

Now that is a million dollars of property damage from only one hurricane. In Hurricane Audrey, that occurred about 5 or 6 years prior to that, one-quarter of the entire population of Cameron Parish, where the principal occupation is developing these oil resources, one-quarter of the entire population was killed. Thus the tremendous burden of adequately protecting these people, and providing them with other resources while they work the sea, is just as great as it is for upland States, where similar problems exist, and let me say that I personally would like to refer to the history of the Congress with regard to Federal lands.

If Senators recall, initially, when the Federal Government started carving out, the 13 States owned virtually all their lands and the Federal Government owned virtually none of it.

But when the Government started carving out additional lands, the first States to become members of the Union were permitted to have all the Federal lands that the Federal Government had owned, that were made a part of those States.

States like Kentucky, Tennessee, and even my own State of Louisiana, so far as there was land there, it was regarded, unless the Federal Government had some need of it, as being land that was turned over to the States, and subsequent acts took care of what they did not turn over, such as the Overflow Land Act and others that came along. Thus the States that joined the Union early, after the original 13, were permitted to have virtually 100 percent of all lands that was held there.

It was held, in effect, in trust for them.

But as some of these Western States came in, conservationists contended that the Federal Government could use this money better, and could develop this land better for the benefit of those States than the States themselves could.

Now I believe the committee would do well to refresh its memory, and I would be glad to have the benefit of the staff study on that. You have some very fine staff people here, whom I have had the privilege of working with in years gone by.

So it was said that "What are we going to do with all this land? There is nobody on it. So how do we develop it?" And they said, "Well, the Federal Government will hold it, and we will develop it as we think could best meet the needs, could best help those people."

And that being the case, the upland States, in the western area, so well represented on this committee, were accorded 37½ percent of all mineral revenues directly, and the rest of it was not directed in some way that was going to benefit Louisiana—or Kentucky or Virginia or Georgia.

We had no right to claim any of that. We had had the benefit of all of our land, why should we claim any of theirs?

And so we did not claim 5 cents of revenue that was to come from the minerals developed in Wyoming, and/or Washington State, or New Mexico, or Washington. None of it. And insofar as we got any of it, it is a complete accident, and as far as Senators and Congressmen from those States were concerned, it was felt that 37½ percent would go to help those State governments to discharge their duties and responsibilities toward their people. They needed revenue so someone could live there, and then going beyond that, it was felt that what