

up water. Enforcement doesn't clean up water. Water is cleaned up by keeping the filth out of it in the first place. That is what waste treatment plants do. The construction grants program continues to be the core of the Federal-State-local effort. In the municipal phase of water pollution, the construction of treatment facilities is the basic measure of the success of the rest of the program. It is the basic key to securing the compliance of the industrial sector. It is the public's major leverage against pollution from any source. Without the construction grants we might well be carrying on an exercise in futility.

We support the provisions which would encourage better area wide planning and require systems of charges to amortize local share of the costs plus maintenance, operations and a reserve to meet planned expansion needs. Certainly all approved projects should meet State standards, conform with State water pollution plans and be consistent with a river basin pollution control plan, if there is one.

In supporting H.R. 15907 we must note that its effectiveness will be answered *only* if the funds to implement it are indeed appropriated in the amounts and at the times specified in the authorization.

#### OIL POLLUTION CONTROL

The League supports S. 2760, H.R. 14000, H.R. 15906 and others relating to oil pollution. H.R. 15906 would extend the provisions of S. 2760 for the control of oil pollution in the navigable waters of the United States to the Contiguous Zone, the 9-mile zone beginning on the outer limits of the Territorial Sea. We think that is an improvement, as is adding a civil penalty for violations to criminal penalties. We agree that the present requirement that a discharge be "grossly negligent" before liability attaches should be deleted; that the bill cover Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Samoa. We do not agree that an owner of a vessel or a shore installation should entirely escape the responsibility to clean up or to pay the cost of clean up following an oil discharge caused by "an Act of God". This is a type of risk which may business or other enterprise must uniformly accept as an inescapable part of the undertaking.

#### ACID AND OTHER MINE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The League has long recognized the destruction from acid and other mine water pollution. We strongly support S. 2760 and H.R. 14000 which would authorize the Secretary to develop with the States demonstration projects for the elimination or control of such pollution.

#### LAKE POLLUTION CONTROL

We support S. 2760 and the series of House bills calling for a research and demonstration program for the prevention, removal and control of natural or man-caused pollution in lakes.

#### VESSEL POLLUTION CONTROL

We support H.R. 16207 and H.R. 13923 which would direct the Secretary of Interior to establish regulations for the control of sewage, litter, garbage, sludge and other substances discharged by vessels into navigable waters. We recognize that this program involves some very complex problems for the recreational boater which will not be resolved overnight. A great majority of League members own or regularly use boats for a variety of recreational purposes which are dependent upon clean water. As recreational boaters, we can hardly consider ourselves immune from responsibility for our own wastes. The bill provides for reasonable compliance schedules, uniformity for various classes of boats and requires consultation with interested parties before issuance of the regulations. The bill provides for a system of certification of devices which meet the standards to control the discharge of sewage. Such a system would not be "proof-positive" of compliance with water quality standards—for example, the boatowner might neglect to add a chemical agent to a treatment tank, although certification is based upon the proper use of that agent. Nonetheless certification of devices is a practical way of securing wide spread compliance and will be the convenient way for boatowners to put their craft in compliance.