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## Congressional Record S. 357 - Joint Democratic Leadership Statements on Pollution and Environment

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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# Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1970

## ATTENDANCE OF A SENATOR

Mr. HIRAM L. FONG, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, attended the session of the Senate today.

## JOINT DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP'S STATEMENTS ON POLLUTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a statement on pollution which I made at a press conference on yesterday with the distinguished Speaker of the House, Mr. McCORMACK, and a statement made by the distinguished majority leader of the House, Mr. ALBERT, on that occasion be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statements were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE MANSFIELD, MAJORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE

Mr. MANSFIELD. It is my understanding that "progress" in this nation adds up each year to 200 million tons of smoke and fumes, 7 million junked cars, 20 million tons of paper, 40 billion cans and 28 billion bottles. Under our fiscal 1970 budget, the amount allocated per person for defense amounts to about \$400 and for all health programs about \$13. Surely somewhere in the defense expenditures, which are marked by costly overruns, poor preparation on contracts and much in the way of obsolescence before a weapon or a missile is acceptable, we can find the few dollars necessary to undertake the anti-pollution programs which will save our lakes, such as Lake Erie and others which are on the way to disintegration; we can save our rivers and our creeks which are even affected in my own state of Montana. Such programs are needed to protect our environment and to protect the health of all our people because if we do not, the cost will be astronomical, and we may be too late. The time is now, and I repeat "now" to face up to this problem of blight caused by our own blindness and recognize the fact that not millions, not hundreds of millions, but billions of dollars will have to be spent to cope with this problem which affects all of us. We have been too free and easy in the acceptance of our environment. We have looked on our air and water as free without recognizing the need for control and care.

The cost will be stupendous. We have littered the countryside with beer bottles and beer cans. We have created auto dumps in every direction. In other words, we have just taken too much for granted, and the time and the place is here and now to push this program of pollution control through a coordinated effort on the part of the Administration and the Congress on the Federal level, on the part of the states and the municipalities, and on the part of industry which should divert some of its profits to cope with this problem which they have helped create.

I want to commend Senators Muskie, Nelson and Jackson for their pioneering efforts in trying to save the environment, and I want to extend my thanks also to Congressman Bistnik, House Majority Leader Albert and all those other Members of the House who have become aware of this problem—

a problem which is non-partisan, non-political, but not non-faceable.

The purpose of this meeting this morning is to indicate the growing concern of the Democratic leadership for the quality of life in this nation today and as it will affect future generations and to try to publicize the frightening variety of hazards and environmental offenses over which we have had to this time little or no control.

### REMARKS OF THE HON. CARL ALBERT, MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ALBERT. We believe this Congress of 1970 must, and will, show its continuing concern for those things troubling most Americans. A dominant question, and one of growing concern, is the quality of life for present and future generations. The contemporary American is surrounded by a frightening variety of hazards, and environmental offenses over which he has little or no control. We must attack these problems with full commitment or forever lose the chance to make this continent, indeed this planet Earth, a fit or even tolerable place to live, for us, for our children and for generations beyond.

The Congress has initiated much major environmental legislation. These measures include the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Presently the Water Quality Improvement Act, another Congressionally-initiated measure, is pending in a joint House-Senate Conference Committee. That legislation would provide the President with broad new enforcement powers to deal with oil pollution, bring federally supported or authorized projects or activities into compliance with water quality standards, would require control of sewage discharges from vessels and would authorize the staff necessary for effective functioning of the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

We hope and expect the Water Quality Improvement Act to be sent to the President for signature by the Lincoln's Birthday Recess.

We are committed to provide the full \$1.25 billion authorized for the Water Quality Improvement Program to meet Sewage Treatment construction grant needs.

Similarly, we must seek increased funding for preservation of America's natural heritage, to clean the air, to provide intelligent control for new technologies, and to insure a better quality life in healthy and attractive surroundings.

We propose the establishment of a joint House-Senate committee on the environment to expand the congressional capacity to deal with environmental problems. The Joint Committee would be a non-legislative Committee, organized to provide a clear focus on the difficult environmental decisions which must be made, and to provide the legislative Committees with the necessary background to insure effective action on short-term and long-term environmental problems and needs. While the Congress is acting to meet its needs in this area, the time has come for the Executive Branch to reexamine its structure as it relates to environmental protection and improvement programs.

Congress is aware of its responsibility to act on pending legislation which is designed to improve the quality of the environment.

We must, this year, extend and broaden the environmental programs which deal with hazardous substances, solid waste, noise, and air quality. We must examine water pollution measures which will provide innovative means to finance the cost of pollution control beyond 1971.

We must begin to develop a considered national land use policy and examine the need to replace the present haphazard methods of site selection for major industrial facilities with a system designed to assure environmental balance. Closely related to these questions are the problems of population growth and concentration in urban areas, and the need for continuation of the expansion of our national wilderness, park and recreation system to meet the nation's responsibilities. All of these problems must be dealt with in terms of our domestic concerns and the opportunities for international cooperation in the quest for a more livable world.

Finally, we have asked the Chairman of concerned committees to expedite consideration of authorizing legislation and appropriations, and to hold public hearings to seek new ideas for Environmental Improvement Act programs.

Confronted with the problems we face and the need for commitment and for an immediate counterattack, Congress is ready. We have begun, and we must, with the necessary concern, continue.

We in Congress have listened to the concerns of the American people, especially the young. For those who would listen, as we in Congress have, the majority has not been silent on this issue.

We are ready to expand the legislative beginnings we have made into a comprehensive national program committed to the investment of time, resources and funds which must be made to secure the birthright of every American to have a clean, safe and pleasant nation in which to grow and enjoy life.

We are ready to make the investment which must be made in this decade of the 1970s if the contemporary American and his children are to have a clean, safe and pleasant nation in which to live and grow and prosper.

THE SENATE  
 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT  
 JOINT DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE  
 SENATE'S ON POLLUTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
 THE ENVIRONMENT  
 MR. MANWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with you the environmental issues which are before the Senate. I am sure that you will find the Senate's position on these issues to be one of the most progressive and far-sighted in the history of the United States. The Senate has taken a leadership role in the development of environmental legislation, and we are confident that the House will follow suit. We are particularly pleased that the House has passed the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970, which will significantly improve the quality of our air. We are also pleased that the House has passed the Clean Water Act, which will help to protect our water resources. We are confident that the House will also pass the Environmental Improvement Act, which will provide for a comprehensive program of environmental protection. We are sure that the House will support the Senate's efforts to improve the environment and to protect the health and safety of the American people.

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