

In fact, if I may say so, one benefit of this exercise was an analysis of some of this data we did not really appreciate. When we saw this table we thought it would be interesting to divide the number of agreements with States on a basis of the purely arbitrary line of the Mississippi River. Many people think of Interior as a western department but when you balance out our agreements with the State agencies east and west of the Mississippi, you come out almost even. Although there is no reason to relinquish the pride we have in relating Interior efforts to the development of western resources, it is evident that we are a truly national department. The dispersal of our scientists, engineers, and facilities is such that we can also think of Interior's program in the same light as a university extension service. One object is to put our facilities and engineers where the problems are. This is important for our people who then obtain firsthand knowledge of the problems to be solved.

I would also like to bring out one or two points here about Interior facilities that I think you will be interested in. Interior operates 18 high seas oceanographic vessels, 14 for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, three for the Bureau of Mines, and one for the U.S. Geological Survey. Additional ship space is obtained by charter. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife makes effective use of a two-man submersible and other small submarines have been used under charter.

We also have 12 mobile laboratories that measure everything from gold dust to fish and the characteristics of the environment for each.

The Geological Survey, by the way, is perfecting a 10-wheel lunar exploration vehicle called Trespasser which, when NASA can get it up there, will roll on the moon.

As you know, we have concentrations of snowmobiles, instrumented airplanes, trucks, and radar units converging on western mountain slopes to develop means of augmenting the natural snowfall to irrigate more of next summer's crop.

This, then, Mr. Chairman, is the nature of your investment in this particular team.

As the Secretary said, in the past we have been helping the American people live off the land. The challenge now is much greater because we must help our people live in harmony with the land. This is not going to be easy despite all of our science of the past. For example, even the basic ecological relations are not well understood. We live in ignorance of the details and sensitivity of the balances of nature that exist all around us. Until such basic knowledge is obtained we will not be able to measure accurately the effects of man's actions on his surroundings.

The clean river basin is an attainable goal providing we agree on how clean is clean as determined not only from the standpoint of potability of the drinking water but what kind of biota it should support—in what mix, over what distance, and in the presence of what human activity.

We are overflowing from our continents into the marine areas. How are the shippers, miners, oil drillers, fishermen, waste disposers, sportsmen, explorers, and the military going to work together on our Continental Shelves?

Another question which concerns me is whether we must soon zone the total United States in the same way we do municipalities: for