

COVERAGE OF SHORE INSTALLATION PROVISION

Mr. WRIGHT. Now, in Maine recently, an incident on which the beaches were fouled by oil seepage, everybody says there is a ship out there, for us to do something. Finally, it was discovered to be a school which had some oil that was released inadvertently when the oil tank at the school rusted through and got into the sewer system and floated down into the ocean.

What would be the position of the Department of the Interior in that respect? Is that school a shore installation?

Mr. MOORE. Well, whether that is a shore installation—

Mr. FINNEGAN. It would have to be located in or adjacent to the navigable waters under the bill as S. 2760, as passed by the Senate.

Mr. WRIGHT. How adjacent is "adjacent"?

Mr. FINNEGAN. We would look upon it as located fairly close to the water, probably within a quarter of a mile, and natural courses.

Mr. WRIGHT. Quarter of a mile?

Mr. FINNEGAN. I would not want to state categorically that would be the case, sir. I think you would have to look at each instance. But many oil tank firms, and so forth, such as in New Jersey, are located close to the water's edge.

Mr. MOORE. These installations have to be used in the handling or processing of any kind of matter which is adjacent to navigable waters. In other words, it has to be an installation designed or intended to be used for processing the substance that is involved.

Mr. WRIGHT. Yes, Mr. Denney.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Moore, you made the statement, I believe, 31 States had cooperative water pollution standards submitted and approved.

It seems to me that this committee must write a law that the States can live with. And, of course, obtain the objective of cleaning up the pollution of our streams.

IMPACT OF PROPOSED CONTRACT PROGRAM ON RURAL AREA NEEDS

I am concerned, again, about the fact that the impact at this time seems to be on the metropolitan area. If we are ever going to solve the problems of the cities, we are going to have to start dispersing the people, and it looks to me like some of the thrust of this law is to put the biggest expenditure of homes in the metropolitan areas and leave out the rural areas and the small towns, which were what the original act had in mind to try and do something so that they could clean up their streams and have proper sanitary facilities.

Now, do you have any ideas as to whether or not these amendments we are considering will protect the rural areas in any way?

Mr. MOORE. Well, let me say that in terms of the cash construction grants program, the \$225 million that has been requested of the Congress this year, the distribution of these funds would be as provided under the current statute, and such sums as must be appropriated by Congress in future years would still be governed by the distribution.

The question has obviously been raised as to whether or not the proposed contracting procedure or debt financing procedure as outlined can be utilized by smaller cities.

Now, there is nothing magic about the 125,000 limitation. This figure is one that has appeared in prior statutes.