Background

Points made

1. Water is precious and management problems are very complex.
2. Consideration should be given to conservation and augmentation of existing water supplies.
3. The commission will judge the quality of our present efforts.
4. It will recommend long-range plans for the future.

Need

Points made

1. An ample supply of water is essential to growth.
2. Greater attention must be given to conservation and more efficient use.
3. Our water supply is not distributed to meet our most most urgent requirements.
4. In all areas there are serious problems because of floods and pollution.
5. National requirements are rapidly continuing to increase in relation to our available supply.
6. Water resource management problems are becoming more complex.
7. A comprehensive review of national water resource problems and programs has become a matter of urgent need.

Over the 48 contiguous states there is approximately 30 inches of rainfall annually. 70% of this amount (21 inches) never becomes a concentrated supply but is evaported or transpired by vegetation. The remainder, termed runoff, about 1,100 billion gallons per day is called our gross, potentially available water supply. In the East there is about 14.7 inches of average annual runoff. This accounts for about 72% of the 48 contiguous states' runoff. In the West, a region covering more than half of the geographic area of the 48 contiguous states, there is only 2.3 inches of average annual runoff. This is less than 16% of the 48 contiguous states' average annual runoff. The Pacific Northwest being both arid and humid has an average annual runoff of about 11.7 inches.

Flood control

We are opposed to any provision of law which will impede efforts to control rivers by up-stream flood prevention practices. The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act has done much to restore the face of this nation by preventing erosion. In addition, dams economically justified have made other areas frequently ravaged by devastating floods inhabitable without the fear of impending disaster. These activities have expanded the economic base of our communities, states and nation. Such resource management has made local governments better able to cope with their many economic problems.

Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Soil Conservation Service, periodically develops a projection of land shifts into new uses. The 1965 report states that by 1975 an estimated 101 million acres of land will be needed for new uses as follows:

> Thirty million acres for new cropland, 44 million acres for new pasture and range, 18 milion acres for new forest and woodland and 7 million acres for other new land needs.

These are the estimated land needs and shifts in land uses in the next ten years. What will the nation's land needs be by the year 2000?

Chief of the Forest Service Edward P. Cliff, at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Range Management on February 7, 1967 stated:

> Population pressures from 240 million people in 1980 will require livestock production on 950 million acres, or roughly half of our total land area in just the next 13 years.

What happens to farmers' or ranchers' source of water in the affected areas? What assurance is there that farmers and ranchers can continue such practices as are necessary to their economic survival? Who is liable if a recreationist is injured on private property? What recourse does a landowner have in recovering damages caused by vandals? These problems are faced by farmers and ranchers today. As one's property becomes more exposed to the public, his losses from such exposure increase.