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National security policies, through their impact on the domestic minerals industry, can significantly affect the environment. Knowledge of the environmental effects of alternative national security policies is essential to an understanding of the total environmental impact of the minerals industry. Particularly in debates about national energy policy and the oil import quota system, the paucity of knowledge about the possible effects of alternative energy policies is staggering (3). Analytical frameworks are needed for assessing the probability, duration, and intensity of an interruption of foreign petroleum supplies so that plans for alternative methods of adjusting supply and demand can be prepared (4).

The oil import quota method of assuring national security reserves through support of excess domestic capacity has been convincingly scored as a poor method of assuring petroleum reserves for national security (5). A much better alternative might be a system of government-owned natural reservoirs, strategically located and ready to produce on short notice. Such a system would have less impact on the environment, could provide more security at a lower cost, and the burden borne by citizens could be distributed more equitably (6). It would also benefit the economic development of countries that export petroleum, whose revenues would increase as a result of greater U.S. imports. Many of these issues are discussed in the report of the President’s Task Force on Oil Import Control, which recommended a phase-out of the oil import quota system (7).

The oil import quota system has probably hastened the adoption of nuclear power generating facilities, as well as the commercial production of oil from western oil-shale deposits, the drilling of high-cost offshore oil wells, and the drilling on the north slope of Alaska. Research on the relationship between national security policies, domestic mineral industries, and the natural environment is badly needed.

LARRY M. SVART
Department of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle 98195

References
5. S. L. McDonald, ibid., p. 157.

Test Bias Bibliography

Reference 6 in Clark and Plotkin’s response (Letters, 24 Dec., p. 1278) to Stanley’s article of 19 February (p. 640) contains the statement:

Accustomed as we have become for our study to be the launching pad for ETS papers, we were shocked to find that in the latest bibliography of test bias compiled by ETS (TM Reports No. 2, 1971) our study is not listed. Our problem now is to decide which is worse, misrepresentation or oblivion.

The introduction to TM Reports No. 2 states:

The bibliography is limited primarily to material which deals directly with the question of test bias; for example, research reports or commentaries. It does not list reports which are primarily descriptive in nature, such as normative studies of tests on two or more culturally or geographically different groups.


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Oxford University Press
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