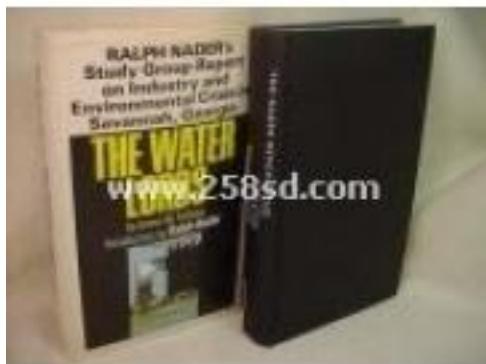


The water lords;: Ralph Nader's study group report on industry and environmental crisis in Savannah, Georgia,



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780670751600

Preface
The time is coming when the South will no longer exist as a separate and exotic province of the American experience. Many of the old monuments of regional distinction--one-party politics, one race of voters, one-crop agriculture, one-industry towns--the old symbols of a monolithic South are vanishing. The South still enjoys its share of faults but its blemishes are increasingly the faults of other parts of the country--standard American "faults. While positive in some areas this trend can also have

melancholy results. In too many areas the South is making a pell-mell dash to catch up to something that is essentially sorry and shabby in the rest of America. The South is buying some brands of progress which it would better shun: alienation from work and the land itself; the ugliness of brash new cities and suburbs; a runaway bulldozer mentality; the narrow vision that sees polluting smokestacks as simply obelisks of progress that smells in polluted air only the scent of jobs. I am speaking of that blind boosterism often found in Chambers of Commerce and business associations throughout the South which would make industrial wastelands such as Newark, New Jersey, the models of the Southern future. Since the collapse of the Populists, Southerners have become increasingly tolerant of corporate abuses which needlessly reduce the safety and beauty of their work and leisure environment. These attitudes have attracted some of the least responsible corporate enterprises to the South. It is now time to start counting their costs to the quality of Southern life. Environmental pollution is a good place to start. The South which prides itself on its open spaces and natural beauty in contrast to the congested and polluted North is now being polluted at a faster rate than any section of the nation. Seventy-five per cent of all pesticides used in the United States are used on Southern soil. Southern whites have 30 per cent more DDT in their tissue than xiii
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