

two centuries ago, but the effects of this technological revolution on the natural environment of the United States is, of course, what makes essential the passage of a bill such as S. 886 which would provide coordination of the activities of the many Federal agencies having responsibilities in the natural resource field.

The tremendous pressure which technological progress has exerted on our environment is widely recognized. Just one aspect—pollution of water, air and land—has been the subject of numerous books, magazine articles, television programs, editorials and speeches. I believe it is correct to say that Congress has passed more constructive water legislation in the past 5 years than at any time in our history. Concern for our natural heritage gave impetus to the program to preserve and restore natural beauty which has received so much attention both from the White House and the Congress.

The scheduling of these hearings at a time when the Committee on Government Operations has a heavy load of other work demonstrates your recognition of the importance of this problem. I personally appreciate the action on the part of the Subcommittee on Executive

management that are both efficient and economical. In my mind, let me discuss briefly our existing Federal organization.

Water resource development is the area of most critical need. In this field, we have three major departments with primary responsibility; the Department of Defense; the Department of Agriculture; and the Department of the Interior. Until recently, there was a fourth—Health, Education, and Welfare, but last year the President transferred the Water Pollution Control Administration from HEW to Interior.

SEVERAL AGENCIES DEAL WITH WATER RESOURCES

The functions of these agencies in the water resource field were initiated to provide answers to specific problems. The Army Corps of Engineers began with an appropriation of \$75,000 to remove sandbars and "sawyers, planters, and snags" from the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to aid navigation. The Bureau of Reclamation was created in 1902 to reclaim the land of 17 States for agriculture. Their beginnings came in earlier days of the technological revolution of which I have spoken, when it appeared unnecessary to pay much heed to resource destruction. With the passage of the years, and our increase in population and wealth, their tasks have necessarily grown in both scope and complexity. Today they perform many similar or identical tasks

The field of water planning has long been recog-