

LOOKING BACK

For Georgescu-Roegen the GNP (Gross National Product) would be better called "Gross National Cost" and, like the concepts of efficiency, profit and other narrowly defined economic notions, it must be replaced by thermodynamic priorities in evaluating economic activities and technologies within a broad ecological context.

His paradigm is more useful and fruitful than standard economics, because it is concerned with the dramatic consequences, confronting mankind as a result of the reversal of patterns in the relations between population, energy and resources. The next generation of economists will speak only the language of Georgescu-Roegen. Or, as the Nobel Laureate Paul Samuelson described him, Georgescu-Roegen is "a scholar's scholar, an economist's economist," a man whose ideas will interest minds when today's skyscrapers have crumbled back to sand.

Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen

Most of you are far from even getting near to my age. When I dissertation at the Sorbonne in 1930 hardly anyone of you was born. So I will not have to wait until you reach my own age in order to realize how I a long, long effort shattered by this century's catastrophes, to receive accolade from you. Although it should go without saying, I want to say it

My gratitude goes first to our President, Professor Joseph Conside without whose visionary support the *European Association for Bioeco* could not get off the ground. I also wish to thank the Vice-Presidents, Pr Demetrescu, Romano Molesti, and Eberhard Seifert, who by their initiati and elbow-grease have organized the E.A.B.S. and made it possible for us contributions to the solution of mankind's entropic predicament. Last, but not way, I am greatly thankful to Korinna Müller and Traian Filip who have v *camera* to bring this event to its assured success.

I should not fail to salute you as the first generation of bioecon Actually, to salute you is the main reason for my intervention at this eve worthiest in my life. Together with a host of other students of the ecologic mankind you are on the tail of a tidal wave, so to speak, that jolted almost mainly writers and publishers. There was surely a writing on the wall by th of 1973-1974, although everyone, especially in the advanced economics, c his or her own language at all gasoline stations: PUMPS CLOSED.

The idea that the exhaustibility of mineral resources, finite in amou major concern of ours had been only rarely entertained. Masterly fronta accomplished first - incredibly today - by two economists, in France by during the eighteenth century and in England by W. Stanley Jevons during t Only by the middle of this century there appeared some perceptible interest problems of pollution, simply because being a surface phenomenon, I already reached the level at which it inconvenienced its perpetrators. But as could see the growing caves left after the mining of the underground res could see later the immense hollows of several miles in diameter created t open-pit mines) consideration of the scarcity of these resources advanced t The Paley Report, *Resources for Freedom* (1952) was a remarkable in unfolding as evidenced by the founding of the anagram institution, *Resources*, which, incredibly again, was to study only the scarcity of materials, not which there was plenty at that time in the United States).