

the Louisiana congressional delegation recently held, it was agreed that Hon. John J. McKeithen, Governor of Louisiana, would present the case for Louisiana.

I have read his statement and concur with it. I do not propose to reiterate the views expressed by him.

I am, however, in wholehearted agreement with the general purposes of the bill, and I am convinced of the great benefits which will accrue to the American people from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

There is one feature of the bill which I believe poses serious disadvantages, and I would urge this committee to consider it carefully. Section 8 would earmark certain revenues of the Federal Government derived from the Outer Continental Shelf Act of 1953 for the exclusive use of the land and water conservation fund.

I believe that this is an unwise provision for several reasons. First, as a legislator I am convinced that it is unwise and actually hazardous for the operation of the Government to be hamstrung by dedicated revenues.

Congress has done this to a limited degree in the past, but I believe it is a serious mistake to further encroach upon the Government's ability to respond to any fiscal crisis which may arise.

We have all seen the disastrous effect upon State governments which have attempted to operate under a rigid system of dedicated revenues to fund specific programs.

Many of our State governments, including even those with enormous budgets, have so restricted their revenues by dedicating them for specific purposes that they cannot meet the day-to-day crises which confront them.

Secondly, I believe that the earmarking of these particular revenues from the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lands should not be done now in view of the fact that the controversy between the United States and Louisiana has not been settled.

At this point it cannot be determined how much of the funds held in escrow belong to the U.S. Government under the interim agreement of October 12, 1956. It seems to me that before this money is committed to any particular purpose that the issues between the Federal and State governments should be resolved.

As members of the committee will recall, Congress attempted to settle the controversy between the Federal Government and the coastal States by the passage of the Submerged Lands Act of 1954. As the committee will recall, Louisiana's ownership of the 3-mile strip of the coastal bottom was recognized.

The controversy today, of course, involves the determination of the outer limits of the 3-mile strip. If the committee insists upon earmarking funds for the purposes of this bill, I do believe that it should wait until the disputes heretofore mentioned are finally settled.

Mr. Chairman, I would reemphasize my belief that it is extremely unwise to dedicate revenues of the Federal Government to any specific purpose.

I repeat, I favor the objectives of the committee's bill and I hope to be able to support it, and I intend to do so if this provision of the earmarked fund is omitted.