapes: R.L.Hothem & R.DeHaven
 The cliff swallow - Biology & control: W.P.Gorenzel & T.P.Salmon
 Bird problems and their solution in Britain: E.N.Wright
 Pigeon control: An integrated approach: C.M. & L.R. Martin
 Assessment, understanding and management of blackbird-agriculture interactions in eastern Canada: P.J.Weatherhead
 Bird damage to sunflowers in the Sacramento Valley, CA: M.L.Avery & R.DeHaven
 A comparison of selected rodenticides for the valley pocket gopher: B.R.Tickes, L.K.Cheatham, & J.L.Stair
 Rodent repellents for planted grain: R.J.Johnson, A.E.Koehler & O.C.Burnside
 Dispersal & some implications for control of Calif. ground squirrel: D.C.Stroud
 Strychnine residue studies & implications in rodent control: H.G.Smith
 Evaluation of zinc phosphide bait for pocket gopher control on forest land: V.G.Barnes, Jr., R.M.Anthony, J. Evans, & G.D.Lindsey
 Responses of caged red-winged blackbirds to methiocarb on wild rice: D.W.Moulton
 A new system for delivery of predacides or other active ingredients for coyote management: R.EMarsh, W.E.Howard, S.M.McKenna, B.Butler, & D.A.Barnum

Alimony is like keeping up payments after the car is wrecked.

ABOUT FACE !!!

The National Wildlife Federation (*National Wildlife*, 20:5:25, 1982) reports that Jim Watt has approved a new seal for the U.S. Department of the Interior. This one turns the buffalo around so he faces right instead of left. Supposedly this is more in keeping with his political philosophy, but to me it seems rather careless to turn your back on the enemy. At least he hasn't gone back to that abstract monstrosity. The NWF also remarks that it is thankful he didn't replace the buffalo with a bulldozer.

My wife and I have a deal. If I don't like the way she does things - - I do it myself.

ANTI-TRAP BILL- S.B. 2239

RD Milt Caroline sent a copy of his (3 July 82) letter to Senator Bentsen (D-TX) regarding the anti-trap bill of which Bentsen is a co-sponsor. Milt had some good arguments I felt we could all use:

"I understand the feelings which prompt proponents of such legislation. They argue that foothold traps cause pain and that in many cases captured animals are left to die. The attitude of others is that a ban on the use of these traps would, hopefully, bring predator control to a standstill. It is claimed that control is the direct cause of predator reduction to the extent that some species are, or should be, on the threatened or endangered list. They insist that the removal of predators results, then and there, in tremendous increases in the number of rodents, which, in turn, leads to serious losses of crops and forage.

Steel leghold traps are intended to capture animals alive. If the trapper does not make frequent visits to his trap sets, then what is essentially a live trap becomes a lethal weapon. Such persons should be dealt with in accordance with the laws of the state.

We would be naive were we to argue that there is no pain involved when an animal is caught in a trap. However, the open-jaw variety prevents excessive pain because there is little foot injury. On the other hand, there are those in the sheep and goat business in Texas and a steadily increasing number of cattlemen and wildlife managers who object to this issue. They know of the pain suffered by sheep and goats which are choked to death by coyotes and those which are eaten alive. They know of the suffering of calves that are disembowled; and of cows whose vaginas are eaten away by coyotes which kill and feed upon the calf as it is being born.

There is no basis, scientific or otherwise - - for the opinion that control of predators permits immediate increases of rodents. The fact that predators eat rodents is well-established; but it is not a fact that population control is a result. Rodent increase depend upon the food and cover supply as well as regular rodent "plagues" which are, as yet, not fully understood.

From the standpoint of the wildlife research scientist responsible for the implementation of endangered predator species recovery plans, there is no alternative for this type of trap. Animals must be caught, measured, examined, fitted with radio collars, and released so that their movements and association with other animals of the same species can be determined.

...Despite the availability of other control methods, the trap is still the most reliable means of predator capture to put an end to livestock losses. Even if and when Compound 1080 can once again be used, the steel trap will still remain as the first selection of the professional trapper.

Public health authorities have carried out intensive wildlife disease surveillance programs to seek evidence of diseases that can be transmitted...to humans, pets, and domestic animals. The suspect animal must be captured alive so that blood, tissue, and insects can be collected. Only traps fit into this program.

Despite control efforts using traps and other means, there is no evidence of a decrease in predator and furbearer populations. [Should have said no "overall decrease" as we hope we are removing some of the depredating animals in target areas.]

The highly publicized dart guns which are used to inject a tranquilizer into the intended victim are of no value in capturing predatory species. Cage traps are effective in capturing some of the smaller predators such as raccoons and skunks, but the larger predators rarely can be induced to enter them.

Finally, I hope that the "foot hold" trap legislation does not include the foot snare which is used to capture bears. These are used by animal damage control specialists as well as by land managers in the West when bears must be captured for relocation."

A husband should tell his wife everything he thinks she might find out.

MOTHER MAY I ?

RD Don Spencer just sent me the latest Federal Register (vol. 47, no. 136, 15 July 1982) regarding permits to import or export wildlife. Bobcat shipments (1981-2) are still being held up. The rest of the regs are not really of any concern to NADCA members and it took a lot of eyestrain to make something out of the legal doubletalk, but here is my interpretation of what they say:

1. Fill out Form 3-200 (typically government - they assume everybody is a flat-chested dame who needs her form filled out).
2. Applications should (it use to be "will" - this is known as relaxing regulations) be received 30 days prior to when the applicant wants to begin the activity; 75 days with marine mammals or endangered species permits as they have to give the protectionists a chance to shoot at it in the Federal Register.
3. Time to accomplish the deed may be extended on request (before, the application was void at 60 days).
4. In the importation of injurious wildlife, they have eliminated the requirement to report the death of an animal. In their own words "such wildlife is of concern only when alive." (bureaucratic perception is sometimes astounding)
5. If the proper fee does not accompany the application, they will start the paper work while waiting for the correct amount. (before, the application was returned and you started all over again)
6. The importation of red, eastern gray, and western gray kangaroos and their parts from Australia is now allowed. Importers no longer need obtain "economic hardship permits" for these species. (Any kangaroo who can afford to make the trip from Australia does not know about "economic hardship")

This took up six pages of the Federal Register. Think of all the rolls of toilet paper that would have been much more useful.

These regs don't touch on permits of more interest to ADC-types such as those for changing the lifestyle of woodpeckers beating the hell out of house shingles. These depredation permits (same form 3-200) can be obtained from local USFWS offices. They are issued by the law enforcement officers (got in trouble once calling them "duck cops") but ADC offices can give you help in acquiring them for specialized wildlife damage control problems. You usually need to get a state permit too, but in most instances, the State goes along if the Feds give approval.

The best time to tackle a minor problem is before he grows up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

23 July 1982

Regarding my trip to Africa, I was one of six persons on a Group Study Exchange team to the Republic of South Africa and Transkei. This was sponsored by Rotary International. We spent six weeks being shown the entire province of Natal plus a good portion of Transkei, a black "homeland" state. We saw agriculture, industry, educational facilities, medical care facilities, and went to lots of Rotary Club meetings. During the limited free time we were given, I was able to spend two days with David Rowe-Rowe of the Natal Parks Board, essentially the same as a state wildlife agency in the U.S. David has done considerable research on the black-backed jackal, which in many ways is the ecological equivalent of the coyote. They prey on lambs,

and have been the subject of predator control efforts for decades. I visited a sheep ranch at which David had a toxic collar trial in progress, using Compound 1080 to attempt to control sheep predation by jackals and caracals (African lynx). Our entire group also spent a day and a half on the Umfolozi game reserve where management efforts have restored populations of the white rhino.

Dr. Robert M. Timm
Extension Vertebrate Pest Specialist
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

YE ED: Bob also sent me a copy of a paper entitled: TEACHING VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL: A CHALLENGE TO WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS. For those of you who might be interested, he expects to have reprints available (he kindly sent me a copy of the galley proof) sometime before Christmas.

Dear Mr. Secretary of Agriculture:

My friend Bordereaux received a \$1,000 check from the government for not raising hogs and so I am going into the business of not-raising-hogs business. What I want to know is - - what is the best kind of land not to raise hogs on and what is the best kind of hogs not to raise? I would prefer not to raise razorback, but if this is not the best kind not to raise, I will just as gladly not raise Durocs or Poland Chinas. The hardest part of this business is going to be keeping individual records on each of the hogs I do not raise.

Bordereaux has been raising hogs for more than 20 years and the most he ever made was \$400 until this year when he received \$1,000 for not raising hogs. Now, if I get \$1,000 for not raising 50 hogs, will I get \$2,000 for not raising 100 hogs, etc.? I plan to start off on a small scale - - holding myself down to not raising 4,000 hogs for which I will, of course, receive \$80,000.

These hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand you pay farmers for not raising corn. Will you pay me for not raising 100,000 bushels of corn which I will not feed to the hogs I am not raising? I want to get started as soon as possible, as this looks like a good time of the year for not raising hogs.

Ima Urbanite

YE ED: I have no shame. I was staring at all this empty space without a thought on how to fill it, when my eye caught the above which I just received today from my granddaughter, Marina Giardetti, of Thunderbay, Canada. The truth is out - - Fitzwater will use anything. Why don't you try me?

The difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector - the taxidermist leaves the hide.

This also looks like a very good place for the disclaimer: THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY AND CONCENSUS IN ALL INSTANCES.

ELECTION TIME AGAIN

Vice President Homer Ford would like to have suggestions from the members as to

possible candidates for the offices of Vice President and Regional Directors in Regions 2 and 5. Please do this at once. The ballots will probably be mailed out in the November PROBE.

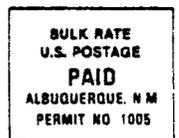
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