

STATEMENT OF SENATOR GALE MCGEE (D-WYO.)

Mr. Chairman, the testimony I offer this morning is to favor a vital piece of legislation introduced by Senator Moss, myself, and others to redesignate the Department of the Interior as the Department of Natural Resources and to transfer certain agencies to and from such Department.

Legislation which takes such a broad, but absolutely compelling step undoubtedly means there will be cries of pain from two types of protesters. The first of these types will be those who go into shocked anguish when a *name* is changed. The second type is that person who views any change as a threat to what he views as his own fixed and God-given order of things.

In regard to the first type, those who quiver at changing words, it is thus that changing the name of the Department of the Interior to the Department of Natural Resources over a long period of time as a necessary step in changing the natural and must be, one must once again point to the fundamental fact of life—the fact of change—which means that from time to time that the administration of the consequences of change must also change.

There isn't a person in Congress and the government who isn't aware of the hodge-podge of agencies that deal with natural resources. At times indeed the competing and contending activities of the agencies and bureaus within the various departments charged with the care of our natural resources boggles one's reason. By the same token, one cannot help but be impressed by the skill and dedication of the employees in all of these agencies and departments. Yet we are faced with incredible complexities in administering our natural resources; and the murky conglomeration of agencies and bureaus, too many times contending with one another for jurisdiction, do not make the problem any easier. For example, the development of our water resources is made unduly difficult, if we are concerned with the entire river basin concept, as long as independent bureaus with traditional loyalties and jealous clientele carve up the development and management of tasks.

This Nation faces a two-fold task in developing overall river basin planning. First, this country must find and find quickly increased supplies of clean water; and second, we must manage with far more wisdom than we have used thus far the water supplies we now have. The total management of water resources involves a variety of functions. Among others are watershed protection and management, flood control, river and harbor improvements, irrigation, fish and wildlife, recreation, desalinization, and pollution. This whole package must be tied together. We must plan for entire river basins from their sources to their mouths.

Even should authorities be successfully established for every river basin, how-
determines water quality, sedimentation, desalinization, pollution and water
not to mention the vital role that the Department of Housing and Urban Development should play. Below the departmental level, a Pandora's box opens. In Interior alone we have this array of agencies—the Bureau of Reclamation, three