

# CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW— TOXIC SUBSTANCES

REMARKS BY DEAN SPONG  
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 9, 1979

Please be seated. I want to congratulate you hardy souls who have made it through the snow to begin with us on time. I want to present, and it is a pleasure to do so, the President of the College of William and Mary, Dr. Thomas A. Graves, Jr.

*President Graves:* Thank you, Dean Spong. This weekend, as I am sure many of you know, we are celebrating the 286th birthday of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, which makes us, by some counts, the second oldest university in the country. We're also celebrating the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the first Chair of Law in America as part of our Charter Day Convocation. That means, of course, that we are going to be focusing an enormous amount of attention on the Marshall-Wythe School of Law this weekend.

Under the leadership of Dean Spong, our law school at William and Mary has been rapidly moving into the front ranks of legal education in America. I think it is especially appropriate, therefore, that this weekend, as part of that celebration, our law school is sponsoring a Conference on one of the major problems that confronts the legal profession in our society and our economy, having to do with environmental law. I do not know a great deal about the law as I am not a lawyer. I do know some things about the environment because at the moment our campus is in a process of some debate upon what may happen to our environment if we expand our football stadium.

But leaving that aside, at least for a moment, I do want to welcome all of you to this Conference and to the College of William and Mary. For those of you especially who have braved the storm and come from some distances, we are especially pleased to have you here.

As I look at your program, it promises to be a very stimulating one and a very worthwhile one. I wish I could stay for it. I cannot because I am involved in a lot of Charter Day activities. We also have on campus with us today the President's Council, which is a group of our major donors to the College of William and Mary, and I think you understand why I must be with them.

But I do want to say that I hope you enjoy your stay, especially those of you from afar who are not familiar with our campus or with this very special community of Williamsburg. Our entire campus is open to you. We have 1200 acres, 6,000 students, 500 faculty and 100 buildings. Although your program looks so tight I cannot imagine when you are going to have time for anything else, I want you to know that you're very welcome here. The hospitality of the College of William and Mary is yours for the asking. Please enjoy yourselves and come back often.

Thank you.

*Dean Spong:* On behalf of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law I'd like to add my word of greeting to you. We have many on the way by Eskimo dogsled and otherwise to join this Conference.

If you've had a chance to look at your program, you are aware that it is structured around five panels of speakers. This afternoon, the speakers will be directing their remarks toward the question "How Effective Are the Laws Regulating Toxic Substances in Virginia?" Tomorrow, and beginning this evening at the dinner, we will turn to looking at the effectiveness of laws regulating toxic substances from the federal perspective.

In each instance the format is the same. We will have a speaker. Then we will have three or four responses, and then the floor will be open to questions. The sessions will be moderated by different members of this faculty and we encourage as much audience participation as time will allow.

Now, for the first session this afternoon, the moderator will be Professor Denis Brion. Professor Brion is a graduate of Northwestern University and of the Law School of the University of Virginia. He is a member of this faculty, but this year is visiting at Washington and Lee University. He is not a stranger to the subject before us. Aside from teaching subjects that relate to the environment, he served with distinction for a number of years as a member of the State Water Control Board and, in 1976, served as its Chairman. So I'd like to present Professor Denis Brion.