

patiently all day long for the convenience of the committee and to withstand some interrogation, which was much longer than we had expected.

We are going to need a lot more technical help and guidance and advice, and we will keep in touch with you directly; and if you will assign some of your technical people, that would be helpful.

We do have a big wad here in the long series of bills, with the different aspects of the problem, and oil particularly is a tremendously complicated and apparently getting to be worse of a problem, and it has drawn a lot of worldwide attention. It frightens people because they are so helpless when a big spill does take place.

Finally, I may want to say this, that there are those of us from the Great Lakes region who have been familiar with the work of the Coast Guard for many, many years, and the thing that has always impressed me is, I think the Coast Guard is sort of the unsung hero, quiet, modest and efficient; and I mean that sincerely.

You really carry your job, never look for any accolades or publicity and sometimes, it is long overdue, but I want to express my appreciation. I was not here earlier. It was something beyond my control.

We shall keep in contact with you, and we shall not only seek your help but shall appreciate your counsel and guidance on this very difficult problem.

I thank all of you gentlemen for standing by all day long.

Mr. McEWEN. That would appear to cover the Great Lakes, for you have heard from Mr. McCarthy and myself, it is obvious the esteem in which the Coast Guard is held.

Admiral TRIMBLE. Thank you, sir.

Mr. McCARTHY. I recognize the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Dan Rostenkowski.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION

STATEMENT OF HON. DAN ROSTENKOWSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI. I appreciate the opportunity of entering a statement on a subject which is so basic and so vital to this country, to you and to me, and to our sources of food, recreation, and health.

I want to take this opportunity fully to support legislation which will help protect our rivers and our lakes, our harbors and our coastline.

It is my understanding that these hearings are to be devoted primarily to the areas of oil pollution and vessel pollution. My interest in the area of water pollution has become great in the last year because, for the first time, I had the problem thrust squarely at me in the crisis which developed in Lake Michigan last summer. At that time I made a study of the pending legislation, spoke to the Army Corps of Engineers and observed the problems directly.

There was an oil slick on the lake which extended for 60 or 70 miles. There were many theories about where it came from, but there was nothing on which any real degree of responsibility could be placed.

The whole area was in an uproar over the situation. The Chicago Tribune ran an outstanding series on the pollution in the lake. The