

Through September of this year there have been 6 million visitors to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This is one of the great recreational areas. It has problems. It has problems in the field of pollution. There has been some controversy between the State and the Federal Government.

I don't expect you to know those answers right now but I hope before you take over your new duties you can spend sufficient time with Frank Di Luzio to give me a report as to a suggested method of attacking the problem. You may know more about it than I think you do. I don't know whether you are familiar with the problem of Lake Mead or not.

Mr. EDWARDS. I can only comment to this extent, Senator Bible: First of all, it will certainly have top priority. I think that nutrient and phosphorous pollution is the most insidious kind because sometimes you can have a potable, clear water and still have it contain nutrients which will feed algae and create the situation which you are describing at Lake Mead. Certainly we do not want that to happen.

The same situation is developing at Lake Tahoe. That has to be stopped, because in no place in the country, I suppose, is there a finer body of water than Lake Tahoe.

To have the scientific knowledge and the legislative equipment that we have and not do something about these problems is sinful. So, you have my assurance that we will work hard on it.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate that.

You mentioned a second problem area, among other things which I had reference to, which falls directly into your jurisdiction. That is Lake Tahoe. As you know, this is two-thirds in the State of California and one-third in my State of Nevada.

Again, we have a very, very bad problem there and it is intensifying and worsening. It is caught between the various municipalities in the two States. They are having a special session of the legislature to try to enter into some compact to solve this problem. I am sure that the Federal Government can be extremely helpful here. Again, I urge you to give that top priority.

I have no problem at all, Mr. Chairman, in supporting this nomination. I think Mr. Edwards does outstanding work and I think we will keep him busy in the new area to which he is going.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Bible.

Senator Moss.

Senator Moss. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to say that since I have been in the Senate and on this committee I have had occasion to work with Max Edwards very closely and I consider him a most competent and able administrator and public servant. Therefore, I feel that he can perform the duties of this assignment with exceptional ability.

I would like to confirm what has been said by my colleagues, that we have problem areas all around us. You are going to be under pressure to perform perhaps what seems to be beyond the abilities of the manpower under your control or the appropriation moneys available, but there is no possibility of relaxing your efforts because of this burgeoning problem of pollution in so many areas.

I served on the Public Works Committee where we worked out the first bill that caused the creation of this department that you now will head upon confirmation. I am aware of the tremendous problems