

There is little or no current, their capacity for regeneration by oxidation is more limited than that of flowing water. Sanitary and industrial waste matter is hastening the natural process of eutrophication in many of them. Noxious aquatic organisms are increasingly becoming a deterrent to enjoyment.

Some of our largest lakes have been called dying lakes—such as Lake Erie. Others are filling up with decaying vegetation, fish are dying, waterfowl are losing their natural habitat. The entire ecology is in transition and unless spartan measures are undertaken, and soon, our Nation stands to lose a valuable resource.

I strongly advocate that the Congress espouse an energetic program of resuscitation.

The Secretary of the Interior should be authorized to direct, and implement by grant or contract, pilot studies and demonstration projects to develop and improve methods of prevention, removal and control of pollution in lakes, and elimination or control of undesirable nutrients and vegetation.

Pilot programs should be undertaken by arrangement with State, interstate, municipal or other public agencies at locales where there is access by the general public.

All agencies concerned with the natural environment should be consulted. These would include the public health, fish and wildlife and water resource agencies.

Such activity should be undertaken immediately and might well be financed with Federal funds up to 90% of the cost to ensure early action.

State and local participants should, of course, provide assurances that the improved quality of the lake environment would be maintained.

Experience gained by these pilot programs can be utilized and applied elsewhere.

A start for this program should be provided to the extent of at least \$5 million.

I feel it incumbent upon me to make clear my personal conviction that the role of the federal government should be one of research and development and not enforcement. The need for clarification of my position has arisen as a result of a statement issued by the Secretary of the Interior dated February 8, 1968.

The Secretary of the Interior, in that statement, has asserted a degree of control over local, state, and water control which, in my opinion, goes far beyond the authority granted to him by the Congress.

In his statement, the Secretary has issued a regulation which would require any expansion of industrial discharge, or municipal sewage to be first approved by not only the State Water Control Board which has rightfully primary jurisdiction over such discussions, but also approval from the Secretary of the Interior.

It was never intended by the Congress that the Secretary of the Interior should have such broad ranging authority as to abrogate unto himself the final and absolute control over the uses of waterways throughout the nation.

This unwarranted assumption of power by the Secretary of the Interior, poses a real and dangerous threat to the expansion of industry and the essential uses by municipalities and local governments of the streams within the various states. To require an additional approval from Washington, after industrial and local authorities have secured approval from state water control boards is to create an additional impediment to growth without any corresponding benefit.

The state of Georgia has been recognized as providing valuable leadership among the states in the development and implementation of water purity standards. Other states recognizing the hazards to our streams and lakes are likewise making great strides in policing the usages of their streams. Those persons who give direction and leadership within their state water control agencies are just as competent and sincere as the minions surrounding the Secretary of the Interior and I will trust their judgment.

The Torrey Canyon disaster off the coast of England was only the most spectacular of a continuing series of such incidents which have occurred. These oil spills, accidental as well as willful, are extremely damaging, both esthetically and economically, and they must not be allowed to continue.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, in which the United States Coast Guard is located, should be empowered to draft strict regulations for vessels carrying oil on the high seas.

The custom of discharging oil into the sea from vessels should be absolutely prohibited within a distance of not less than 12 miles from shore. Should this be done the owners of any discharging vessel should be held responsible for