

From the Office of
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"TIME RUNNING OUT FOR CONSERVATION"

SENATOR HUMPHREY DECLARES

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) called ^{Today} ~~for~~ for "a massive and coordinated conservation effort to end the deplorable waste of America's natural resources."

"Time is running out," he declared, "for conservation."

The Senator said that "if we are willing to invest a dollar today to conserve our forests, our soil, our rivers and streams, then our grandchildren will reap great dividends."

Humphrey addressed the National Convention of the Izaak Walton League of America, meeting in Minneapolis.

Here are excerpts of the Senator's remarks:

"Thanks to the enlightened efforts of members of the Izaak Walton League and other dedicated conservationists, America has ended the rampant plunder and waste of our forests, soil and wildlife.

"But our work is far from finished. America today needs a massive, coordinated effort to rebuild our natural resources.

"More than 28 million acres of land must be reforested. We must purchase 7 million acres of wetland and regrass 14 million acres of dust bowl lands. An increasing population requires expansion of recreational facilities. Soil and watershed conservation efforts must be stepped up. A water pollution control program is vital.

"Half-hearted token programs are not enough.

"America is weakened every hour that topsoil is washed down to the sea in our rivers.

"America is weakened every time a flood ravages our stream beds.

"America is weakened each year we fail to reforest wasted acres.

"Conservationists have received only grudging and limited support from the White House in the last seven years.

"We fought hard for a stream pollution control bill, sponsored by myself and Congressman John A. Blatnik of Minnesota.

"That bill would have given a tremendous boost to the efforts of local communities to fight the dangerous pollution of streams and rivers. But it was killed by veto.

More

"We fought hard for increased technical assistance to Soil Conservation Districts. But our efforts were met by stubborn and bitter opposition.

"We fought hard to boost funds for such effective efforts as the brucellosis eradication program. But indifference and shortsightedness stood in our way.

"We have tried for three straight years to establish a Youth Conservation Corps.

"Such a corps had a forerunner in the CCC of the thirties. The CCC was designed as a weapon against unemployment, but it functioned as a tool for the conservation of our resources.

"We need a revival of this good idea of putting boys to useful work.

"My proposal calls for an eventual force of 150,000 young men, trained to attack the major problems of resource conservation which have plagued our Nation since the beginning of World War II.

"The support from conservationists has been magnificent. They have seen in it a way to help end the terrible waste and neglect of human and natural resources. They knew also that it would help fight juvenile delinquency, by putting unemployed young men and boys to work on important conservation projects outdoors, under skilled supervision.

"I was encouraged by the favorable response from citizens throughout the country to the Youth Conservation Corps proposal. I was confident when the Senate approved the bill last year.

"But against the opposition of the White House we have been unable to secure House action this year.

"Millions of Americans are ready to roll up their sleeves and work for the protection and orderly development of our natural resources. We are eager to do everything possible to make sure that our nation is truly America the Beautiful -- America the Strong -- America the Productive.

"We are willing also to invest what is necessary for effective conservation. We know that America can -- and must -- afford a major conservation effort. Our strength, security, growth and prosperity depend on it."

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