5-5-1959

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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MAY 5, 1959

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. MONTANA)

LEGISLATION TO ACCELERATE REFORESTATION PROGRAM

Mr. President, the resolution I have sent to the desk is a "Review Resolution" on reforestation. Its sole purpose is to put before the Congress a vehicle for the consideration of a problem—one which in my humble judgment deserves careful and earnest consideration. We already have on the statute books a number of laws designed to insure reforestation of public and private land. Unfortunately funds specifically authorized are not being sought. Funds that could be secured under general authority are not being requested. The solution I believe lies in a reassessment by the Congress of the separate parts of the problem coupled with a consensus of the collective opinions of all concerned on the new course we should take.

The Department of the Interior manages over 12,000,000 acres of commercial forest land. About half of this is on Indian reservations, the balance on the public domain. The Secretary of the Interior has general authority to request funds for tree planting, but only token amounts are being sought.

On the national forests, with some 80,000,000 acres of forest land out of the 160,000,000 total, the same situation prevails. Planting is going on at a higher rate but the size of the problem is greater than ever before. In 1950 the Congress passed the Anderson-Mansfield

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Act and in addition the Secretary of Agriculture could actually request funds under his general authority.

Mr. President, this is the situation in brief, and I submit for inclusion in the Congressional Record a table showing what has happened.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

National Forest Protection and Management

Reforestation and Stand Improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Authorization under Anderson-Mansfield Act for reforestation</th>
<th>Funds Appropriated</th>
<th>Tree Planting and seeding (acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$1,166,536</td>
<td>25,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>1,204,006</td>
<td>19,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>1,162,533</td>
<td>23,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>384,520</td>
<td>22,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>437,650</td>
<td>13,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>1,230,000</td>
<td>18,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>1,850,000</td>
<td>21,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>2,228,600</td>
<td>27,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>3,015,000</td>
<td>40,000 (est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960 (estimate)</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>3,015,000</td>
<td>40,000 (est.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Adjusted to reflect activity structure in the 1958 Estimates, including transfers, comparative transfers, etc.

April 20, 1959
A close study of this table makes it very clear that we are now so far behind the Anderson-Mansfield authorization it borders on the tragic.

In addition the Federal Government also has a number of aids which can provide for the far larger job of tree planting needed on private land. The Clarke McNary Act authorizes funds. This year's budget requests only a mere $290,000 for this vital program. Work can be done under the authority of the Soil Conservation Service, the Soil Bank and the Small Watershed Act--to name the major authorities. Here again the record shows small progress.

On October 1, 1957, the Chief of the Forest Service reported in his Annual Report, "In spite of interest and an upward trend in planting, progress made to date on public and private land has not materially reduced the backlog of 52 million acres in need of planting. Acreage is added to the backlog currently as planting needs are created through cutting and fire."

On October 24, 1958, the Chief of the Forest Service said in his next annual report:

"Within the next ten years 48 billion trees need to be planted, mainly on small ownerships, if the wood requirements of a larger population are to be met by the year 2000."

In view of these warnings, supplemented with additional facts, we cannot in good conscience stand back from the task. We as a Nation
cannot continue to enjoy the benefits of our now bountiful supply of timber and continue to disregard our responsibility in this area.

Mr. President, today the air is filled with talk of a balanced budget !!! In the instance of timber we have a budget that is way out of balance. Can we blithely stand by and say, "Oh Yes, overall timber growth is in balance with drain", and be satisfied? The answer is "No". Our drain on coniferous trees far exceeds their growth. Throughout much of this Nation we permit the ravages of unscientific logging and fire to replace the useful pines with scrub hard woods. The timber budget is out of balance and this is an extremely serious problem meriting far more consideration than it receives.

The trees we need on forest land do far more than produce trees for lumber and paper. These trees serve the more useful purpose of protecting the soil in our upland watersheds and by that process assuring us the water we need.

As we permit the deterioration of our timber we underwrite the destruction of our soil and our water. We shall not long survive as a powerful Nation with our resource base impaired.

We cannot unwittingly write the obituary of our Nation on the eroded mountain sides of this now beautiful mountain land.

The job before us is plainly visible. As reasonable men with the welfare of our Nation at heart we must explore what has been done in the field of reforestation. We must examine why we have failed to attain
the rate of progress that is so vitally needed.

For my own part, I will leave to the judgment of the conservationists the role of advancing suggestions on the ways to achieve the needed goals.

I express but one firm thought on the shortcomings on Federal lands. The Federal Government has not fulfilled its obligation to reforest its own lands on the national forests, and the public domain and the lands it manages for our Indian citizens. There is no reason that I can see why the Executive Branch should not have been requesting the funds to do the job on the Federal lands.

It is my hope that the Committees with jurisdiction of these lands will first isolate this situation and devise their recommendations. If the Committees elect to proceed separately and cooperatively I shall look forward to their bringing forth joint and unanimous conclusions.

On the more complex problem of how to get private lands reforested, particularly lands in small ownerships may I respectfully express the hope that our able Committee on Agriculture and Forestry will make a careful review of these Federal programs.

Mr. President, before concluding, I would like to make reference to the Youth Conservation Bill sponsored by Senator Humphrey and others. The Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, the senior Senator from Alabama, Mr. Hill, has announced hearings will
begin May 11 on this legislation and it will be considered by the Subcommittee chaired by the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. Randolph. I am delighted, and even more so since he is a co-sponsor of this reforestation bill. I know I need not commend this bill to his Subcommittee's attention. There are over 4,000,000 acres of Federal land alone in need of reforestation. Should there be any question on what constructive work a Youth Conservation Corps could undertake; here is one big job ready and waiting. It is a job that cries out to us that we have but ten quick years to accomplish.

Mr. President, in order to afford other members of the Senate who wish to have an opportunity to join as a co-sponsor of this legislation, I ask that this bill lie at the desk for three days.

I also ask unanimous consent that the bill be referred to the Committees on Agriculture and Forestry, and Interior and Insular Affairs.
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MR. MANSFIELD (for himself, Mr. Aikeh, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Byrd (West Virginia), Mr. Cooper, Mr. Hart, Mr. Kuchel, Mr. Murray, Mr. Randolph, and Mr. Stennis

introduced the following joint resolution; which was

read twice and referred to the Committee on ____________

____________________________

JOINT RESOLUTION

(Inser title of joint resolution here)

To provide for the acceleration of the various reforestation programs of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

Whereas the commercial forest land of the United States, including Federal, State and private timber land, contains approximately 488,609,000 acres; and

Whereas approximately 48 million acres of Federal, State and private land are in need of planting so that the increased need for timber by the larger population of the United States in the year 2000 A. D. may be met; and

Whereas the current annual consumption of timber and timber products by the people of the United States is approximately 13 billion cubic feet, and the demand is steadily increasing and will continue to increase until approximately 22 billion cubic feet of timber will be needed by the year 2000 A. D.; and
Whereas in the fiscal year 1958, planting on the 48 million acres recited above amounted to 70,000 acres of Federal land, 70,000 acres of State and municipal land, and 900,000 acres of privately-owned land; and

Whereas if the 48 million acres of land are to produce their part of the timber that will be needed by the Nation in the year 2000 A. D., it is necessary that during the next 10 years 560,000 acres of Federal land, 240,000 acres of State and municipal land and 4 million acres of privately-owned land be planted in trees annually; and

Whereas it is recognized that the planting of the Federal land is completely a responsibility of the Federal Government and it is of highest priority; and

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior have several authorities under which they may provide for the planting of the additional acres in trees, but it is necessary that the authorizations be accelerated and supplemented;

Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is declared to be the policy of Congress to provide a continuing program for the needed reforestation of Federal, State and private land in order thereby to accomplish the planting of the 48 million idle and non-productive acres by accelerating and supplementing existing reforestation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior during the ensuing 10-year period commencing July 1, 1960.

Sec. 2. In addition to the regular appropriations made to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior for the purposes of the respective tree planting
programs of the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated to each Secretary such additional and supplemental funds as may be needed to accomplish the purposes of this Joint Resolution, and they are hereby authorized to apportion such additional and supplemental funds in such manner as he deems appropriate to accomplish the goals of the respective programs.