

bility at Interior, the bulk of construction is assigned the Corps of Engineers in the Department of Defense. In addition, the Federal Power Commission is authorized to grant licenses for the construction of hydroelectric dams on rivers. If ocean resources are included in this resource category, three other agencies of government must be added to the list.

Typical conflicts of interest arising in the case of river basin planning would find the Corps of Engineers (Defense) concerned with many aspects of flood control and waterway development; the Soil Conservation Service (Agriculture) concerned with upland watershed protection; the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (Interior) concerned with fish habitat and recreation; and the Federal Power Commission granting licenses for the construction of hydroelectric facilities.

Earlier Proposals

Several earlier proposals contained provisions similar to S. 886.

Secretary Ickes in 1938 suggested that the Interior Department be changed into a Department of Conservation.

In 1949, a task force of the first Hoover Commission defined the functions of a proposed Department of Natural Resources, the establishment of which President Truman supported until 1951.

President Eisenhower in his last budget message suggested that the water func-

S. 886 would create a national Department of Natural Resources, absorbing the present Department of the Interior—but exclude a number of Interior functions that fall outside the natural resources category—and include a number of resource-related agencies and functions of other Departments.

The Secretary of Interior, to be redesignated Secretary of Natural Resources, would be assisted by a Deputy Secretary and two Under Secretaries for Water and Lands. All would be appointed by the President with Senate confirmation.

The proposed agency and functional changes in resources administration are shown below.

To Department of Natural Resources from Department of Agriculture:

1. Forest Service.
2. Watershed Protection and Flood Protection (16 U.S.C. 1001-1008).
3. Construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes (58 Stat. 887).

To Department of Natural Resources from Department of Defense: Civil work functions of the Corps of Engineers.¹

To Department of Natural Resources from Department of Navy: Functions relating to National Oceanographic Data Center.

To Department of Natural Resources from National Science Foundation: Functions relating to sea grant programs (title II of Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act, 80 Stat. 998).

To Department of Natural Resources from Department of Health, Education, and Welfare:

1. Functions under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857, et seq.).
2. Functions under the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 3251).

3. All other air pollution control functions.