Impact of plants is far-reaching

By TED DRUGG

The shrewd clock that bogus you awake. The air is scented with the odor of industry on your feet. The carpet, vinyl, rubber or wax on your floor. The water you drink, glass or steel, break your teeth with and flush. The coffee maker, including the paper filter. Your easy, changeable, condition-er and cleaning crew. The washing, the towel, the bathroom red. The newspaper. The television. The radio, tape deck, compact disc player, boom box, stress, entertainment center. The house, the refriger-ator, the sink, water and juice containers. The chains on your wrists.

I know this is a simplification, but the single thing that the chemical industry does not have to import on, said Edward McLaughlin, former dean of LSU's College of Engineering.

But each year is an entirely new. List every product you touch or use, from the time you get up until you go to bed or eat. Then ask yourself a question: Would this have been possible without the chemical industry?

"The answer is no," said Stanley H. Galli, Louisiana Chemical Association spokesman.

"The industry has somehow found a way to balance the current situation," said Galli. The nation's chemical industry has poured billions of dollars into new plants and equipment, spavens, equipment and worker salaries and benefits.

In the Baton Rouge area, the weekly pay for a worker in the petrochemical industry averaged $39.57 in 1972, state Labor Department records show.

American firms shared patents and technology that they developed with the British multinational Imperial Chemical Industries, said Ronald Fink, who has written a book on the history of the industry. A British company, ICI, has a 25 percent share in Lyondell Chemical Co., the world's largest petrochemical producer.

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