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Congressional Record S. 1857 - Scott-Mansfield Bills on Air and Water Pollution

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Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Congressional Record S. 1857 - Scott-Mansfield Bills on Air and Water Pollution" (1970). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 832.

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He has taken the lead with a message that promises Americans the most massive cleanup job in history—the job of cleaning up our air, cleaning up our water, cleaning up the waste and rubbish and litter from off our land.

He has taken the lead by sending to the Congress a package of seven bills which promises to do the job he has pledged will be done by his administration.

It is my privilege and pleasure today to introduce in the Senate those bills.

Mr. President, let me talk for a moment about the proposals embodied in the President's message and in the legislation I introduce today.

I will not try to enumerate these bills in their order of importance. All are important. All are part of a whole. All are essential to the task at hand.

However, the most talked about bill is the amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that will provide \$4 billion in Federal funds for construction of waste treatment plants during the next 4 years.

During this same period the bill proposes that local governments will contribute another \$6 billion, making this a \$10 billion program. Administration studies show that this amount is sufficient to eliminate existing waste treatment deficiencies in our Nation's towns and cities.

This is the bill, Mr. President, that can do more than any single piece of legislation to clean up our rivers and offshore areas which are now polluted and repolluted daily by raw sewage and industrial wastes. If we do not pass it this year, next year could be too late for some of our streams and lakes.

A second bill is designed to assure that adequate financing will be available for State and local governments to participate in this massive program. To do this the President is proposing the establishment of an Environmental Financing Authority to assure that local communities will be able to obtain enough capital on favorable terms.

Mr. President, under this legislation no municipality will be prevented from building or improving its waste treatment facilities because of inability to finance such a project.

Under the bill, the Secretary of the Interior would identify communities that are unable to finance at reasonable rates the local share of approved waste treatment grant projects. The Secretary would guarantee timely payment of principal and interest on obligations that are sold to the Environmental Financing Authority for this purpose. The Authority would obtain funds to make these purchases by issuing its own taxable obligations in the capital market in large enough blocks to provide favorable reception. The Secretary of the Treasury would also be authorized to purchase EFA obligations, thus assuring availability of funds to meet the requirements of the Authority.

The interest rate at which EFA would purchase State and local obligations would be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration current yields on comparable Federal obligations, obligations issued by EFA, and

municipal obligations. The Treasury would make a differential payment to EFA to cover the difference between the interest received on the tax-exempt bonds purchase and the interest paid on the taxable bonds issued.

The Authority would have a five-man Board of Directors, with the Secretary of the Treasury as Chairman. Each Director will be a Government employee who would not receive additional compensation. Initial capital will be advanced by the Treasury. EFA would be authorized to charge fees for its commitments and other services that are adequate to cover all expenses and to provide for accumulation of contingency reserves. EFA would be required to transmit to the President and the Congress an annual report of its operations.

Two companion measures in the area of water pollution will provide for swift, effective enforcement of pollution control measures and will give the Secretary of the Interior new flexibility to conduct the necessary study, research and investigations into new and better pollution control programs and methods.

Mr. President, it is absolutely essential to provide for effective enforcement of our pollution laws if we are to curb the polluters.

The administration bill will do that in a variety of ways including fines of up to \$10,000 a day against polluters who fail to take remedial action. I believe that the American people want and in fact demand this kind of tough approach against those who are fouling our rivers and lakes.

In the area of research, a small annual appropriation is sought in order to make sure we advance constantly in our methods of controlling and treating effluent and industrial waste.

Mr. President, as important as clean water is pure air. That air is polluted daily by the millions of automobiles and trucks that have become such necessities to our modern society. That pollution is added to by thousands of industrial plants and factories that daily spew additional tons of pollutants into our skies.

The bill I am introducing today will provide for new, stringent pollution controls on automobiles and will authorize the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish standards governing the composition of fuels and fuel additives.

The bill will also authorize the Secretary to establish pollution standards for factories and plants which contribute significantly to the pollution problem.

Mr. President, the sixth bill I introduce today deals with solid waste.

We here in America are faced with the prospect of being literally buried in our own garbage and litter. Ours is a use-and-throw-away society. Disposable cans and bottles, vast quantities of paper, obsolete and worn-out equipment of all kinds litter our landscape.

One way to combat this vast accumulation of trash and junk is to reclaim reusable metals, plastics, ceramics, glass, paper, and the like.

The bill I introduce today will provide for investigations and research into ways and means of making such reclamation profitable. It will give special attention to

the problem of junk autos which are becoming an ever more major problem in our land.

Under the bill, studies and research will be conducted by a Council on Environmental Quality which this bill will set up. The Council will report annually to the President the results of its research and will recommend necessary legislation or executive action.

Finally, Mr. President, several of us in the Senate will introduce for the President a bill that will take unused or underused Federal lands and make them available for optimum use.

This bill specifically will make surplus Federal lands available to State and local governments for park and recreation purposes at discount prices.

And it will insure that proceeds from such sales go to pay the cost of relocation of Federal activities on that property and to the land and water conservation fund.

So here we have it, Mr. President. A package of seven bills that open the door to a cleaner, better America.

Obviously, these bills will not do all that must be done for all time. But they are a major beginning at a time when a beginning is urgently needed.

Mr. President, I urge that this body begin work immediately on this legislation and that we pass them as early in this session as possible.

Every day we delay makes the job of cleaning up our Nation that much harder. We cannot afford to wait much longer.

Mr. President, I introduce, for appropriate reference, seven bills, and ask unanimous consent that the text of the bills, together with explanatory material, be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bills will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the bills and explanatory material will be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCOTT. I yield.

Mr. BENNETT. One of these bills sets up the Environmental Financial Administration. Obviously, the Committee on Banking and Currency has some responsibility for that particular bill. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that that bill be consecutively referred, first to the Committee on Public Works, and then to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3466) to amend the Clean Air Act so as to extend its duration, provide for national standards of ambient air quality, expedite enforcement of air pollution control standards, authorize regulation of fuels and fuel additives, provide for improved controls over motor vehicle emissions, establish standards applicable to dangerous emissions from stationary sources, and for other purposes, introduced by Mr. SCOTT, for himself and other Senators, was received, read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Public Works, and ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3466

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States