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R.A. Bowman and R.L. Anderson
transport any manure out of the watershed would reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions. That conference committee will determine whether conservation planning and technical assistance is adequately funded.

The pendulum swings too high to stop now. The facts and searching for the right story is a constant. Whether the right things were said is hindsight. That's why we must keep marshaling the Journal on the way into D.C. But that's why we must keep marshaling the right people. The stakes are high.

I kicked myself for not reading the failed conversation I had had earlier that day. As I thought about these two examples it occurred to me that the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation might be in danger of becoming a superficial or pedantic journal. Let it be a constructive and reader-friendly journal. It should be practical. It should be easy to read. It should be stimulating. It should be succinct. It should actively champion the cause of soil and water conservation. It should above all be useful.
RAISE YOUR VOICE
YOUR FORUM TO REACT TO PUBLISHED ARTICLES, EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND DESCRIBE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION, INCLUDING LEGISLATION

New format well received
I just went through the January-February issue of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. I thought it was quite well done. Someone once said the more things change, the more they stay the same. In 1967 when I joined the Society, a prominent article in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation dealt with phosphorus and water pollution. In 2001, the last Journal had 2 major research articles related to phosphorus and water pollution.

In the years I’ve been a member, it has been a battle to meet the publication needs of our diverse members. About half the membership has wanted the research articles, and about half have wanted more useful articles for application and more general articles of interest.

As chairman of the Society’s publication board from 1998 to 2001, we wrestled with how to meet the publication needs of the society. As I recall, there were a few overriding considerations:

1. The SWCS publication board consistently supported the view that as a science-based organization, we must have a strong scientific refereed publication that attracts readers and writers from the scientific community. We had that with the Journal; we needed to keep that.
2. SWCS could afford only one serial publication.
3. SWCS must meet the publication needs of members and subscribers.
4. The Journal is widely read and recognized. We felt it important to retain the name Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

Congratulations on a job well done and succeeding in getting the best of both journals into one. I’ll be interested in hearing reader’s reactions over time.
—John Laflen, Buffalo Center, IA

“I thought it [the January-February issue of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation] was quite well done. Someone once said the more things change, the more they stay the same.” John Laflen

Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.
Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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—Deb Happe, Editor