

Mr. Chairman; I appreciate this opportunity to file a statement on S. 886, which would establish a Department of Natural Resources. This is important legislation that highlights the need to review the functions of many Federal agencies involved in resource development in order to determine whether their role might be more properly carried out in a single agency.

I support the concept that the development of this nation's natural resources should be charged with the responsibility of developing and managing this nation's natural resources. Flood control, recreation, navigation, hydroelectric power and irrigation are legitimate water resource management areas and might well fall within the jurisdiction of one Federal department.

However, I am convinced that environmental quality enjoys a unique posture within the administrative structure. On the surface it might be argued that air and water quality control is part of one overall resource management program. Although this is true, it must also be considered in relation to the other resource development programs within that agency in order to assure absence of conflicts of interest.

As an example I would like to cite the present situation in the Department of Interior. That Department has responsibility for irrigation, power marketing and mineral resource development. From time to time each of these respon-

Service, such as is contemplated under S. 2435, should consider the desirability of replacing the present Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and Bureau of Commercial Fisheries by a new Bureau of Fishery Resources and a new Bureau of Wildlife Resources, the former new Bureau to concern itself with inland, estuarine, and marine fishes, and related matters, and the latter new Bureau to concern itself principally with mammalian and avian resources, and related matters, both without over reference to special user interests."

The "overt trade-oriented activities" of reference in the subject resolution include various activities in promoting utilization of fishery products as food, the development of fishing gear and exploratory fishing for exploitation of the fish resources, and the subsidization of fishing vessel construction, and related functions.

Thank you for the privilege of submitting this statement for the record before October 31, in lieu of opportunity for public testimony.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD H. STROUD,
Executive Vice President.

EXHIBIT 19

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., October 24, 1967.

HON. ABRAHAM RIBICOFF,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization, Committee on Government Operations, U.S. Senate.

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Service of this Department and the U.S. Washington, D.C.