

of waters. We protested that recommendations of the Department's own National Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality Requirements for Fishes, other Aquatic Life, and Wildlife were not being followed, particularly with regards to oxygen and temperature. We protested that the Federal Government had abrogated its rights and responsibilities for determining the uses of interstate streams. In short, we expressed the opinion that the Water Quality Act of 1965 was becoming nothing more than a license to pollute.

Early in February, the Secretary of the Interior issued a statement on the degradation problem and we were highly pleased and gratified at his position.

"I have concluded that in order to be consistent with the basic policy and objective of the Water Quality Act a provision in all State standards substantially in accordance with the following is required," Secretary Udall declared. This is the provision:

"Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards as of the date on which such standards become effective will be maintained at their existing high quality. These and other waters of a State will not be lowered in quality unless and until it has been affirmatively demonstrated to the State water pollution control agency and the Department of the Interior that such change is justifiable as a result of necessary economic or social development and will not interfere with or become injurious to any assigned uses made of, or presently possible in, such waters. This will require that any industrial, public or private project or development which would constitute a new source of pollution or an increased source of pollution to high quality waters will be required, as part of the initial project design, to provide the highest and best degree of waste treatment available under existing technology, and, since these are also Federal standards, these waste treatment requirements will be developed cooperatively."

Once that basic determination of policy was decided, a host of approvals of State standards—with some exceptions—has followed. Needless to say, we sincerely hope that implementation of these standards can proceed with dispatch. This will include vigorous law enforcement when necessary.

As you might suspect, conservationists plan to be vigilant in watching a potential loophole in the Interior Department's policy statement. This relates to a lowering of standards if justifiable as a result of "necessary economic or social development" and will not "interfere with or become injurious to any assigned uses." Secretary Udall has said that the industries or municipalities must show compelling social and economic reasons before exceptions would be allowed to the standards. We plan to be on hand to insist that such exceptions really be "compelling."

Second, conservationists and many others are dismayed about attitudes recently expressed in some circles. Some Americans always have worshipped at the Altar of the Almighty Buck. In fact, much of the present day pollution, as well as other natural resource problems, can be traced directly to a pre-eminent consideration for dividends rather than responsibilities to the public.

We all know that many of the assets we treasure most are intangibles upon which no real monetary value can be placed—appreciation for the arts such as music and literature, for religion, and for love and affection. Something akin is reflected in an appreciation of the beauty of the outdoors, or natural values, that is spoiled by a contaminated environment. These considerations must be part of the overall picture, in addition to a need for clean water from health reasons or for pleasurable domestic or industrial purposes.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, for the information of the Committee, we are attaching two resolutions (Nos. 9 and 15) adopted at our annual convention earlier this year which relate to still other facets of the water pollution problem.

Thank you again for the opportunity of making these remarks.

RESOLUTION No. 9—CONTROL OF THERMAL POLLUTION FROM NUCLEAR POWERPLANTS

Whereas, public waters of the Nation are used for a variety of beneficial purposes by members of the public, particularly for water-related recreation such as fishing, hunting, swimming, boating, and water-skiing; and

Whereas, these bodies of water are major elements in recreation-oriented industries of important economic impact on the localities and States involved; and

Whereas, the proposed water usage for nuclear power plant cooling purposes may result in significant levels of thermal pollution in many parts of the Nation; and