

It is common knowledge that the entire world faces a serious food crisis and yet we in the United States have only scratched the surface of research in this area.

In my own State one company has reported that preliminary results of experiments with regard to shrimp production, for example, indicate that some 200 pounds of shrimp can be produced from each acre of coastal estuary or marshland.

This opens tremendous fields of development and offers promise of immense additional sources of protein for human consumption. And yet I am told in India shrimp farming techniques in use there have yielded as much as 1,000 pounds of shrimp per acre.

We are far, far behind in this field.

We are also tragically behind, tragically neglectful, in my humble opinion in our efforts to discover and develop other resources of the sea. We just do not know what resources exist off our shores, and we have failed to apply either the dedication or the money necessary to get the job done.

We have also fallen far back in the field of pollution abatement and in devising ways and means of controlling, or, even better yet, preventing the pollution of our oceans, rivers, and streams.

We are also inviting disaster by failing to devise an adequate system of hurricane protection to protect the areas which produce the very revenues we are considering here today.

In the last decade Louisiana alone has suffered three disastrous hurricanes—Audrey, Hilda, and Betsy. Hurricane Audrey took a fearsome toll of lives in the Cameron area.

Damage resulting from Hurricane Betsy exceeded a billion dollars, the greatest insurance loss the Nation has ever known, much of it suffered by shore bases for offshore mineral operations.

We cannot logically expect continued development of our marine resources unless we protect the facilities needed for such development from natural disaster.

Thus Louisiana suggests the dedication of a major share of offshore mineral revenues to research into our ocean frontiers, for oceanography, pollution abatement, and expansion of our fishery resources.

We must prevent the dissipation of these resources; we must wisely invest them in additional development and research; we must provide a concentrated effort toward the exploration of America's last frontier, the sea.

Just as a major part of the revenues derived from the Federal lands of the interior are dedicated to the further development of those lands, so must we submit, a major part of the revenues derived from the Federal submerged lands be applied to the development of our ocean frontiers.

Indeed, the national interest dictates that this is the only proper approach. Congress must enact a permanent program governing revenues derived from the sea—a program tailored along the same lines as existing programs applicable to the interior States. We feel the national interest cannot afford anything less.

This is the kind of program Louisiana advocates and urges to the Congress, and this is the kind of program Louisiana will work to achieve.