

politics of operating programs and individual interests, free to draw independent conclusion and to formulate a broad policy which would be of nationwide benefit.

I am pleased that this Subcommittee is continuing its inquiry into the status and condition of our natural environment. My bill, a brief analysis of which is submitted for the record, was referred by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Science and Astronautics on April 17, 1967. It is my sincere hope that it will be acted on favorably by the Committee.

We know that man, as the dominant species, is the focal point of his environment. Man has created the environmental problems which confront him today; he must now move swiftly to remedy them in order that the environment may continue to meet his needs rather than destroy him. We can no longer subordinate environment to our technology; rather, technology must become a servant to our natural environment, shaped and adapted to the conditions we want to live in. Enactment of H.R. 7796, the proposed Environmental Quality Act, can effectively aid us in a nationwide effort to consider the consequences of our actions and take a rational approach toward improving and maintaining the chosen quality of our environment.

Mr. DADDARIO. Our next witness is the Congressman from Hawaii, Mr. Spark M. Matsunaga, who has introduced a bill, H.R. 14605.

We are pleased, Mr. Matsunaga, to have you here this morning. We are anxious to listen to your advice and recognizing that you have a statement, you can proceed in any way you like.

STATEMENT OF HON. SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM HAWAII

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee.

Since the statement is very short, Mr. Chairman, I will read it for the purpose of conserving time.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I thank you for this opportunity of appearing before you and expressing my views with respect to H.R. 14605, a bill to create in the Executive Offices of the President a Council of Ecological Advisers.

This is an identical bill introduced by my colleague from California, Mr. Tunney.

The distinguished Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Stewart L. Udall, a former Congressman from Arizona, has summed up our traditional attitudes toward our environment in these words:

We have accepted noise, foul air, (and) dirty rivers as inevitable consequences of industrialization . . . But now we are changing our basic assumptions. We have been a filthy generation. What will become of our grandchildren if we don't change our approach?

Secretary Udall's concern is shared by men of science who have voiced their opinions with increasing frequency in recent months. There is a sense of urgency in the scientific world that meaningful studies ought to be undertaken—and soon—in the field of ecology, the branch of science which deals with the relationship of living organisms to their environment, including man and his surroundings.

An understanding of the need that H.R. 14605 and similar bills would fulfill may be gained by a closer look at the study of ecology itself and what it involves. The basic unit in ecological studies is the ecosystem, which is the total complex of plants, animals, terrain, climate, etc. For example, a forest area may be studied as an ecosystem. Such a study would include the interrelationships between the trees, the smaller plants and animals living in the forest, and nonliving factors such as climate and soil conditions.