

of American Samoa. We have cooperated in sending Peace Corps volunteers to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to aid in the effort to bring those people into full participation in the 20th century. The overall management of the territories has been a longtime responsibility of this Department and it is one that we have been keenly aware of, one that we would regret losing.

It should be noted that the Indian program and the Territories program do not fit neatly into any one Department. The programs require the participation of many Federal agencies—Housing, Transportation, Small Business, Economic Opportunity, and Regional Development, to mention some. A transfer to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare would not advance the purpose of this bill, which is to consolidate responsibility for natural resource management, and would conflict with that purpose by transferring important land management functions. Incidentally, the problem of Indian lands in multiple ownership—the so-called heirship problem—is one that most agencies would be reluctant to accept.

Most of my statement has been aimed at the effect this bill will have on the new Department that it creates and the additions that will be made to it. I am sure your Committee will also want to consider carefully the results of taking functions away from existing Departments and agencies.

In conclusion, let me say that the functions of the Departments and agencies of the executive branch and their relationship one to another are being constantly studied, and the results of these studies are the reorganization plans submitted to the Congress from time to time. We know that there is room for improvement. We hope that both the executive branch and the Congress will continue to consider all proposals that will result in better service to the public.

Senator RIBICOFF: Mr. Hughes, on the ground covered in the statement.

STATEMENT OF PHILLIP S. HUGHES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

Senator RIBICOFF: Your statement is an excellent history of Federal activities in the natural resources field. I will tell you what I do not understand about the statement, namely: what your position is.

Is the Bureau of the Budget for or against Senator Moss' proposal?

Mr. HUGHES: Mr. Chairman, on April 13 of this year, responsive to the subcommittee's request, we did submit a report on the bill indicating that we did not favor the legislation at this time.

Senator RIBICOFF: You are against it?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes.

(The report referred to by Mr. Hughes follows:)

EXHIBIT 12

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,

Washington, D.C., April 13, 1967.

Hon. ABRAHAM RIBICOFF,
Chairman, Subcommittee on