It is reasonable to ask that the federal government, which expects to receive some $300,000,000 in bonus money from companies bidding for the 110 leases to be offered for sale on Feb. 6, and additional millions in royalties in future years. set aside a percentage of this income as a pollution insurance fund to provide compensation for any damages resulting from the development of such leases.

Such a fund, built up and controlled by the federal government, would provide some compensation for public and private property damage from pollution that might be attributed by the oil companies to a natural cause or "act of God," and so would not be collectible in the courts.

One suggestion that has been offered is that the federal government set aside 1 per cent of all income from these leases and royalties, at least until an adequate reserve has been established; and that it should cover drilling and facilities in state-owned tidelands as well as the federal areas.

The assistance and support of California's two senators and Congressman Teague might well be invited by the county in studying this matter, and preparing legislation for Congress.

[From the Congressional Record, June 12, 1967]

CRISIS IN CONSERVATION

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, in the March 1967, issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin, there appears an article entitled "Crisis in Conservation," written by THOMAS H. KUCHEL, U.S. Senator from California.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed at this point in the Record.

(There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:)

CRISIS IN CONSERVATION

(By Thomas H. Kuchel, U.S. Senator from California)

It was little more than a century ago when waves of Americans sweeping across the country reached the Pacific Ocean and were turned back upon themselves. During the westward expansion, our nation had few people and an "inexhaustible" supply of land and natural resources. But, as oceans fenced in our territorial growth and population made increasing demands upon our dwindling resources, it has become clear that immense value must be placed on the remaining uncluttered, unspoiled and unique parts of our nation. One quarter of a billion humans are added to the face of this earth every four years, and we must bear the heavy burden of minimizing the destructive force of our rapid population growth.

Facing this burden, Congress and the States have acted in the public interest—the interest of today's public as well as posterity—in establishing vast new park and recreation areas in the past few years.

However, the conservation program of the United States is facing a crisis. The crisis is the lack of money.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created two years ago to

"Assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations and visitors . . . outdoor recreation resources . . . and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States by (1) providing funds for and authorizing Federal assistance to the states in planning, acquisition, and development of needed land and water areas and facilities, and (2) providing funds for the Federal acquisition and development of certain lands and other areas."

The revenues coming into the Fund are made up of the amount realized from entrance and user fees collected at Federal recreation areas, sale of surplus property and miscellaneous fuel taxes.

When the enabling legislation was before Congress, it was estimated that the income of the Fund would be up to $230 million per year. If these amounts were realized, the American people could move forward to complete the splendid State and Federal park and wilderness system we have planned. Herein lies the problem.

While the surplus property sales and fuel tax revenues have proceeded as predicted, the entrance and user fees collected have been substantially below expectations. Instead of the low of $125 million per year planned coming into the Fund, only around $101 million has been realized. The greatest disappoint-