

The Federal Government must take the lead in encouraging the States to assist the good work going on in West Virginia, in legislation, and enforcement of this legislation, and in a demonstration project such as was started in Elkins, W. Va., which is a good example of what can be done. It also points out the magnitude of the total work that must be done.

We recommend strong action now in funding these demonstration projects that are being considered in acid mine research work, and we must emphasize—put the knowledge that we have today to work today to improve our environment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you very much, Mr. Hall.

Mr. Douglas.

Mr. PENFOLD. Mr. Douglas was not able to get back this afternoon, Mr. Chairman. He filed copies of his statement with the committee yesterday.

Mr. BLATNIK. Without objection, it will appear at this point in the record.

(Prepared statement of Philip A. Douglas follows:)

STATEMENT BY PHILIP A. DOUGLAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Chairman, I am Philip A. Douglas, Executive Secretary of the Sport Fishing Institute, the only non-profit, non-government, professionally-staffed national fish conservation organization. Our main objective is to encourage the rapid development and sound application of fish conservation practices in order to improve sport fishing to the fullest. We derive our operating funds from a wide representation of manufacturers of various sorts of equipment used out fishing, related industries, and interested individuals.

I submitted my comments to you April 22, 1968, on H.R. 15907, "The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1968," for inclusion in the record of hearings on that bill. Other fellow members of conservation organizations on this panel are addressing themselves to that particular phase of helping to effect water pollution control through easing the terms for construction funds for sewage treatment facilities to the secondary level in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Today I wish to support this conservation panel in its concerted efforts to try to solve the myriad of water pollution problems facing this nation, and I apply my specific remarks to the oil and chemical pollution problems. These observations are concerned with H.R. 15906, the "Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Control Act of 1968."

There can be no doubt in anyone's mind but that the introduction of oil or any toxic chemical substance, deliberate or otherwise, into our waters does constitute a major threat to our aquatic resources. The cases of fish and wildlife "kills" in U.S. waters, by oil itself as a suffocating agent, and toxic chemicals in the form of pesticides, and a myriad of other lethal compounds, are almost universal both in coastal and inland waters. The recent oil spillage disaster by the tanker Torrey Canyon off the British coast has been given much publicity, sparking front page attention to other such happenings throughout the world. Close beside these unfortunate accidents comes the fear that our agricultural pest controls applied to the land are causing serious problems for the aquatic resources. Both problems are of considerable magnitude and cannot be ignored.

Oil Pollution.—Passage by the Senate last December of S. 2760 would authorize a research and demonstration program on lake pollution and acid and other mine water drainage and a program to control pollution by oil, with the Secretary of the Interior "at the helm." The latter is effected through repeal of the 1924 Oil Pollution Act, incorporating some of its provisions with changes in S. 2760, viz: Deletion of the terms "grossly negligent or willful" in definition of the word "discharge"—we highly approve of elimination of these hard-to-prove terms;