

Secretary UDALL. First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the decision of this committee to have one hearing and consider all of the pending water pollution bills.

Without doubt, in my judgment the legislation you are considering here today is as vital as any conservation legislation pending before this Congress. And I am very hopeful that we can get legislation before the Congress adjourns in the very vital areas of full funding for water pollution grants to meet the requirements of the 1966 act as well as action to give us the remedies and the tools we need to combat oil pollution.

You have before you this morning clean water legislation proposed by the administration—namely the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968—the Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Control Act of 1968, and legislation to control pollution from vessels within navigable waters. We urge enactment of these bills.

Additionally, we urge the enactment of S. 2760, already passed by the Senate, which deals with important aspects of the oil pollution problem, as well as with lake eutrophication and acids and other mine water pollution.

#### THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1968

It is the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968 that I would like to discuss first, Mr. Chairman. I would say that no conservation measure is more important. I think this legislation holds the key to shifting into high gear the water pollution control program—a level that we are now ready to achieve after 2 years of very hard work to establish our water quality standards. We are at the point now where if we can get the right action tempo at the local level by the cities, with the States and the Federal Government doing their part, then I think we can see the fur really fly in terms of water pollution action.

The Water Quality Act of 1965, of course, calls for the establishment of enforceable State water standards on all interstate and coastal waters. We have approved, I think, 29 or 30 of the State standards. The rest will be approved soon. I would say we are making very good headway with regard to the water quality standards.

In these standards are included implementation plans which call for the construction of needed waste treatment works on a timely basis.

Indeed, water quality standards submitted by a State is a schedule, an action timetable to get the cleanup program down. But of course all of these municipal treatment works cost money, large sums of money.

Our Interior Department report, which we call "The Cost of Clean Water" submitted to Congress in January, states that the "cost of constructing municipal waste treatment plants and interceptor sewers is estimated at \$8 billion, exclusive of land and associated costs" over the next 5 years. We have some indications that these initial estimates may be conservative. Whatever these costs finally turn out to be, the fact remains that these facilities will be needed or communities will not meet the schedules of the water quality standards and will face State and Federal enforcement actions.