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Hypocrite

THE
REGULATION OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY

Tuesday, October 9, 1984
The Sheraton Centre, Toronto

"WASHINGTON - ~~In a stunning victory for environmental activists~~
A federal court Wednesday barred what was to be the first release
in history of a man-made organism into the environment. ~~Environmental~~
activist and author Jeremy Rifkin, whose Foundation on Economic
Trends had asked ~~Judge~~ Sirica to block the ~~field~~ test, predicted
that the ruling 'will open up a major national debate on how we
approach the biological age.'"

Los Angeles Times, May 17, 1984

Key-note Address

Mr. Jeremy Rifkin, author of Who will Play God?

A ~~One~~²-day conference presented by the
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE ISSUES

Following on the heels of the industrial and computer revolutions, biotechnology - the use in industry and agriculture of new life-forms created by genetic engineering - has been hailed as the most significant industrial opportunity of the late 20th century. As a spur to Canadian development, governments and private sector companies in Canada have invested heavily in biotechnology companies such as Allelix and institutions such as the Montreal Biotechnology Institute and the Saskatoon Plant Biotechnology Institute.

Critics claim, however, that the release of new life-forms into the environment represents a significant risk. In the United States, the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives, after hearings on potential environmental hazards associated with biotechnology, stated that "while there is only a small possibility that damage could occur, the damage that could occur is great."

On May 16, 1984, Judge John J. Sirica granted an injunction to prevent the first field-trial of a genetically altered organism in the United States. An application to conduct a similar field-trial in this country has now been filed with Agriculture Canada.

At this time there is no Canadian legislation specifically intended to regulate biotechnology. Since the intense political and legal debate now raging in the United States is likely to very soon be echoed here, it is timely to initiate public discussion of questions such as the following:

- . Is self-regulation an option or is mandatory legislation required?
- . Is it possible to protect against environmental harm without smothering industry in layers of regulatory bureaucracy?
- . Will regulation in Canada unduly hamper our international competitive position in the new field of biotechnology?
- . Should we move now to regulate, before the first field-trials of genetically altered organisms take place?

As a contribution to this discussion, the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation has prepared a discussion paper setting forth one potential regulatory framework. ~~That~~ paper will be publicly presented at a one-day conference in Toronto on Tuesday, October 9, 1984.

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This

THE AGENDA

- . The current state of biotechnology in Canada
Mr. Alain Albagli, National Research Council
 - . Environmental hazards
Ms. Judith Miller, ^s~~S~~cientist and ^b~~B~~iot^cechnology ~~L~~onsultant
 - . Regulation of biotechnology in Great Britain
Mr. Howard Eddy, author of Regulation of Recombinant DNA Research
 - . Regulation in the United States
Mr. Don Clay, Environmental Protection Agency
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Mr. Jeremy Rifkin, Foundation on Economic Trends
- . Biotechnology and the environment: a regulatory proposal
Ms. Marcia Valiante, Director of Research, Canadian Environmental
Law Research Foundation
Mr. Paul Muldoon, Research Associate, Canadian Environmental
Law Research Foundation
 - . Comment upon the discussion paper
Professor Stuart Ryan, Queen's University
Mr. Richard Herring, Assistant Deputy-Minister, Canadian Forestry
Service
Mr. Alan Bates, President, Allelix, Inc.
 - . Future directions for public debate
Mr. Jack Basuk, Science Council of Canada

DISCUSSION PAPER BY THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

The discussion paper explores regulation of the direct release of new life-forms into the environment and does not address medical applications or the regulation of laboratory research.

After surveying the adequacy of existing federal and provincial legislation, the paper concludes that new legislation is required for the regulation of biotechnology. The paper then advances, as a basis for discussion, principles to be incorporated in that legislation and proposals for action to be taken by the federal and provincial governments before the first direct release occurs.

The authors of the discussion paper wish to extend their appreciation to Mr. Joe Castrilli, Mr. Simon Chester and Mr. Joe Gilhooley who reviewed and commented upon drafts of the paper.

Copies of the discussion paper and other papers delivered at the conference will be given to all those in attendance.

COMMENT

"There will be fantastic markets in 10 years for biotechnological products or processes - in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, energy, chemistry, pulp and paper, and waste treatment. If Canada does not use the new technologies, other countries will, and some of our present industries will cease to be competitive."

Maurice Brossard, National Research Council

"There has been no technology in this century - however beneficial - that has not had a detrimental consequence. I can predict with absolute certainty that there will be a price to pay with biotechnology also".

David Suzuki, scientist

"Given the potential benefits and risks, and the existing regulatory vacuum, it is essential that all sectors in Canada - government, industry, environmentalists and others - immediately begin to actively debate the most appropriate means of regulating biotechnology."

Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation Discussion Paper

INFORMATION

How To Register

Phone (416) 977-2410 to reserve a place. Complete the registration form and send it, accompanied by payment, to the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation, 243 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1Z4.

Registration Fee

Fee for the conference is \$195.00 per person. Cheques should be made payable to the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation.

Fee covers all program materials, refreshments and luncheon. It does not include hotel accommodations.

Cancellations

Full refunds will be given for cancellations received in writing by October 2, 1984. We regret that refunds cannot be given after this date. Delegate substitution is permitted at all times.

If you register for the conference and do not attend, you are liable for the FULL registration fee unless you cancel within the time period stated above.

Discount For Registered Non-Profit Organizations

If you are a registered non-profit organization with an annual operating budget of \$200,000 or less, you are eligible for a registration fee of \$75.00.

Please send us your completed registration form and payment for \$75.00 and indicate your registered charitable number.

Hotel Reservations

Please contact The Sheraton Centre at (416) 361-1000, to reserve overnight accommodations.

Free Admission To Conference

When 4 people from one organization register for this conference and pay with one cheque, the 5th person is admitted free of charge. (This discount does not apply to registered non-profit organizations who are eligible for the \$75.00 discounted registration fee mentioned above.)

Further Information

Should you have any questions or wish further information on the conference, please contact Mr. Doug Macdonald, Executive Director, Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation.

Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation
243 Queen Street West,
4th Floor,
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1Z4

REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed is my cheque for \$195.00
per person payable to Canadian
Environmental Law Research
Foundation. Please register the
individual(s) listed below.

First Name

Last Name

Position

First Name

Last Name

Position

Company/Firm

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Phone

☐ Yes, please add me to your mailing list

Specific areas I am interested
in include:

Registered Charitable Number

ABCDEF

The organizers reserve the right to change program date or content without
further notice, and assume no liability for these changes.