

and the river basin commissions that are evolving as the result of that act.

That is the first development that I wished to mention.

And the other consideration is the establishment within the Department of the Interior of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and under rotating chairmanship, the President's Council on Recreation and Natural Beauty, which has coordinating functions in that area somewhat similar to those of the Water Resources Council in the water area.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Senator RIBICOFF. There have been many suggestions that we create a Natural Resources Advisory Council similar to the Council of Economic Advisers in this field. Have you ever given any thought to this? And if you have, what is the reaction of the Bureau of the Budget to a Natural Resources Advisory Council to the President? I have not dealt with it really in the context of our consideration of this legislation. I think it is worthy of some exploration. We would be happy to consider it. I think my offhand reaction would be favorable.

Senator RIBICOFF. Well, I wonder, in the days ahead when you have time, whether the Corps of Engineers, the Interior Department and the Budget Bureau would not explore—

Mr. HUGHES. We certainly will, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RIBICOFF (continuing). This thought.

Thank you, very much.

Senator Moss?

#### CONSOLIDATION OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE NEEDED

Senator Moss. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have not read your statement very carefully, Mr. Hughes, but I have gone through it. You have a paragraph on page 14 that sounds pretty good to me, and I read it:

With a Department of Natural Resources, the President and the Congress could look to a single Department head, rather than the group of Department heads composing the Water Resources Council, for leadership and policy recommendations geared to the national interest and the conservation of the