

The Norwegian Government think it is unfortunate that the United States Government should be contemplating unilateral legislation at a time when the whole question of liability of shipowners for oil pollution is under international studies in Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization. Comité Maritime Internationale is at present carrying out a study concerning oil pollution for IMCO. As IMCO proceeds rapidly in this field, and these problems probably will be clarified within this year, the Norwegian Government hopes that the United States Government do not put into force amendments in its national legislation, until the result of the IMCO study is known.

Norway, with its long coast, does not underestimate the damage which might be caused by oil pollution. However, the Norwegian Government recognize that the answer to this problem lies in unified international rather than in unilateral action.

ROYAL SWEDISH EMBASSY,
Washington, D.C., April 23, 1968.

Having taken note of the Bills in Congress (HR 15906 and S 2760) on water pollution caused by spillage of oil from vessels, the Swedish Government wishes to express the hope that no action will be taken by the United States which might hinder a decision soon on global regulations of the questions now being dealt with in this connection within the IMCO.

The Swedish Government also wishes to draw attention to the current considerations within, i.e., the IMCO concerning liability for oil pollution.

The Swedish Government is anxious to have a solution soon of the above mentioned questions and hopes that this opinion is also shared by the United States.

OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION,
May 20, 1968.

HON. GEORGE H. FALLON,
Chairman, House Committee on Public Works, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALLON: I am submitting for the Nassau County Planning Commission of New York, their statement on water pollution.

They would like for the statement to be made a part of the permanent record of the hearings.

Sincerely yours,

ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI,
Director, Citizenship-Legislative Department.

STATEMENT BY THE NASSAU COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Nassau County Planning Commission wishes to go on record supporting favorable action by the Public Works Committee in reporting out S. 2760. We address ourselves particularly to Section 19(b) which would make it unlawful, except under certain circumstances, as defined in this section, to discharge oil into the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines of the United States.

The need for clarifying and strengthening the power to act by the Secretary of the Interior against those vessel owners who wilfully or through negligence pollute the waterways was called for by the 1967 Report to Congress, "Wastes from Watercraft", (Senate Document No. 48, 90th Congress).

The Oil Pollution Act has not been amended since 1924, and yet our United States boat population has grown to well over 8 million to say nothing of the unregistered boats and those which enter daily into the waters around Long Island.

We speak strongly for this bill which has passed the Senate so as to have an effective weapon against further deterioration of the valuable waters both on the north and south shores of Nassau County. The 2½ million people of Long Island alone depend on these waters for recreation, swimming, fishing, sailing, as well as the commercial fisherman, who depend on the continued high quality of the marine environment.

According to a recent survey prepared by John I. Thompson & Co. of Washington, D.C. for the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering & Resources, called "A Perspective of Regional and State Marine Environmental Activities",