

try and bring some order out of the oceanographic endeavors of this country. It was my experience during this time that first of all, the establishment of an institution in the form of a department within the Federal Government was not a resolution to the problem. That it would simply set up additional competition and additional duplication. It would not arrive at any organization in that area. It would not enable the bringing of more real order out of the rather chaotic circumstances that happen to exist in the field of oceanography. I believe the same general principles apply to the matter before this committee, and would urge that the device that was finally utilized by the Congress after a number of drafts be utilized here. I urge an organism which would generally be responsible for the handling of ecological or environmental problems in a wise and orderly fashion by coordinating departmental efforts.

It was my experience that the establishment of a new department would accomplish very little except to multiply the competitions that happen to exist.

I believe a worthwhile and meaningful device exists for the establishment of order out of the rather chaotic use of our environment that happens to exist today.

Perhaps the best model for this is the Council of Economic Advisers who have for years engaged in trying to establish some order out of the rather chaotic and laissez faire economic system that this country had had for many years. The remarkable success of that agency is pretty well known by all persons, whether they be conservatives or liberals in the field of economics.

And the success of this country in establishing a remarkable pattern of growth and an extraordinary pattern of economic stability is in large part traceable to the Council of Economic Advisers established under the Full Employment Act of 1946.

It is my belief, Mr. Chairman, that if something similar were done, using this as a model in the field of environmental use, we might well look forward to something similar happening in the field of environmental sciences.

I have had a number of contacts and a great deal of correspondence with the ecologists and others in this area and they have uniformly and warmly endorsed and accepted the idea that something of this sort should be done.

I could not offer you any assurances over the short haul that great things could be accomplished, but I believe that the experiences that we have had with similar problems, referring now again to the Council of Economic Advisers, and of course to the efforts that we have finally successfully achieved to order our environmental research in the field of oceanography, that I can offer you rather firm expectation that over the long period the knowledge that is necessary for man to live in harmony with his environment and to understand the changes he is making, how these changes may be modified and controlled, so that he may look forward to long term availability of resources, will flow from the establishment of a council on environmental quality, or perhaps council of ecological advisers, as it has been called. This idea goes back to some discussions I had with the task force established