

educational institutions as the legislature of each State may direct. The distribution hereinabove provided of all moneys received after the effective date hereof shall also apply to all receipts after the effective date hereof, which are being or are to be held in escrow or suspense pending the determination of any controversy as to whether the lands on account of which said moneys are received constitute a part of the Outer Continental Shelf or a part of the lands of the State adjacent thereto."

SEC. 6. Section 35 of the Minerals Leasing Act, approved February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 191), is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 35. DISPOSITION OF MONEYS RECEIVED.—All money received from sales, bonuses, royalties, and rentals of public lands under the provisions of this Act shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States; 60 per centum thereof shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury as soon as practicable after December 31 and June 30 of each year to the State or territory within the boundaries of which the leased lands or deposits are or were located; said moneys to be used by such State, territory, or subdivisions thereof for the construction and maintenance of public roads or for the support of public schools or other public educational institutions, as the legislature of the State or territory may direct; and, excepting those from Alaska, 30 per centum thereof shall be paid into, reserved, and appropriated, as a part of the reclamation fund created by the Act of Congress, known as the Reclamation Act, approved June 17, 1902, as amended, and of those from Alaska 30 per centum thereof shall be paid to the State of Alaska for disposition by the legislature thereof: *Provided*, That all moneys which may accrue to the United States under the provisions of this Act from lands within the naval petroleum reserves shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. All moneys received under the provisions of this Act not otherwise disposed of by this section shall be credited to miscellaneous receipts."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 20, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your letter of February 3, 1968, requested this Department's report and comment on S. 1826, a bill "Relating to the conservation of natural resources upon lands of the United States and amending certain provisions of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Mineral Leasing Act."

We recommend against the enactment of S. 1826.

Section 2 of the bill would define the term "natural resources." The definition covers the specific minerals now in the Mineral Leasing Act. The use of the term "include" raises questions as to whether it covers other minerals not mentioned in that Act.

CONSERVATION LAWS RE: FEDERAL LANDS

Section 3 of the bill would make the laws and regulations relating to the conservation of natural resources of each State applicable to the exploration, development, and production of such resources from (1) all lands owned by the United States, e.g., national wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, public domain, and Corps of Engineers lands, including mineral interests; and (2) lands held in trust by the United States, e.g., Indian lands. In addition, such laws of the coastal States adjacent to the Outer Continental Shelf would be extended to the subsoil and seabed of the Shelf which would be within the boundaries of each such State, if its boundaries were extended to the full width of the Shelf and to any lands beyond the Shelf's margin which are owned or claimed by the United States. The specific conservation laws are those designed "to prevent the physical and economic waste" of the natural resources, "as well as providing for the protection of correlative rights of all parties having an interest in the natural resources." The bill would transfer from the Federal Government to such States the authority to administer and enforce these conservation laws with respect to those lands and other interests of the United States.