

ocean beyond our territorial waters—thus, bringing to 12 miles the protected zone where it would be illegal to discharge oil which may wash ashore.

This extension of the ban on mixing oil with water in the 12-mile zone is only a first step. Actually I, and many of those charged with policing this problem in the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, would like to see the restrictions extended to the Continental Shelf, and about 50 miles offshore from Hawaii. However, I am willing to take this nine-mile extension as the first step.

There has been a preliminary investigation of the oil slick at Waikiki by the U.S. Coast Guard. There has been much speculation as to what happened and the most popular theory is that a vessel had taken on sea water in its fuel tanks as added ballast. Before entering the limited depth of a navigational channel into Honolulu or Pearl Harbor, it is believed that the ship's captain issued an order to offload some of the water ballast, and with it apparently went some of the Bunker C fuel oil.

I am informed that conceivably, this could have occurred beyond the 12-mile prohibition in H.R. 15906, and the oil slick could still have drifted into Waikiki Beach. However, engineers who have studied this condition believe it is less likely that oil discharged beyond 12 miles would be carried by strong winds to a shore. It is for this reason that the prohibition against this discharge of oil should cover the 12-mile distance, rather than the three miles as stated in S. 2760.

I was pleased to learn that the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has awarded a contract and believes that it will soon accept delivery on a computer system of "tagging" oil pollution to the vessel or container from which it was discharged. This will undoubtedly go far in tightening the control of this pollution.

May I also urge this committee to include in the legislation an authorization for appropriations to permit the Department of the Interior to proceed immediately in eliminating the pollution as a health hazard. All the bills provide that the offender be charged with this cost, but until he is located, the Department of the Interior should be allowed to carry out the necessary removal activities. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN BEN B. BLACKBURN

(Subject: *We must keep moving forward in the battle against water pollution.*)

It is no exaggeration to say that today the public is aware of the manifold aspects of the problem of pollution of the Nation's water supply.

Since 1948 the Federal Government has taken an ever increasing part in the effort to prevent, abate and control this dangerous condition.

Although the States have primary responsibility in this area there are many ways by which the Congress has and must continue to foster Federal participation.

This committee has before it numerous proposals to extend and strengthen the national water pollution program.

All of these proposals have some degree of merit, I propose to address myself to several which I believe to be of utmost importance to the health and welfare of America as they may result in the protection and improvement of the quality of its most important natural resource.

America is many times blessed by having within its boundaries thousands of beautiful lakes, of varying size, natural and man-made.

They range from small farm ponds to the magnificent Great Lakes, and include the many splendid reservoirs, the works of man.

They serve many purposes. They provide a place to swim, to dive, fish in and boat upon. Camping and hunting along their shores bring joy to many thousands. Reservoirs created by dams serve to restrain flood waters to generate electric power, store water to be released later to benefit municipal and industrial water supply and navigation. Many of them support a variety of fish and other aquatic life and their environs furnish abode for many forms of wildlife and waterfowl as well as a pleasant environment for humans.

It is only now being fully comprehended that America is in a fair way to losing many of these valuable benefits.

Lakes are subject to the same mistreatment as the water flowing in the Nation's rivers. The streams that feed these bodies of water are depositing their increasing loads of pollutants in them where they accumulate.