

ago in a speech in Boston. I think Senator Moss, in introducing the legislation to do it, deserves the gratitude of all of us. Similarly, the distinguished chairman of this subcommittee, by giving the bill a public hearing, has done much to foster an informed public discussion of the need for it.

It is plain that many technical questions . . .
I believe one of the most thrilling parts of government and the philosophy of the American people in the last half dozen years is the revival of interest and dedication to conservation of natural resources.

There is a realization that this is a national problem. We are all dedicated to trying to beautify America and preserve what we have, especially when we realize the fantastic growth and urbanization of this Nation with a population anticipated at 300 million by the year 2000.

I am grateful to Senator Moss and his position on the Interior Committee when he proposed the Connecticut River Park and Recreation Area that you are such an ardent advocate of, too, Senator Kennedy. The western Senators understand the need of developing our resources in the East as well as in the West.

HEARINGS OPEN NATIONAL DIALOG ON CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSAL

There is no question that the creation of this department is probably as controversial as any reorganization proposal that could be advanced. It is going to take a lot of debate and discussion and much controversy, but I do believe that all of us—the Government and the people—are better off by having had these hearings. We want to open as you pointed out, there is an increasing interest among the States of the East, and in New England particularly, for preservation. I am mindful of the fact that only in the last 2 or 3 years have we had State action to preserve estuaries in Massachusetts, and also to preserve the wet lands. It was with this in mind that for the last 2 years I have introduced legislation to preserve our estuaries all across the country. In the last few years we have also seen, in my own State, the passage of a law to provide tax incentives for those who bequeath or donate undeveloped land to the State. This is a rather unusual