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Congressional Record S. 2143 - Letter to Barbara Bristol - Great Falls re: DDT - Use for Pollution

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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tions about DDT. First, may I say that I appreciated the initiative which you have shown in looking into this particular question in trying to become more knowledgeable about it and in contacting Mr. Eddie Albert and me.

I am delighted that you have heard from Mr. Albert, and I am very happy that you took the time and the trouble to give me the benefit of your views. What you have done is a first step in the exercising of citizenship and, to me, is a very encouraging attitude on the part of your generation. You have made me more interested in DDT and other pesticides, and the uses and abuses and, most important, the fact that their abuses have reached such a stage that something must be done about them. I have gone over each letter personally, and I have compiled a list of questions from the entire class and have endeavored to answer them to the best of my abilities. The questions and answers are as follows:

1. Are you a conservationist?

I most certainly am, and I feel that the need to face up to the problems of our environment as it affects the flora and fauna, as well as the air and the water, is long overdue.

2. What is our state doing about it?

This is a question which I think you should ask Governor Forrest Anderson, whose address is the State Capitol, Helena, Mont.

3. Have you been trying to stop it?

Yes, but I have not been concerned enough, though I intend to join Senator Gaylord Nelson and co-sponsor legislation which he has introduced to forbid the use of DDT so that plant and animal life will not be subject to its dangers, and, very likely, destroyed.

4. What can I do to help?

You are helping already by showing an interest in this problem, and I would suggest that you and your classmates, friends and parents read up on this question and make your views known to your State and National legislators.

5. What are both sides of the story?

DDT has been a very potential weapon in the extermination of mosquitoes and other pests and, thereby, has held down or eradicated certain kinds of diseases. However, on balance it seems to be more dangerous and I hope that other means can be found to replace DDT which would not be so dangerous.

6. What companies is this being sold from?

That information I do not have at my disposal.

7. How can we make it illegal to sell it?

By passing laws of the kind that Senator Nelson has introduced and which should receive strong Congressional support.

8. "I know you are good friends with President Nixon, so if you would get his opinions, I would be pleased."

I would suggest that you write to the President directly about his opinions. My thinking is that they would be very close to mine.

9. How does it affect the birds?

In all too many instances, it kills them.

10. If a bird had this disease and you ate the bird, would you get the disease also?

I think there are indications that birds so contaminated can pass on to human beings certain kinds of infections.

11. What other lands use pesticides?

Practically every civilized country in the world.

12. "I wish they would make sweatshirts looking like this about DDT." (Sent by Cynthia Conose)

So do I!

13. Will you talk to Mr. Nixon about this problem?

Yes, I will be glad to at the first opportunity.

I hope that what I have said has given you the information you desire. I hope, also, that it indicates my great interest in this

MONTANA SCHOOLCHILDREN CONCERNED ABOUT DDT

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, one of the most important issues facing the State of Montana and the Nation is the question of pollution. We have been doing a great deal of talking about it in this Chamber. The administration has come out four square against pollution, and the mail has perked up remarkably so far as the membership of this body is concerned. Up to the present time, I have received in the neighborhood of 15,000 letters, telegrams, and petitions indicating the deep interest of the people of my State in preserving the environment, in doing away with pollution, and in undertaking the necessary means to become acquainted with the vast problems which this issue poses.

In this connection, one of the most interesting letters I have received is from a group of fifth grade students at the Riverview School in Great Falls, Mont. All of these students—there must have been 20 to 30—have been answered personally; but I wrote a letter to Miss Barbara Bristol, who was the originator of the idea and who was one who developed such great interest in this matter among her classmates. In a footnote, I assure Barbara and her classmates in the fifth grade at the Riverview School that I will do my best to save the newts, the sparrows and goldfish, the chameleon, the guinea pigs, and all their types and others from the danger of pesticides. I mentioned these because some of the students had told me that they had them in their room.

I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEBRUARY 3, 1970.

MISS BARBARA BRISTOL,
Fifth Grade, Riverview School C-2,
Great Falls, Mont.

DEAR BARBARA: This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 15 in which you and your classmates raise certain ques-

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problem and greater and more intensive because of your interest and my desire to be of all possible assistance in coping with it. If you have any further questions, please feel free to write to me.

Again, I want to thank you Barbara, for being the originator of this particular project on this particular issue and to assure you that I am indebted to you and your classmates for the interest shown.

Must close now, but with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD.

P.S.—Please rest assured that I will do my best to save the newts, sparrows, goldfish, chameleon, guinea pig and all their types and others from the danger of pesticides. I mentioned the above because some of you have told me what you have in your room. Regards. MM

MIKE MANSFIELD
MONTANA

United States Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

C
O
P
Y

February 3, 1970

Miss Barbara Bristol
5th Grade, Riverview School C-2
100 Smelter Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Dear Barbara:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 15 in which you and your classmates raise certain questions about DDT. First, may I say that I appreciated the initiative which you have shown in looking into this particular question in trying to become more knowledgeable about it and in contacting Mr. Eddie Albert and me.

I am delighted that you have heard from Mr. Albert, and I am very happy that you took the time and the trouble to give me the benefit of your views. What you have done is a first step in the exercising of citizenship and, to me, is a very encouraging attitude on the part of your generation. You have made me more interested in DDT and other pesticides, and the uses and abuses and, most important, the fact that their abuses have reached such a stage that something must be done about them. I have gone over each letter personally, and I have compiled a list of questions from the entire class and have endeavored to answer them to the best of my abilities. The questions and answers are as follows:

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2. What is our state doing about it?

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Miss Barbara Bristol
February 3, 1970
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Must close now, but with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mike Mansfield

P.S. Please rest assured that I will do my best to save the newts, sparrows, goldfish, chameleon, guinea pig and all their types and others from the danger of pesticides. I mentioned the above because some of you have told me what you have in your room. Regards. MM