

ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
BEFORE THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
MARCH 8, 1965

*Pink September
in Sabre*

Mr Brooks

THE RESOURCES OF GOVERNMENT

Government's Role in the Resource Revolution

Gathered here in this crowded hall, at the Nation's
capitol, in open and peaceful assembly, it's hard to realize
we are ~~joining in a revolution~~ *going in a revolt*. But we are--and our govern-

ment is helping to lead it. I am speaking of the century-long *revolt--yes*

~~war~~ *revolt* against the waste of our natural bounty, against the

desecration and "uglification" of our land. We meet here

to add new fervor to that cause ^{*of conservation*} which, having reached a

critical stage, needs our fire and daring and dedication

more than ever before.

*Conservation of Nat Resources
Conservation of Human Resources
This is the Conservation Administration*

I am proud to be a part of it. I am proud to have stood

alongside ^{*your*} ~~for~~ resource managers in the ranks of this great

movement. This meeting holds much of the pleasure--and

nostalgia perhaps--of a reunion for me.

*Conservation
&
Development*

L We have labelled our cause, "conservation". To many, that term speaks only of quiet glades and the wild creatures that inhabit them. "But we are a nation of builders," some ~~protest~~ *say or*

"Nature is fine, but now let's move on to important business."

L We reply that buildings must stand on firm foundations and in the long run, this nation has no business more important than conserving her great basic resource: the earth that sustains all life.

L Resources are not fixed objects on a fixed plot. And resource conservation is not a matter of tending a changeless

garden. L We apply the term "resources" to whatever men

demand from the earth at a given time; as these demands

change, so must our concept of conservation. L Oil was not

much of a resource before the automobile, and wildlife today

satisfies other hungers than those of the stomach. Nothing

on earth is eternal and fixed. As the Greek philosopher

Heraclitus said, "You cannot step twice into the same

river; for fresh waters are ever flowing upon you."

L The conservation movement in America must also understand change--the ever-widening rush of new waters.

This is what expanded it from the dreams of a few idealists to a national crusade. This is what makes it uniquely a revolution.

L For we are leading a movement still unique in our national experience. Conservation as we know it is an American phenomenon--born of social reform, weaned by a dynamic national spirit, shocked to maturity by recognition that we had defiled a bountiful land. Conservationists are trying to demonstrate that free people can act in their own behalf, can dedicate their lands not to the profit of the few but the good of the many.

This is the principle I want to reaffirm today.

But how slow and agonizing has been the establishment of this principle. How frustrating it has been to see private empires built on public lands; how hard to watch resources exploited to the point of depletion; how heartbreaking to witness the assault on our wildlife and the withering of our land's natural beauty; how painful the illusion that the land was limitless and its products inexhaustible. But how thankful we must be, on the other hand, that the land was not easily pauperized; and how grateful for the courage and vision of the conservation pioneers. It was they who made possible the great progress we're making today.

These Valiant Pioneers

~~They~~ reminded us that a nation stands or falls on the firmness of its resource base; we meet today to strengthen that base. They warned that a people's spirit, and its will to

greatness, can be sapped by a barren land; and we meet

here today to perpetuate that spirit.

They began what is indeed a ~~revolution~~ ^{battle}, a call to arms

against three malignant masters: (1) over-exploitation of

land and its products, an ancient adversary whose subjects

through history have been decline and decay; (2) corruption

of the landscape (the countryside and highways, the wild and

scenic spots) which denies us pleasure in the natural world;

(3) the overgrowth and under-planning of our cities, where

population pressures damage not only the tranquility of our

people, but the air they breathe and water they drink.

More importantly, these early prophets led us to

learn that our land is a "community of all living things"--not

just a series of human subdivisions. We have learned ^{at least} (some

of us have learned) that nature will care for us only if we live

as part of life, within the natural context, This is our

lesson, to learn and teach. History will not forgive failure.

But
For all the headway we've made, our greatest challenges

lie ahead, because our resource demands are growing faster

than our population:

By the year 2,000, the population of the United States will be over 300 million. Daily water needs will increase from 345 to 560 billion gallons. Needs for agricultural products will double. In a country where people have ever more leisure time and money to enjoy it with, the burden on parks and other recreation areas will double. The number of big-game hunters, for example, will grow from 6.3 million in 1960 to 12 million by 1980--if we maintain the species and spaces for them to hunt.

Thus the forces that united us in the conservation cause
will have to be replenished. One of these forces (the most
powerful, I think) is the love of our people for the land, ~~though~~
that love is sometimes very badly expressed.

Americans have always been men of the land, and while
building a nation from forests and plains, the pulse of the wild
beats in the American bloodstream. While most of us today
live in a concrete and asphalt environment, we remember our
youth--our own or our nation's, a time of open land and broad
horizons. Like most of you, I knew this world as a boy, when
I could be Robinson Crusoe or Daniel Boone in my own backyard or community.

This memory, this imagination, is something to be
cherished and encouraged.

But an opposing force was the American will to conquer
these same lands, to tame the wild. Loving this land, yet

we abused it. Thriving on its challenges, we demanded
total surrender. It took us long years to learn restraint,
to teach ourselves to turn away from wanton waste,

L Meanwhile, growth--which was our goal--became our
nemesis. Our natural bounty allowed us to expand in huge
numbers. But booming numbers, even in a bounteous land
can drain that bounty dangerously. Witness the sprawl of
our suburbs. People sought a cleaner and less confining
life than that in the cities. And by their numbers they
destroyed these very values. Cities, the cradles of social
progress, ^{all too often} became prisons for those who could not escape
even to the less-crowded suburbs,

L We seek now a new conservation--one of people as well
as land and resources, one of metropolitan areas as well as
of open country. Our times demand it. ~~Thus~~ ^W we enter a

new phase of our continuing revolution.

L The first phase began when the great journey of Lewis
and Clark lifted our eyes to the West. It reached fruition in
the bold hands of Theodore Roosevelt. It was Roosevelt who
first consolidated Federal powers on ground broken by the
pioneers--Shurz and Marsh, Powell and Pinchot. It was a
time for awakening the American conscience, for recognizing
that the land had limits after all, for protecting public lands
from ruthless exploitation.

L It was also time--and time was growing short--to heed
the words of John Muir: "Everyone needs beauty as well as
bread/Places to play in and pray in/Where nature may heal and
cheer and give strength/To body and soul". And some were
recalling that Sir Thomas Browne once said: "Nature is the
art of God".

↳ The movement was carried a giant step forward under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who made it an instrument of public welfare with such projects as TVA, The Great Plains Shelterbelts, a soil conservation program, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The spur of his leadership drove us to find better ways of utilizing our resources, new means of using and managing them. And he broadened the definition of what we mean by resources.

↳ And then, during the post-World War II days, with our major attention still focused on international turbulence, our conservation forces had to be gathered for a new thrust, one that is now underway. ↳ Our late, beloved President John F.

Kennedy set the theme when he told Congress, in 1962, that

“We depend on our natural resources to sustain us--but in turn their continued availability must depend on our using

them prudently, improving them wisely, and where possible,
restoring them promptly."

L Just one month ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson amplified
the theme in his Message to Congress on Natural Beauty: "Our
conservation," he said, "must be not just the classic conser-
vation of protection and development, but a creative conservation
of restoration and innovation. Its concern is not with nature
alone, but with the total relation between man and the world
around him. Its object is not just man's welfare, but with
dignity of man's spirit."

L "But whose business is this?" some in this great enterprise
ask. "Who should take the lead?" This administration answers
that the concerns of conservation are the concerns of every
American, in and out of government. Nearly a year ago, in
his first delineation of America's internal problems, President

Johnson said: "The solution to these problems does not
rest on a massive program in Washington, nor can it rely
solely on the strained resources of local authority. They
require us to create new concepts of cooperation--a creative
federalism--between the National Capitol and the leaders of
local communities."

✓ We can no longer afford to think of conservation as the
special province of preservationists. Nor is it the exclusive
domain of our resource developers. It is clearly the concern
of every American. ✓ Conservation is a patchquilt of needs and
problems. The patches come in all shapes and sizes, but
each is vital to the finished work. ✓ The true conservationist
can no more ignore problems outside his narrow interest than
the seamstress can leave out center patches because she's a

specialist in edges. The common thread running through all

conservation work is a concern with the American ^{continent} ~~land~~ ~~water~~ ~~resources~~

using it for maximum public benefit today, while maintaining

its value for the tremendous needs of tomorrow.

yes / Conservation today, more than ever, insists on cooperation between all levels of government and all segments of population.

But let us remember that "cooperation", like conservation itself, can be used as a pious title for uncooperative ends.

Even among men of good will, great injustices can be done in the name of good causes. Progress is often stymied by bureaucratic bickering, by questions of who owns what land and who's responsible for what job. I say that where conservation is concerned, land titles are irrelevant. When a water table falls, it doesn't matter who owns the surface--the important thing is

to get it restored. Erosion and fire attack land without consulting ownership records. All of us lose when one of us loses soil--or when a deer dies of a damaged habitat--or when a bass dies from water pollution.

Our real question is: Who can do the job? The job begins with this question, and this is where public and private, local and federal interests begin to merge.

It was this philosophy that moved the 88th Congress to become the most effective in history for conservation legis-

lation. I shall always be grateful for the opportunity I had,

The majority whip
as ~~a~~ member of the Senate, to help make that record. I know

that in passing more than 30 important conservation bills, *the 88th*

Congress was responding to the will of the majority of our

people. As a result, we have today:

L A new Land and Water Conservation Fund, to help
states and cities preserve areas of beauty and health for
the pleasure of all.

L A Wilderness Act (one of my major proposals as a
Senator) guaranteeing that future Americans will be able
to touch the majesty of the untrammelled land our forefathers
knew.

L Water research and planning funds to prepare for
tomorrow's ^{soaring} ~~scaring~~ water needs; and we began construction
on more than 200 water resource projects, with 70 more
scheduled for this year.

L More than 5,500 miles of new transmission lines, and
an increase in flood control funds of more than 50 percent.

L A Public Land Law Review Commission, to study the
laws and administration of our public domain; and a Classifi-

cation and Multiple Use Act under which the administrators

can finally determine which lands should be retained in

federal ownership and which disposed of, and then begin long-

range programs on retained lands. This Act is "creative

Federalism" in action, for it demands closest coordination

and consultation between Federal and local authorities.

And among the most important, we have an anti-poverty

bill which establishes Job Corps Conservation Camps--a goal

I set in 1957, by the way. Here is a great example of how the

conservation concept has expanded. By bringing young men

--many of whom have never known the feel of earth or the shade

of trees--to work on the land, we ~~want not only to repair~~ *do more than repair the*

damage done to that land. We believe the land can help

repair damages done to these youths.

Again I say that our goal is not just to conserve resources, but the human beings who depend on them.

Educ
Training
Health

To this end, all the resources of government are dedicated. -

Government's role--indeed, its obligation--is to ~~put~~ its "people-derived power" into action programs wherever conservation needs have been neglected. Always, the need must determine the program's scope and shape. Government's role, its real reason for being, is the welfare of its citizens; and with tomorrow's citizens threatened with a blighted landscape, an environment of congestion and ugliness, the government that fails to act swiftly and effectively will have failed its sacred trust. Can we do less than pass on the natural legacy we were left? *I think not!*

The President's proposals to conserve that legacy are familiar to you. He has asked Congress for sweeping programs

for creating open spaces in the cities, providing space
for wild animals, protecting air and water from pollution,
beautifying the highways, increasing our park and recreation
area systems, developing new systems of wild rivers and
scenic hiking trails, reducing the harmful effects of pesti-
cides, researching the still mysterious relationship between
man and his environment.

In short, this government is
acting to insure that, as we increase the quantity of our
goods, we do not ~~diminish~~ ^{diminish} the quality of our lives.

So now we have new impetus, new laws and newer
proposals. It's time to put them into effect in a joint effort.

To do this, we need foresight and hindsight--and insight to
see that our cause is an historic one, and that we must ride

with the tide of history. Yesterday's traditions may be today's

myths. Such is the legend of America the Horn of Plenty,

~~the undepletable storehouse.~~ Such is the legend that all

good comes to those who merely tend their own gardens.

I'm reminded of another legend, one that still rings true. Remember the emperor and his new clothes-- supposedly invisible to all but the wise and virtuous? Like the emperor, we must either face up to the realities or suffer a rude awakening.

We conservationists cannot, and do not, claim to have a special pipeline to eternal verities. But we do have a moral mission to protect the dignity and well-being of our people; and this requires more than federal funds and programs. It requires that Americans of all walks and interests speak out against complacency, against the mischievous idea that conservation problems will somehow be solved by someone else.

For the problems will not be so solved. We cannot

"let George do it." And we are not going to let someone

else do it. We are going to go ahead

and do it!

And I think we are firmly on course. You who admin-

ister conservation programs know your program goals.

But let

us work together in moving more rapidly toward them. You

who inherit the banner of conservation: carry it high. You

who are missionaries in this vital cause-- work with missionary

zeal.

Let us build our land into a cathedral of conservation--

and call all people to its portals.



Re - our telephone
conversation
JBT

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A D D R E S S
of
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (Vice President of the United States): Thank you very much, Mr. Brooks.

My old friend, "Pink" Gutermuth and Ira Gabrielson and my fellow conservationists: In these days of electronics, modern inventions, it is getting difficult to see the audience over the contraptions. (Laughter) But I know you are there and I'm delighted.

Gathered here in this great assembly at the nation's Capital are some of the most peaceful people, some of the most constructive people that will ever come together at one time in this city and it is rather hard to realize, having said that, that we are about to rejoin a great struggle and, indeed, join in revolt or revolution, but the fact is that we are--and, by the way--our government is helping to lead that revolt.

I'm speaking of the century-long war, a century-long revolt against the waste of our natural bounty; against the desecration and the ugliness of our beautiful land. We meet here in Washington and of all the places that we need to have meet, it's here, to add new fervor to that cause of conservation and development which, having reached a critical stage, needs your fire, daring and dedication more than ever before.

I know that you have heard a powerful address from the minority whip of the United States Senate, one of the finest gentlemen in the Congress of the United States -- a progressive-minded, forward-looking man and a real conservationist--and might I add that in this area of conservation that there is no room for partisanship; all there's room for is dedication and constructive action.

We are here to talk about the conservation of resources and, of course, we emphasize what we call natural resources--those resources of land and water, of timber and minerals, of wildlife--but we are also here to emphasize the conservation of another resource--the human resource--because the land and the man go together.

I can say to this audience that this government and this administration headed by President Johnson and with his partner, Hubert Humphrey, and his Cabinet and this Congress, is a conservation administration, dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and human resources and dedicated to their development for the good and the use of mankind. I am proud to be a part of this -- proud to have stood alongside of your own resources managers in the ranks of this great conservation movement; and this meeting holds much of the

pleasure and nostalgia perhaps of a family reunion for me--we have been together on other occasions.

Now, we have labeled our cause, and I hope you will permit me to join you and say "our" cause, "conservation". To many, that terms speaks only of the quiet glades, the smooth waters of Minnesota lakes and wild creatures that inhabit the forests, but some say -- "Are we not a nation of builders? Nature is fine but now let's move on to important business." These are supposed to be the practical ones that say these things.

Well, we reply that buildings must stand on firm foundations and in the long run this, our nation, has no business more important than conserving her great basic resource, the earth, that sustains all life, because land and man should be and in fact are inseparable.

Resources are not fixed objects on a fixed plot and resource conservation is not a matter of tending to a changeless garden. We apply this term of "resources" to whatever men demand from the earth at any given time. As these demands change, so must our concept of conservation change.

Oil was not much of a resource before the automobile and wildlife today satisfies other hungers than those of the

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stomach. Nothing on earth is eternal or fixed. As an old Greek philosopher once said: "You cannot step twice into the same river for fresh waters are ever flowing upon you."

The conservation movement in America must understand change -- the ever widening rush of these new waters-- and that is what has expanded our movement from the dreams of a few idealists to a great national crusade and that is what makes it uniquely an American revolution, for we are leading a movement still unique in our national experience.

Conservation as we know it is an American phenomenon, born of social reform, weaned by a dynamic national spirit and shocked to its maturity by recognition that we, the people, have defiled a bountiful and beautiful land. Conservationists are trying to demonstrate that free people can act in their own behalf, voluntarily, willfully, and can dedicate their lands not to the profit of the few but to the good of the many--and this is the principle--the good of the many--the greatest good for the greatest number--that I want to reaffirm today.

Oh, but how slow and agonizing has been the establishment of this principle; how frustrating it has been to see private empires built on public lands; how hard to

watch resources exploited to the point of depletion and how heart-breaking it has been to witness the assault on our wildlife and the withering of our land's natural beauty, and how painful, Oh how painful, the illusion that the land was limitless and its products inexhaustible. Sometimes, my friends, we have acted like gluttons--just devouring all that which God created. But then, how thankful--how thankful we must be that the land was not easily pauperized, it didn't give up, and how grateful for the courage and the vision of those early conservation pioneers, because it was they who made possible the great progress that we're making today.

Now, these valiant pioneers reminded us that a nation stands or falls on the firmness of its resource base, and we meet today to strengthen that base; they warned that a peoples' spirit and its will to greatness can be sapped by a barren land and we meet here today to perpetuate that spirit.

There is, my dear fellow Americans, something spiritual about conservation effort and dedication to conservation because a true conservationist is a steward of the Lord--he truly protects that which God has created. That's why I have always felt that the conservation movement extended far beyond the commonplace of politics, far beyond even economics; it is a

communion of the soul, it is a unity of the spirit.

Now, these valiant conservation pioneers began what is indeed a battle, a war, a call to arms against three malignant forces and masters--first, the over-exploitation of the land and its products; an ancient adversary, yes, whose subjects or results through history had been decline and decay. You know it to be a true fact. Nations that have withered away into oblivion, into weakness and nothingness, first exploited their land. Then exploited their people and soon were forgotten.

The second malignant master that we must wage war upon is corruption of the landscape, the countryside, the highways, the wild and the scenic spots which denies us pleasure in the natural world and, my fellow Americans, we ought to bow our heads in shame, our beautiful countryside is being made into a junk yard and don't tell me we can't do something about that; don't tell me that the Mayor of a city (I was once one) cannot keep his streets clean, his boulevards well cared for. Don't tell me that governors and legislatures are helpless to see to it that there are rules and regulations that prevent the defiling of the landscape, the corruption of it -- or does America want to show that its main objective

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in life is the piling up of scrap iron, or of garbage pits or dump grounds? Have we no pride? I'd like to arouse in this country almost a feverish emotional outburst against this defiling of the countryside, this corruption of the landscape. The least that a people ought to have that live almost encased in asphalt and concrete is that when they leave the environs of the city they can see nature and commune with God without having to look over a pile of all worn out automobiles.

(Applause) I have a lot of these ideas that I could share with you. (Laughter). My wife says I scold when I talk like that; well, I do, because there are some things that can be done so easily.

There is a third malignant master that we need to conquer--the overgrowth and the underplanning of our cities, where population pressures damage not only the tranquility of our people, but the air they breathe and the water that they drink.

Once again I say that it is possible, through the enforcement of zoning ordinances and health codes, to see to it that our cities are more beautiful; to see to it that the landscape (yes, the yards, for lack of a better phrase, the front lawn and the back yard) looks a little bit more like we

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loved the land that is ours.

Now, more importantly, these ^verie prophets led us to learn that our land is a community of all living things--not just a series of human subdivision. We have learned (at least some of us have) that nature will care for us only if we care for it as a part of life within the natural context. This is our lesson--to learn and teach--and history will not forgive us for a failure but for all the headway that we have made. Our greatest challenges lie ahead because our population is growing rather fast too.

By the year 2000 (and that's not long, it's just around the corner) the population of the United States will be over 300 million people; daily water needs will increase from 345 to at least 560 to 600 billion gallons a day. Needs for agricultural products will double and if my friend Secretary Freeman can last as Secretary until the year 2000, he will have licked the surplus problem--there will be no doubt about that. (Laughter)

In a country where people have ever more leisure time (and we will have more) and, we trust, more money to enjoy it, the burden on parks and on recreation areas will double or triple. The number of big game hunters, for example, could

well grow from the present 6,300,000 in 1960 to well over 12,000,000 by 1980, if we maintain the species and the spaces for them to hunt.

Thus the forces that united us in the conservation cause will have to be replenished because the task is so much greater and one of these forces and, I think, the most powerful of all, is the love of our people for the land. Americans have always been people of the land and while building a nation--a great republic from forests and plains--the pulse of the wild, of the natural, of the native so to speak, beats in the American bloodstream.

While most of us today live, as I mentioned, in concrete and asphalt environments, we remember our youth--our own and our nation's youth--the time of the open land and broad horizons. My, how I like to talk about those days when I could walk down the creek (old Timber Creek out in South Dakota), when I could go pheasant hunting, when I could dream dreams like boys do. Like most of you, I knew this world as a boy, when I could be a Robinson Crusoe in my mind's eye and in my imagination, or a Daniel Boone, frankly, almost right in my own back yard or at least in the nearby community. I sympathize with youngsters today, who are literally imprisoned

in asphalt and concrete. Is it any wonder that there becomes a harshness in our society, a coldness at times? How can you really feel the sweetness and gentleness until you can touch the grass with your hands and toes? You remember when you used to like to go barefooted earlier than your mother would want you to? You remember how you would like to just feel the grass and you still do. Well, let's save some of it. (Laughter) Let's save some of it, for this memory, this imagination is something to be cherished, isn't it, but also to be encouraged and made possible as a memory for generations yet unborn.

But an opposing force was the American will to conquer this same land, to tame the wild, and loving this land, yet we abused it. Thriving on its challenges, we demanded total surrender and it took us long years to learn restraint and moderation; to teach ourselves to turn away from wanton waste. We were like that little boy that got into the watermelon patch--just dig into the heart of the melon--never intend at any time nibbling close to the rind.

Meanwhile growth, which was our goal and almost our ideal, became our nemesis. Our natural bounty allowed us to expand in huge numbers but booming numbers, even in a bounteous

land, can drain that bounty and drain it dangerously.

Witness the sprawling of our suburbs. People sought a cleaner and less confining life than in the cities and by their numbers, moving out helter skelter to the suburbs, many times without plan or without any order at all, they destroyed these very values.

Cities, the cradles of social progress, all too often became prisons for those who could not escape even in the less crowded suburbs. This afternoon I am going to be meeting with the Mayors of the largest cities of this nation and I'm going to talk to them about making our cities liveable. Cities ought not to be merely bedrooms so that we can get up and go to work. Cities ought to be citadels of culture; they ought to be places that make life enjoyable --the thrill of the good life-- and they should not be without the birds, the parks and the grass and the hill and the open spaces.

So you see, we seek now a new conservation, one of people as well as land and resources; one of metropolitan areas as well as open country. Our times demand it.

We enter a new phase of the continuing revolution in an urbanized, industrialized society. The first phase began when the great journey of Lewis & Clark lifted our eyes

to the West; it reached fruition in the bold and strong hands of Teddy Roosevelt. It was Teddy Roosevelt who first consolidated Federal powers on ground broken by such men as Shures, Marsh, Powell and Pinchot. It was time for awakening the American conscience; for recognizing that this land had limits after all for protecting public lands from ruthless exploitation; and Teddy Roosevelt will be remembered, as will Governor Pinchot and others, not for just some of the political decisions, like the war on the trusts and the monopolies, but, more importantly, for the love of the land; for setting the example and for conserving, at least starting the fight to conserve our great heritage.

It was also time, and that time was growing short, to heed the words of John Muir. You will remember what he said-- Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may help and cheer and give strength to the body and the soul. That is some of the best therapy that you can have. I think we just ought to repeat that time after time. Everyone needs beauty as well as brains, places to play in and pray in, where nature can help and cheer and give strength to body and soul; and also somewhere recalling what Sir Thomas Brown once said--nature is the art of God.

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This is why I said before that conservation should have a religious impulse to it.

The conservation movement was carried a giant step forward under Franklin Roosevelt, who made it an instrument of public welfare with such projects as the TVA, the great plains shelter belts, the soil conservation program, the Civilian Conservation Corps. The spur of his leadership drove us to find better ways of utilizing our resources, new means of using and managing them, and he broadened the definition of what we mean by resources.

Then, during the post-World War II years, with our major attention still focused on international turbulence, our conservation forces had to be gathered anew for a new thrust and one that is now under way---and may I say were it not for the people in this room, right here, you and your leaders and your spokesmen, we would have lost this war, lost this fight for conservation, because the war years, understandably, took our minds off it and in the post-war years of international tension and crisis, without our thinking of the land and human and physical resources of this country, we could have been like a ship without a rudder--lost, storm-tossed.

Our late, beloved President John F. Kennedy set the

theme for this modern period when he told Congress in 1962, and I quote him, "we depend on our natural resources to sustain us but in turn, their continued availability depend on our using them prudently, improving them wisely and, where possible, restoring them promptly.

Just one month ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson amplified the theme in his message to Congress on natural beauty, and what a beautiful message. "Our conservation (he said) must be not just a classic conservation of protection and development but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation. It's concern is not with nature alone but with the total relation between man and the world around him. Its object is not just man's welfare but with the dignity of man's spirit."

But whose business is this, I ask? Some in this great enterprise ask the same. Who should take the lead? Who should take the first step, which is the longest journey?

This administration answers that the concerns of conservation are the concerns of every American in and out of government.

Nearly a year ago, in his first delineation of America's internal problems, President Johnson said that solution

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to these problems does not rest on a massive program in Washington, nor can it rely solely on the strained resources of local authority -- they require us to create new concepts of cooperation, a creative Federalism between the national capital and the leaders of local communities.

So you see, we can no longer afford to think of conservation as the special province of conservationists or preservationists; nor is it the exclusive domain of our resource developers--it is clearly the concern of every one.

Conservation is a patchquilt of needs and problems; the patches come in all shapes and sizes, but each is vital to the finished work. The true conservationist can no more ignore problems outside his narrow interest than the seamstress can leave out center patches because she is a specialist on edges. (Laughter)

The common thread running through all conservation work is a concern with this American land of ours--this American continent--using it for the maximum public benefit today while maintaining its value for the tremendous needs of tomorrow. Conservation today, more than ever, insists therefore upon cooperation between all levels of government and all segments of the population but let us remember that this word

"cooperation" like conservation itself, can be used by some as a pious title for uncooperative and unproductive ends. Even among men of good will, great injustices can be done in the name of good causes. Progress is often stymied by bureaucratic bickering, by question of who owns the land and who is responsible for what job. We have spent more time arguing about that than we have about conserving.

I say that where conservation is concerned land titles are irrelevant. When a water table falls it doesn't matter really who owns the surface--the important thing is to get the table restored and that ought to be a challenge to us. Erosion and fire attack land without consulting the clerk of courts or the registrar of deeds or ownership records. All of us lose when one of us loses soil, or when a deer dies of a damaged habitat or when the bass dies from water pollution. Our real question is not who owns it, not who should do it first, but who can do the job.

The job begins with this question, and this is where the public, private, local and Federal interests begin to merge and it was this philosophy that moved the recent 88th Congress to become the most effective Congress in history for conservation legislation, and I shall ever be grateful for the

opportunity that I have had as a member of that Congress and as a majority whip of the U. S. Senate to help make that record. I know that in passing more than thirty important conservation bills in one Congress that the 88th Congress was responding to the will of the majority of our people and to the needs of this republic. As a result, we have today a whole new charter of conservation; a new land and water conservation fund to help states and cities preserve areas of beauty and health for the pleasure of all; a Wilderness Act--Oh, I remember my old friend Zahnheizer, this was one of my major proposals as a Senator. I can remember the heat we took. My, you would have thought that we were going to deny certain interests in this country a chance to even make a nickel. I was one of those fellows that was wanted. They had my picture posted in certain places--Private Enemy, I think it was, #1. (Laughter) Yes, we took the early heat. They took a little bark off me once in a while, a little skin here and there, but I am happy to tell you that the bill is passed and the Wilderness Act will guarantee that future Americans will be able to touch the majesty of untrammelled land that our forebears knew.

Then there is the water research and planning funds to prepare for tomorrow's sorry needs and we began construction

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on more than two hundred water resource projects with seventy more scheduled for this year. More than five thousand five hundred miles of new transmission lines and an increase of flood control funds of more than fifty per cent was the record of that Congress.

A Public Law Review Commission to study the laws and the administration of our public domain and the Classification and Multiple Use Act under which the administrators can finally determine which lands should be retained in Federal ownership and which disposed of and then began long-range programs on the retained lands. Now, this act is creating Federalism in action for it demands the closest coordination and consultation between Federal and local authorities and then, among the most important of all conservation acts, we have the Economic Opportunity Act, the War On Poverty Act, which establishes amongst many other things a job corps conservation program, or job corps conservation camps, a goal I may say that I set in 1957. That particular aspect of that bill went past the Senate three times and, my dear friends, on the issue of racism, youth and the land, human resources and natural resources were denied attention for year after year and finally, in this last Congress, we passed the Youth Opportunity Act, we passed this Economic Opportunity

Act and we have set in motion today a tremendous new program that is going to be of benefit to millions and millions of Americans yet unborn. Here is an example of how the conservation concept has expanded, by bringing young men, many of whom have never known the feel of earth or the shade of trees; by bringing them to work on the land we do more than repair the damage that is done to the land. We believe that the land can help repair the damage that society has done to the youth.

We are in one of the greatest healing programs. We are binding up wounds that have been opened for far too long and I can tell you, my dear friends, when I witnessed the opening of that first camp, when I read about it and when I saw all the films, I am not ashamed to tell you that the tears flowed down my face because I saw there young man that had never had a chance getting a chance and what bothers me is why did we wait so long? Why all this self-righteousness about the evil of our young and the delinquency of our youth while the adults bickered over how to get the job done? And today, my fellow Americans, we have room in these camps, in this first year for only a few thousand and hundreds, yea thousands and thousands, over a hundred thousand young men

already, have pleaded with this government, this rich country, for a chance to work in a camp. Youngsters that are 16, 17 and 18 years of age, are saying to camp counsellors, "this is my last chance, if I can't make it here, I will go down in defeat"; a step away from disaster, and yet we parade around talking about our stock market and our wealth, while we forget the real wealth of the nation all too often, the youth.

I will be eternally grateful to the President of the United States for his leadership in this fight. An N.Y.A. boy in his youth, National Youth Administration, a little country school teacher, President of the United States. And he's made up his mind that this country is going to see to it that every boy and girl, regardless of race, color, creed or economic station, has an opportunity for the best education that this republic can offer at any time in its history. That's the commitment of your President and I hope it's yours. (Applause)

While you are here, call on your Congressman. Don't just talk to each other--you're all together anyway. (Laughter) Because we have these programs before the Congress. I have attended too many meetings where we went around patting each

other on the back. I'm the biggest meeting attender that this country ever had. (Laughter)

What this country needs right now is a good shot of conscience adrenalin. Just get busy. Get these cities of ours rebuilt; get these illiterates taught; get these young men and women and some of them older that have no skills, get them some training. Conserve and develop human resources at the same time that you conserve and develop the great physical resources. Man and the land.

Government's role, indeed its obligation, is to put this people power into action programs wherever conservation needs have been neglected. Always the need must determine the program's scope and shape.

Government's role is--its real reason for even being is the welfare of its citizens and with tomorrow's citizens threatened with a blighted landscape and environment, of congestion and ugliness, the government that fails to act swiftly and effectively will have failed in its sacred trust.

My fellow Americans, by the year 1980, eighty-five out of every hundred Americans will be living in large cities and we have to teach people who live in the cities; to love the land that surrounds the cities and not to exploit

it. We are going to have to teach one another to keep the water clean and pure. There won't be a river left in America that isn't polluted--I doubt that there are many now --when I think of my own beloved state of Minnesota with what some people call its ten thousand lakes, depending on who you are sometimes you call it twenty thousand (Laughter); but be that as it may, why don't they tell you how many of them are already polluted. The land of the sky-blue water, but the water in all too many instances is contaminated by man. Now we can't do this and be a strong country and be worthy of our heritage. Can we do less, I ask, than to pass on to the next generation the natural legacy that we were left? In fact, each generation owes a little something more to the one that succeeds it. Does man have a right to destroy that which God created or don't you talk about that in church, or at your family altar or in the quietness of your own conscience?

What is it that gives us the feeling that somehow or another we have a right to destroy that which we say we believe came from the Divine?

President's Johnson's proposals to conserve that legacy are of historic importance. He has asked Congress for

sweeping programs to create open spaces in our cities--providing space for wild animals--protecting air and water from pollution--beautifying the highways--increasing our park and recreation systems--developing new systems of wild rivers and scenic hiking trails--reducing the harmful effects of pesticides--researching the still mysterious relationship between man and his environment.

By 1970, my fellow Americans, ninety million automobiles on our highways--ninety million! It seems to me that we have something to be concerned about in air pollution, in beautification. In short, this government is acting to insure that as we increase the quantity of our goods, we do not diminish the quality of our lives.

So now we have this new impetus--new laws and new proposals. It's time to put them into effect in a joint effort. To do this, we need foresight, hindsight and we need some insight to see that our cause is a historic one. And that we must ride with the tide of history. Yesterday's traditions may be today's myths. Such is the legend of the America, the horn of plenty. Such is the legend that all good comes to those who merely tend to their own gardens.

We conservationists cannot and do not claim to

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have a special pipeline to eternal verities but I think that we do have a moral mission to protect the dignity and the well-being of our people and this requires more than federal funds and programs--money won't do it alone. It requires that Americans of all walks of life and interest speak out against complacency; against the mischievous idea that conservation problems will somehow be solved by someone else; for the problems will not be solved by someone else--we cannot let George do it because maybe George isn't there--maybe George doesn't even hear us--he may have a hearing defect.

(Laughter)

And we are not going to let someone else do it either--not Fred or John. We are just going to have to buckle down and get going and do it ourselves and I think we are firmly on that course--that's why I came here.

You who administer these conservation programs; you who outline them and feed them, you know your program goals but let us work together in moving more rapidly toward those goals--be a little bit restless, be anxious to see that this job is done.

You who are missionaries in this vital cause of conservation, may I suggest that you work with a missionary

zeal. Let us together in the love of this great land of ours, this America that we herald in that beautiful Song, "America The Beautiful"--let us build our land into a cathedral of beauty and of conservation and then let us call all the people to its portals.

Thank you. (Rising Applause)



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