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4-1-1957

### Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 1958

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#### Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 1958" (1957). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 116.  
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Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 1958

Mr. Chairman, I wish to supplement my personal testimony before your Subcommittee in behalf of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill with the following comments. ~~on these appropriations.~~

As a whole I want to say that I am pleased with the form of this Appropriations Bill as passed by the House of Representatives, however, I am extremely distressed at the disallowance of the budget request of \$40 million by the House for the domestic purchase of tungsten for fiscal year 1958 under Public Law 733.

As you know the Senate restored the \$30 million budget request to continue the tungsten program until the end of the fiscal year. I appeared before the Appropriations Committee in behalf of these funds for Public Law 733 several weeks ago and today I would like to re-state my vigorous support of this program and to re-emphasize its great importance to the economic welfare of areas in Montana and in the event that the \$30 million program is retained in the First Urgent Deficiency Appropriations Bill now in Conference I strongly urge that the Senate also reinstate the \$40 million budget request for the operation of the tungsten, asbestos, fluorspar and columbium-tantalum during fiscal year 1958.

I am pleased to note the increased appropriation being approved for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for fiscal year 1958 in the amount of



\$59,560,000. As you know, Montana has seven Indian Reservations and the Bureau has a very extensive program in the State. A number of these reservations are in the need of a great deal of assistance. Employment opportunities are scarce, many of the reservation's lands are unproductive and insufficient to meet the needs of the Indians living on the reservations. If we are to improve the economic status of the Indians we will have to embark on a program of education and economic development. These Indians will continue to be wards of the Federal Government until such time as they can be taught to work for themselves and under existing conditions this is practically impossible. Many of the Indians do not have the education or opportunities to provide for themselves. A relocation program for Indians is in operation but many of these people lack the necessary know-how to be relocated to their advantage.

I am especially pleased to note that an initial appropriation of \$1-1/2 million has been requested and approved by the House to initiate the adult Indian vocational program authorized by Public Law 959. The operation of this program should do much to provide employment opportunities for many Indians who now lack job training.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Committee the advancements the Bureau is making in the Indian industries program. The development of small industries on or off reservations such as the Jewel Bearing Plant on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota has been a source of steady employment to these Indians and all reports indicate that the project has been a great success. In fact



the rate of turn-over among the Indian employees is less than that of those in jewel bearing plants in the East. Just recently a program for the manufacture of fishing equipment has been set up on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. A program of this nature as well as other assistance is badly needed on this reservation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has requested \$5,800,000 in their budget for construction of Indian Health facilities. I concur with this request as the need for these facilities is urgent and in some instances long overdue. The funds will provide new facilities at Rocky Boy Reservation, at Hart Butte, Montana in the amount of \$25,000 each. This budget request includes modernization and improvement at the Black-foot Hospital, Browning, Montana - \$432,400; Fort Belknap Hospital, Harlem, Montana - \$75,000. In addition the Bureau has requested funds to construct a new heating plant to cost \$53,000 at the Crow Indian Reservation. These new facilities and improvements will go far in improving the economic situation on these reservations.

Briefly, I want to express my approval of the budget request of \$20 million for the National Park Service for its second year of the Mission 66 Program. As you know this program will provide essential facilities to meet the ever expanding requirements in the National Parks. These facilities in the parks have deteriorated in recent years and it is necessary to replace, improve and expand on these accommodations to



meet the increased tourist load.

Mr. Chairman, next I would like to direct your attention to the proposed construction program for fish hatchery, game management and wildlife refuge facilities. I have discussed orally the need for funds to start work on the Benton Lake Wildlife Refuge in Montana and I concur in the request for funds to complete construction of the warm-water fish hatchery at Miles City.

I want to take this opportunity to request additional funds for improved and expanded facilities at the Creston and Ennis Federal fish hatcheries in Montana

I feel that perhaps the best way to present the need for these funds is to quote from a letter received from the Fish and Wildlife Service in December of 1956:

" The Creston hatchery is in need of an improvement program to provide facilities for expanding production to meet the restocking requirements in the area served by the hatchery. The hatchery is operated in close cooperation with the Montana State Game and Fish Commission and the fish produced are assigned to areas selected in accordance with approved management plans. Existing facilities are not adequate to permit the increased production necessary to meet present commitments, and it is believed that restocking requirements will increase annually. On the basis of studies and on-the-ground surveys made by engineers and fishery technicians, a total of \$118,000 will be required for development of the Creston station. Such a program would provide raceways for rearing fish, storage building, fishfood-preparation and cold-storage building, quarters for permanent employees replacement of water supply lines, and the modernization of other facilities. To initiate this program, Congress appropriated \$18,000



for the fiscal year 1957. Plans are now being prepared to cover the expenditure of these funds for trout raceways.

"The Ennis fish-cultural station is responsible for the proper stocking of trout waters in a large area of Southwestern Montana. The Congress recognized the need for development of the Ennis station and provided \$189,102 for this purpose during the fiscal years 1950, 1951 and 1952. For the fiscal year 1957, Congress appropriated \$48,000 for the construction of a fishfood-preparation and cold-storage building. Plans and specifications for the construction of this structure have been completed and Invitations to Bid will be opened about April 1, 1957. For more efficient operations at Ennis, additional quarters are required and the road leading to the hatchery from the highway should be improved, including the construction of several bridges and culverts. It is estimated that these projects will cost \$62,000."

The Fish and Wildlife Service has recognized these needs and has formulated expansion plans, but sufficient funds have not been requested. I feel that an increase in these construction funds is entirely justified and deserving.

The last item I would like to discuss is the funds for the Spruce-Budworm Control Program in fiscal year 1958. There are nearly three million acres of timberland in Montana that are currently infested by the Spruce Budworm and it is of great concern in a state like Montana with such vast areas of timber. We need a very active program if we are to save timber, watershed and related values.

The federal government pays full cost of control on federally owned lands and in addition will pay 50 percent of control costs on state and privately owned lands.

I understand that under the present budget request that \$440,000



is tentatively being allocated to Montana and northern Idaho. I want to express my wholehearted support of this program.

In closing I want to restate my great interest in the operations of the Interior Department and its agencies and the other governmental organizations whose operations are governed by the appropriations granted in this legislation.