

Bank. I hope, therefore, that you will give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to cope with oil spills outside the contiguous zone, as provided in H.R. 16559.

Further, I believe that H.R. 15906 is too vague in regard to how and when the Secretary should delegate the clean-up responsibility to the agencies which will have to carry out that responsibility. The amendment proposed on the bill which I have sponsored, H.R. 16559, would require the Secretary to make immediate advance arrangements for the assigning of this responsibility. Thereby, when an emergency arises, the machinery would be ready to work, with all agencies knowing exactly what they must do rather than improvise to meet a contingency.

In the scant space of less than two years, Mr. Chairman, the need for a truly effective oil pollution control law has become unmistakably clear. I hope, therefore, that H.R. 15906 will be favorably reported by your Committee and promptly enacted by the Congress. I also again respectfully urge that it contain the two amendments to which I have referred, as included in H.R. 16559.