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Congressional Record S. 3117 - Pollution in Mt. Correspondence to State re: Anaconda

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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the process of development; and I asked the board to give this sensitive issue, the question of pollution and disfigurement of the environment as it affects the Anaconda Co.'s projects and proposed projects in the State, their immediate and their closest attention at a meeting which was to be held in the State capitol at Helena on February 20.

That meeting, for some reason, was postponed.

In the meantime, I contacted Mr. Henry Gardiner, vice president of the Anaconda Co. I explained to him my interest and the interest of my colleagues, the Senator from Montana (Mr. METCALF), Representative MELCHER, and Representative OLSEN.

He said he would take my question up with the Anaconda headquarters in New York. He did so, and then he called me and said he was coming to Washington and asked if I would care to meet with them and some of his associates who had been discussing my interest in Anaconda's operations or proposed operations in Montana.

I said that I would be delighted to meet with the group. On the basis of the meeting with the Montana congressional delegation in my office, I sent out a telegram, detailing the results, to the Associated Press, Helena, Mont.; the United Press International, Helena, Mont.; Dale Burk, of the Missoulian, at Missoula, Mont.; Bill James, of the Tribune, at Great Falls, Mont.; Burl Lyons, of the Daily Interlake, at Kalispell, Mont.; Dwayne Bowler, of the Billings Gazette, at Billings, Mont.; and George Remington, of the Independent Record, at Helena, Mont.

I did so in order that the results of that meeting could be given the widest dissemination and also so that as far as the Montana congressional delegation was concerned all of the cards could be laid on the table.

Then, on February 27, I sent another letter to the State of Montana Land Board. I also sent them copies of the telegrams that had been sent, so that they would have the information at the meeting which was to take place on March 2.

What the results of that meeting have been, I do not know. But I hope sincerely—and I speak for the full Montana delegation—that these matters were gone into in detail, not only as they affect the Huddleston-Lincoln area, which includes Alice Creek, and which affects the Black Foot River, but also the aluminium plant at Columbia Falls, and incidentally the proposed development of the Anaconda Co., a long way down the road, in the Stillwater country.

In that way, the people of Montana would be aware of what the situation is, as the congressional delegation understood it and what was discussed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the correspondence and telegrams to which I have referred be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

POLLUTION IN MONTANA

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, in the papers of Montana, there has been a good deal of discussion and talk this year relative to pollution, air and water control, pesticides, environmental control, and how these factors affect the flora and the fauna and the health of the people.

Some of this discussion has had to do with the plans of the Anaconda Co. and a proposed development in the Huddleston area in the Lincoln country, a proposed development in the Stillwater country, a situation which had developed in the Anaconda lumber plant at Bonner, Mont., outside of Missoula, and also the question of effluent emissions from the Anaconda aluminum plant at Columbia Falls.

Because of my interest in antipollution measures and my interest in trying to preserve the environment, and because of my belief of the great danger which pollution and all of its attributes can cause and the need for proper consideration, I directed a letter on February 11, 1970, to the State of Montana Land Board, whose members include the Honorable Forrest Anderson, Governor, the Honorable Frank Murray, secretary of state, the Honorable Robert Woodahl, attorney general, and Mrs. Dolores Colburg, State superintendent of public instruction and Mr. Ted Schwinden.

In that first letter, I express my concern about the situation which was in

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
February 11, 1970.

Hon. FORREST ANDERSON,
Hon. FRANK MURRAY,
Hon. ROBERT WOODAHL,
Mrs. DOLORES COLBURG,
*State of Montana Land Board,
Capitol Building,
Helena, Mont.*

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: A general preoccupation with the problems of environment, air and water pollution, and the preservation of Montana's fish and wildlife and scenic resources, prompts me to urge that these matters be given prime consideration in reviewing the Anaconda Company's request for an easement on state school trust land in the Lincoln area.

I am among the first to support and promote economic development. It is important that we move ahead in these areas, but this should not be done at the expense of the state's basic resources. There are far too many instances of disregard for human and ecological consideration. A state like Montana, with its size and relatively small population, has far too many examples of smog, polluted rivers and streams, and general disregard of ecological values, all in the name of progress. I am convinced that industry and government have sufficient technological knowhow to preserve the land, and control pollution.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I ask that the State Land Board give this sensitive issue its immediate and closest attention at the meeting on February 20. I would appreciate receiving a report on the results of the deliberations.

With best personal wishes, I am,
Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD.

FEBRUARY 27, 1970.

The Montana congressional delegation has just had a meeting with Henry E. Gardiner, vice president, Anaconda Co., Washington; Richard Steinmetz, Jr., vice president, counsel and secretary, Anaconda Aluminum Co., Louisville, Kentucky; Joseph Woodlief, president, Anaconda Aluminum Co., Louisville, Kentucky; Frank J. Laird, Jr., director of Environmental Engineering, Anaconda Co., Butte; R. Lewis Brown, Jr., director of industrial relations, Anaconda Co., Butte; Charles Schwab, vice president of the Anaconda Co., director of North American Operations, New York at which time we discussed the Huddleston Project and its relation to Alice Creek and the Blackfoot River in the matter of their protection. Anaconda officials met also with Governor Anderson who was in Washington attending the National Conference of Governors.

The Huddleston area in the Lincoln country is still under study and the Anaconda officials assured us that there would be no pollution, the water would be clear and the environment protected.

Last month they met with forest service, board of health, fish and game and State water pollution board in Helena and they also met with Lincoln delegation. No definite decision has been made on developing the Huddleston property but drilling and other exploratory activities are still in progress.

The proposed copper-nickel development in the Stillwater country was also discussed and there are no specific plans for development at this time. The area is still in an exploratory stage and any decision is some distance down the road. There are no specific plans for development as yet. However officials assured us that they did have a meeting in Billings three weeks ago with officials of forest service and appropriate agencies of Montana and Wyoming to discuss the subject in general.

Anaconda Company assured us they would comply with all air and water laws if anything does develop in the Stillwater area

and also in all their other properties in Montana. The officials indicated there was no water pollution problem at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant but that fluoride emissions has caused air pollution and they are endeavoring to improve Columbia Falls plant to cut down emissions.

They are making progress. They are aware of the problem. They have carried on their own research in this respect and will continue to do so because as they indicated there is no simple answer. They stated they would like to conduct joint studies on this problem in and around Glacier park with the park officials and the national air pollution control administration of HEW.

They also informed us that they would cut down pollution at the Bonner plant and that the two teepee burners will be taken out and a steam plant installed which would be much more effective, cut down emissions and will comply fully with Montana law.

The Montana delegation stressed the significance and importance of the need for action. The Anaconda Company officials indicated a willingness to do everything possible and to comply fully with the law. We anticipate that more details will be forthcoming when the land board meets to consider the Alice Creek drainage on Monday next.

We impressed upon the Anaconda officials our deep and personal interest in the prevention of pollution, in the prevention of disfigurement of the environment and of the need for all possible action to protect the flora and fauna as well as the health of the people. They indicated a concern and an interest as well.

Regards,

MIKE MANSFIELD.

FEBRUARY 27, 1970.

Hon. FORREST ANDERSON,
Hon. FRANK MURRAY,
Hon. ROBERT WOODAHL,
Mrs. DOLORES COLBURG,
*State of Montana Land Board,
Helena, Mont.*

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Following up my letter of February 11 to the Land Board regarding the Anaconda Company's request for an easement on state school trust land in the Lincoln area, I am enclosing a copy of a telegram—press release issued today summarizing a meeting with the Montana Congressional delegation and the officials of the Anaconda Company.

The purpose of this meeting was to seek assurance from the Company that their plans included recognition and compliance with water and air pollution control regulations. We discussed Anaconda activities at four different points in Montana: Stillwater County; Bonner; Lincoln-Huddleston; and Columbia Falls. In each instance the Anaconda representatives assured us that they were well aware of environmental considerations and were in the process of implementing the necessary control measures or had already complied with existing State air and water pollution requirements.

I am confident that, if all parties work together on these environmental issues, we will be able to have new and expanded industrial development with the necessary protection of our ecological resources.

With best personal wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD.