

"... in the Courts, or in the Woods?"

by Hubert H. Humphrey

U.S. Senator, Minnesota



Photo by Finnigan

Forester Sam Dana (l) with Senator Humphrey at AFA Centennial Meeting

WHEN THE FIRST Congress of the United States met, our nation had barely 3.9 million people. And the forest was viewed as a barrier to development. Exploiting it was a challenge.

When in September 1875 the American Forestry Association was formed in Chicago under the leadership of that outstanding physician-conservationist, Dr. John Warder, the effects of a century of wasteful exploitation of our forests were becoming all too clear.

I am here today as a citizen with long and deep interests in the relation between our spiritual and economic well being and the condition of our natural and human resources. I am a conservationist, and proud to be one. I also am a professional policy maker—a politician if you wish—one of 100 Senators selected by the voters to translate

ideas into national policies. I am a politician who believes that there is an evolution of policy just as there is for the plants and animals. I believe we must try to improve things, while being willing to examine what is evolving. I also believe very strongly that we should bring people and ideas together in this evolutionary process.

Today let us talk about the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. This Act, which I helped initiate, is dedicated to the principle of policy evolution. It seeks to address the situation on some 700 million acres of range and grass lands and some 700 million acres of forested lands—two-thirds of the 2.2 billion acres in our United States. It gives us as a nation the ways and means to shape the destiny of our land by helping determine the way we address the issue of

our renewable resources.

The Act provides the means to assess regularly our renewable resources—including soil, water, forest and range plants, animals, fish, birds and even the insects. It then provides the vehicle for focusing public policy decisions on these 1.4 million acres.

What for example, should be the role of the private landowner as well as the federal, state and local governments?

Another important concept imbedded in the bill is flexibility. In this Act we recognized the inevitability of change and provided the basis for developing improved information on which to gear policies and programs. We tried to create the machinery that gives us facts so that the fear and uncertainty of change is reduced. And we sought to avoid being caught up by events because we were not looking at what was happening around us.

In this Act we also tried to keep the range of actions within manageable proportions. The Act recognizes the pivotal role the Department of Agriculture and its Forest Service play in administering forest and range lands, and in aiding the private sector management of similar lands. It is one thing to recognize that there is a governmental role, but is quite another to be able to respond. A major challenge that we face as a nation is to improve our ability to come to grips with issues.

Today, with well over 200 million people in the United States, decision making and policy formulation are far more complex than when we had but four million people in our new nation. When the AFA was founded, I am told you had perhaps 35 members. They looked at the resource situation, as they saw it, and they hammered out a policy and a program which was a good one. Today you have 80,000 members. AFA is an excellent example of how the coming together of a group of people—who are willing to get the facts and bring them to the attention of their fellow-citizens—helped focus on the issues and identify the needs.

The whole system of renewable resource conservation still rests on the foundations that this small bank of pioneers helped to design. When they began, lumbermen thought that forest management on a scientific basis was pure folly. Fire protection was viewed as perhaps useful for mature timber lest it be burned up before it was cut down. The public forest—whether federal or state—was regarded as a public picking ground. The best thing that could happen was to get rid of the trees and convert the land to a farm. The range lands of the United States were the battlegrounds of the homesteader and the cattleman. The only question was whether the sod would be broken by the plow or by the thousands of cattle and sheep that ranged across the grasslands.

I do not suggest that all that happened was bad, either in outcome or in motivation. But the record is clear that the 35 original members of your association were forward-looking. They said that if man uses the renewable resources wisely, they will help man sustain himself in perpetuity.

Now, 100 years later, we have a much clearer understanding of the fundamental truth of this fact. This past century has been one of major change. Oil and the internal combustion engine—both reliant on non-renewable resources—have worked changes on our whole way of life. I am sure that when the first meeting of AFA was held in 1875, a number of your members came on a passenger train whose engine equaled 500 horses. Some probably came via "one-horse power"—a horse, pulling a "Democrat"—the popular two-seater shay of the day. For your meeting here today some came by 727—a jet powered by the equivalent of about 9,000 horses. A few probably came by train pulled by 4,000 horses, and many came by car with a 200 to 300 horsepower engine.

Our use of energy these past few decades has been as profligate as our use of wood used to be. When your organization first assembled in Chicago, many of the city streets were cobbled with wood paving

blocks. And the rails the trains ran on were ties of now prized and expensive hardwood lumber. It is clear that the energy events of the past few years are going to change how we view and how we use the forest resources. America's forests and rangelands are assuming new and larger importance. We are learning to work with nature, but time is *not* on our side.

We have learned that some resources are renewable. They can be husbanded or used again and again if not abused. We know that we have a massive job of reclamation on both forest and range land in order to restore the vigor and quality of their resources. We have learned that the forest and the range have many resources and their uses can be multiple. And we have learned that there is a value to the quality of wildness.

In addition, we have learned to respect Nature—there are ecological interconnections that we must work *with*, not against.

In January, 1976, we are going to test ourselves on how to apply what we have learned. Under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, this process already is well under way. The Department of Agriculture now has in circulation for public study the raw material that every interested citizen is asked to study. In fact, the law—which provides the rules for this test—requires you as citizens to contribute to the body of facts and to the proposals.

In January you will be asked to come forward and tell the Congress whether or not all of the relevant facts are there and whether they are comprehensively displayed. You will be asked in the second part of that test either to pick what you think is the best course, with your reasons, or to suggest other alternatives and back them up with reasons. And further, you will be asked to help us in the Congress to select the best course to chart for the years immediately ahead.

In this unique and comprehensive test, we in the Congress will likewise be examined on our ability to carry out our responsibilities under this

new law. We will be evaluating your ideas and measuring them against the proposals of the Executive. And, you will have an opportunity to examine the answers we give.

This legislation was the product of many people working together with diverse views. I am confident that when AFA decided to support this legislation, it did so with the understanding that it was making a commitment for its 80,000 members to work actively and continuously toward the improvement of our renewable resources. This law is not a one-time thing. It provides that annually we can adjust our sights, and that each 5 years we can substantially overhaul our priorities and program. Every 10 years we will have a new comprehensive resource assessment that will give us the base for significant changes in both direction and speed. I certainly hope that this Act will do more than help us chart the right courses for our renewable resources. It also should serve as a model that can be applied to many other areas.

Take for example, the recent West Virginia timber harvesting decision and some of its impacts. I am sure you have heard so much about it that I will not replot that ground today. But I call on you as a key citizen group to help work out this issue, as you helped get the Resources Planning Act adopted. I hope that your Areas of Agreement approach will help galvanize all conservationists toward some cooperative solution as to how the National Forests should be managed.

I am prepared to help. Shortly, I plan to re-introduce Section 201 of the original version of the Resources Planning Act. This will give the public and the Executive agencies a bill on which to focus in order to decide what form new legislation should take.

The fundamental issue we must face is whether forestry should be practiced in the courts, or in the woods. The next issue we face is whether Congress should write tight instructions into law, or allow the professional resource manager the

(Turn to page 62)

AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE*

Kent Dannen (Postage Stamp Forests) is a writer and photographer whose work has appeared in many books and magazines. He says he owes this article to his father, a former forester, who interested him in stamp collecting many years ago.

Russ Leadabrand (The Trees of the USC Campus) is on the journalism faculty at USC and free-lances for regional travel, environmental and recreational magazines. His newest book is *Yesterday's California*, a 300-page nostalgic photographic essay on the Golden State.

Creighton Peet (The Great San Diego Zoo) is a writer who has contributed over the years to a wide variety of national magazines. In addition, he is author of approximately one dozen factual books for children.

Barrett G. Potter (The Dirty Thirties Shelterbelt Project) is Professor, Social Science Department, SUNY Agricultural and Technical College in Alfred, New York. Author of an in-depth study of the CCC program, he is an expert in agricultural matters during the 1930's.

Ron Scheeley (Corkscrew Swamp: A Million Years from the Present) became interested in Florida history and geography while a college student. He is a nature photographer and a conservationist.

Dorothy May Small (Guess Who's Coming to Dinner) is a nature photographer whose work has appeared in numerous magazines including *National Geographic*, *National Wildlife*, and *American Forests*. She has won many of the nature photo-essay awards of the Photographic Society of America.

*Affiliations of other authors accompany their articles.

In the Courts, or in the Woods?

(From page 15)

flexible authority needed to apply the best scientific forestry practices in a manner that assures complete respect for the environment. In this connection, my sentiments are similar to those of a former chief of the Forest Service, who told your organization in 1935, "Forestry is a profession that will not tolerate political dominance." To best resolve these issues, Congress is going to need all of the help that you can give.

In 1905 at the American Forest Congress, Teddy Roosevelt issued marching orders for all of us here today when he said: "You are mighty poor Americans if your care for the well-being of this country is hoping that well-being will last out your own generation. No man here or elsewhere is entitled to call himself a decent citizen if he does not try to do his part toward seeing that our national policies are shaped for the advantage of our children and our children's children."

We have a right to be confident about the future because we have accomplished so much. We have no right to be complacent because there is so much to do.

For many years it was my good fortune to work closely with Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, both in the Congress and earlier when he was a Secretary of Agriculture. Let me share with you a thought of his—a philosophy that I share. "Conservation is to a democratic government by free men as the roots of a tree are to its leaves."

On this occasion which marks your 100th anniversary, I want to join with you in saluting that hardy band of 35 conservationists who set us on the course of wise resource management. Now, as a group with 80,000 members, I hope you will swell your impact to meet the challenges ahead. I see no reason why we cannot be pragmatic and idealistic at the same time. As the great American conservationist Carl Schurz said: "Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny. ■"

AMERICAN FORESTS

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

If you're going to move, please let us know ONE MONTH beforehand. Please print your new address here and attach present magazine label below.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Mail to: AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, 1319 EIGHTEENTH ST., N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036



TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS LABEL
PLEASE ATTACH IT HERE
AND PRINT NEW ADDRESS ABOVE

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

CENTENNIAL MEETING

Washington, D.C.

October 7, 1975

When the first Congress of the United States met, our Nation had barely 3.9 million people. And the forest was viewed as a barrier to development. Exploiting it was a challenge.

When in September 1875 the American Forestry Association was formed in Chicago under the leadership of that outstanding physician - conservationist, Dr. John Warder, the effects of a century of wasteful exploitation of our forest were becoming all too clear.

Credit also should go to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and to the huge cross-section of interested citizens for alerting the American people to the need for the conservation of our renewable resources.

I am here today as a citizen with long and deep interests in the relation between our spiritual and economic well being and the condition of our natural and human resources.

I am a conservationist, and proud to be one.

I also am a professional policy maker -- a politician if you wish -- one of 100 Senators selected by the voters to translate ideas into national policies.

I am a politician who believes that there is an evolution of policy just as there is for the plants and animals. I believe we must try to improve things, while being willing to examine what is evolving.

I also believe very strongly that we should bring people and ideas together in this evolutionary process. I am a Democrat in political philosophy -- a member of the Party that believes that an elected government is the peoples' way of fashioning and achieving those goals.

Today let us talk about the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. This Act, which I helped initiate, is dedicated to the principle of policy evolution. It seeks to address the situation on some 700 million acres of range and grass lands and some 700 million acres of forested lands -- two-thirds of the 2.2 billion acres in our United States.

It gives us as a nation the ways and means to shape the destiny of our land by helping determine the way we address the issue of our renewable resources.

The Act provides the means to assess regularly our renewable resources -- including soil, water, forest and range plants, animals, fish, birds and even the insects.

It then provides the vehicle for focusing public policy decisions on these 1.4 million acres.

What for example, should be the role of the private land owner as well as the Federal, State and local governments?

Another important concept imbedded in the bill is flexibility. In this Act we recognized the inevitability of change and provided the basis for developing improved information on which to gear policies and programs.

We tried to create the machinery that gives us facts so that the fear and uncertainty of change is reduced. And we sought to avoid being caught up by events because we were not looking at what was happening around us.

In this Act we also tried to keep the range of actions within manageable proportions. The Act, recognizes the pivotal role the Department of Agriculture and its Forest Service play in administering forest and range lands, and in aiding the private sector management of similar lands.

It is one thing to recognize that there is a governmental role, but is quite another to be able to respond. A major challenge that we face as a people and as a Nation is to improve our ability to come to grips with issues.

Today, with well over 200 million people in the United States, decision making and policy formulation are far more complex than when we had but 4 million people in our new Nation.

When the AFA was founded, I am told you had perhaps 35 members. They looked at the resource situation, as they saw it, and they hammered out a policy and a program which was a good one. Today you have 80,000 members.

AFA is an excellent example, of how the coming together of a group of people -- who are willing to get the facts and bring them to the attention of their fellow-citizens--helped focus on the issues and identify the needs.

The whole system of renewable resource conservation still rests on the foundations that this small band of pioneers helped to design. When they began, lumbermen thought that forest management on a scientific basis was pure folly.

Fire protection was viewed as perhaps useful for mature timber lest it be burned up before it was cut down. The public forest -- whether Federal or State was regarded as a public picking ground. The best thing that could happen was to get rid of the trees and convert the land to a farm.

The range lands of the United States were the battlegrounds of the homesteader and the cattleman. The only question was whether the sod would be broken by the plow or by the thousands of cattle and sheep that ranged across the grasslands.

I do not suggest that all that happened was bad, either in outcome or in motivation. But the record is clear that the 35 original members of your association were forward-looking. They said that if man uses the renewable resources wisely, they will help man sustain himself in perpetuity.

Now, 100 years later, we have a much clearer understanding of the fundamental truth of this fact.

This past century has been one of major change. Oil and the internal combustion engine -- both reliant on non-renewable resources -- have worked changes on our whole way of life.

I am sure that when the first meeting of AFA was held in 1875, a number of your members came on a passenger train whose engine equaled 500 horses. Some probable came via "one-horse power" -- a horse, pulling a "Democrat" -- the popular two seater shay of the day.

For your meeting here today some came by 727 -- a jet powered by the equivalent of about 9,000 horses. A few probably came by train pulled by 4,000 horses, and many came by car with a 200 to 300 horse power engine.

Our use of energy these past few decades has been as profligate as our use of wood used to be. When your organization first assembled in Chicago, many of the city streets were cobbled with wood paving blocks. And the rails the trains ran on were ties of now prized and expensive hardwood lumber.

It is clear that the energy events of the past few years are going to change how we view and how we use the forest resources.

America's forests and rangelands are assuming new and larger importance. We are learning to work with nature, but time is not on our side.

We have learned that some resources are renewable. They can be husbanded or used again and again if not abused.

We know that we have a massive job of reclamation on both forest and range land in order to restore the vigor and quality of their resources.

We have learned that the forest and the range have many resources and their uses can be multiple.

And we have learned that there is a value to the quality of wildness.

In addition, we have learn to respect Nature -- there are ecological interconnections that we must work with, not against.

In January, 1976, we are going to test ourselves on how to apply what we have learned. Under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, this process already is well under way.

The Department of Agriculture now has in circulation for public study the raw material that every interested citizen is asked to study. In fact, the law -- which provides the rules for this test -- requires you as citizens to contribute to the body of facts and to the proposals.

In January you will be asked to come forward and tell the Congress whether or not all of the relevant facts are there and whether they are comprehensively displayed. You will be asked in the second part of that test either to pick what you think is the best course, with your reasons, or to suggest other alternatives and back them up with reasons.

And further, you will be asked to help us in the Congress to select the best course to chart for the years immediately ahead.

In this unique and comprehensive test, we in the Congress will likewise be examined on our ability to carry out our responsibilities under this new law.

We will be evaluating your ideas and measuring them against the proposals of the Executive. And, you will have an opportunity to examine the answers we give.

This legislation was the product of many people working together with diverse views. I am confident that when AFA decided to support this legislation, it did so with the understanding that it was making a commitment for its 80,000 members to work actively and continuously toward the improvement of our renewable resources.

This law is not a one-time thing. It provides that annually we can adjust our sights, and that each 5 years we can substantially overhaul our priorities and program. Every 10 years we will have a new comprehensive resource assessment that will give us the base for significant changes in both direction and speed.

I certainly hope that this Act will do more than help us chart the right courses for our renewable resources. It also should serve as a model that can be applied to many other areas.

Last week when I spoke to the Society of American Foresters, I discussed in some detail the West Virginia timber harvesting decision and some of its impacts.

I will not replot that ground today. However, I would like to expand a bit on what I said.

I called on the membership of SAF as professional foresters to express their views and cooperate in positive and constructive reform.

And I call on you as a key citizen group to help work out this issue, as you helped get the Resources Planning Act adopted. I hope that your Areas of Agreement approach will help galvanize all conservationists toward some cooperative solution as to how the National Forests should be managed.

I am prepared to help.

Shortly, I plan to re-introduce Section 201 of the original version of the Resources Planning Act. This will give the public and the Executive agencies a bill on which to focus in order to decide what form new legislation should take.

The fundamental issue we must face is whether forestry should be practiced in the courts, or in the woods.

The next issue we face is whether Congress should write tight instructions into law, or allow the professional resource manager the flexible authority needed to apply the best scientific forestry practices in a manner that assures complete respect for the environment.

My sentiments are similar to those of F.A. Silcox, former chief of the Forest Service, who told your organization in 1935, "Forestry is a profession that will not tolerate political dominance."

To best resolve these issues, Congress is going to need all of the help that you can give.

In 1905 at the American Forest Congress, Teddy Roosevelt issued marching orders for all of us here today when he said:

"You are mighty poor Americans if your care for the well-being of this country is hoping that well-being will last out your own generation. No man here or elsewhere is entitled to call himself a decent citizen if he does not try to do his part toward seeing that our national policies are shaped for the advantage of our children and our children's children."

We have a right to be confident about the future because we have accomplished so much. We have no right to be complacent because there is so much to do.

For many years it was my good fortune to work closely with Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, both in the Congress and earlier when he was a Secretary of Agriculture. Let me share with you a thought of his -- a philosophy that I share.

"Conservation is to a democratic government by free men as the roots of a tree are to its leaves."

On this occasion which marks your 100th anniversary, I want to join with you in saluting that hardy band of 35 conservationists who set us on the course of wise resource management. Now, as a group with 80,000 members, I hope you will swell your impact to meet the challenges ahead.

I see no reason why we cannot be pragmatic and idealistic at the same time. As the great American conservationist Carl Schurz said:

"Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny."

Paul Ott - Country Music Hag -
Old Blue

Born 1883

Shiloh Belts

Dir Sam Dana - Forestry
Formerly Log Muck

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

(N.C.)

Will Gilmore - President

AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Wenatchee
Wash

Pres. Elect Mr. ^{Wilfred} Woods

CENTENNIAL MEETING

Idaho - Mr. ^{Charles} Connaughton
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 7, 1975

Joan Hiltmeir
Bob Wolfe
Nelson Denlinger

Sen Hatfield

Robert Herbst

Min. Dept Nat Resources

x. Former Forest Service Chief
Richard McArdle - Here

Society of American Foresters

-1-

When the first Congress of the United States met, our
Nation had barely 3.9 million people. And the forest was viewed
as a barrier to development. Exploiting it was a challenge.

When in September 1875 the American Forestry Association
was formed in Chicago under the leadership of that outstanding
physician - conservationist, Dr. John Warder, the effects of a
century of wasteful exploitation of our forest were becoming all
too clear.

Credit also should go to the "American Association for the
Advancement of Science" and to the huge cross-section of interested
citizens for alerting the American people to the need for the
conservation of our renewable resources.

-2-

to me, not only as a Senator, but
L I AM HERE ~~TODAY~~ AS A CITIZEN WITH LONG AND DEEP INTERESTS

IN THE RELATION BETWEEN OUR SPIRITUAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING AND
THE CONDITION OF OUR NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

L I AM A CONSERVATIONIST, AND PROUD TO BE ONE.

L I ALSO AM A PROFESSIONAL POLICY MAKER -- A POLITICIAN IF
YOU WISH -- ONE OF 100 SENATORS SELECTED BY THE VOTERS TO TRANSLATE
IDEAS INTO NATIONAL POLICIES.

L I AM A POLITICIAN WHO BELIEVES THAT THERE IS AN EVOLUTION
OF POLICY JUST AS THERE IS FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS. L I BELIEVE
WE MUST TRY TO IMPROVE THINGS, WHILE BEING WILLING TO EXAMINE
WHAT IS EVOLVING.

L I ALSO BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD BRING PEOPLE
AND IDEAS TOGETHER IN THIS EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. L I AM A DEMOCRAT
IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY -- A MEMBER OF THE PARTY THAT BELIEVES
THAT AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT IS THE PEOPLES' WAY OF FASHIONING AND
ACHIEVEING THOSE GOALS.

h TODAY LET US TALK ABOUT THE FOREST AND RANGELAND RENEWABLE
RESOURCES PLANNING ACT OF 1974 h THIS ACT, WHICH I HELPED INITIATE,
IS DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF POLICY EVOLUTION h IT SEEKS TO
ADDRESS THE SITUATION ON SOME 700 MILLION ACRES OF RANGE AND GRASS
LANDS AND SOME 700 MILLION ACRES OF FORESTED LANDS -- TWO-THIRDS OF
THE 2.2 BILLION ACRES IN OUR UNITED STATES.

h IT GIVES US AS A NATION THE WAYS AND MEANS TO SHAPE THE
DESTINY OF OUR LAND BY HELPING DETERMINE THE WAY WE ADDRESS THE
ISSUE OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

h THE ACT PROVIDES THE MEANS TO ASSESS REGULARLY OUR
RENEWABLE RESOURCES -- INCLUDING SOIL, WATER, FOREST AND RANGE
PLANTS, ANIMALS, FISH, BIRDS AND EVEN THE INSECTS.

h IT THEN PROVIDES THE VEHICLE FOR FOCUSING PUBLIC POLICY
1 Billion - 400 million
DECISIONS ON THESE 1.4 MILLION ACRES.

WHAT FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE LAND OWNER AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONCEPT IMBEDDED IN THE BILL IS FLEXIBILITY. IN THIS ACT WE RECOGNIZED THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE AND PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING IMPROVED INFORMATION ON WHICH TO GEAR POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

WE TRIED TO CREATE THE MACHINERY THAT GIVES US FACTS SO THAT THE FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY OF CHANGE IS REDUCED. AND WE SOUGHT TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT UP BY EVENTS BECAUSE WE WERE NOT LOOKING AT WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND US.

IN THIS ACT WE ALSO TRIED TO KEEP THE RANGE OF ACTIONS WITHIN MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS. THE ACT, RECOGNIZES THE PIVOTAL ROLE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS FOREST SERVICE PLAY IN ADMINISTERING FOREST AND RANGE LANDS, AND IN AIDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR MANAGEMENT OF SIMILAR LANDS.

IT IS ONE THING TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A GOVERNMENTAL
ROLE, BUT IS QUITE ANOTHER TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND. A MAJOR
CHALLENGE THAT WE FACE AS A PEOPLE AND AS A NATION IS TO IMPROVE
OUR ABILITY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ISSUES.

TODAY, WITH WELL OVER 200 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED
STATES, DECISION MAKING AND POLICY FORMULATION ARE FAR MORE COMPLEX
THAN WHEN WE HAD BUT 4 MILLION PEOPLE IN OUR NEW NATION.

WHEN THE AFA WAS FOUNDED, I AM TOLD YOU HAD PERHAPS
35 MEMBERS. THEY LOOKED AT THE RESOURCE SITUATION, AS THEY SAW
IT, AND THEY HAMMERED OUT A POLICY AND A PROGRAM WHICH WAS A GOOD
ONE. TODAY YOU HAVE 80,000 MEMBERS.

AFA IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE, OF HOW THE COMING TOGETHER
OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE -- WHO ARE WILLING TO GET THE FACTS AND BRING
THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR FELLOW-CITIZENS--HELPED FOCUS ON
THE ISSUES AND IDENTIFY THE NEEDS.

↳ THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONSERVATION STILL
RESTS ON THE FOUNDATIONS THAT THIS SMALL BAND OF PIONEERS HELPED
TO DESIGN, ↳ WHEN THEY BEGAN, LUMBERMEN THOUGHT THAT FOREST
MANAGEMENT ON A SCIENTIFIC BASIS WAS PURE FOLLY.

↳ FIRE PROTECTION WAS VIEWED AS PERHAPS USEFUL FOR MATURE
TIMBER LEST IT BE BURNED UP BEFORE IT WAS CUT DOWN. ↳ THE PUBLIC
FOREST -- WHETHER FEDERAL OR STATE WAS REGARDED AS A PUBLIC PICKING
GROUND. ↳ THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN WAS TO GET RID OF THE
TREES AND CONVERT THE LAND TO A FARM.

↳ THE RANGE LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE THE BATTLEGROUND
OF THE HOMESTEADER AND THE CATTLEMAN. ↳ THE ONLY QUESTION WAS WHETHER
THE SOD WOULD BE BROKEN BY THE PLOW OR BY THE THOUSANDS OF CATTLE
AND SHEEP THAT RANGED ACROSS THE GRASSLANDS.

h I DO NOT SUGGEST THAT ALL THAT HAPPENED WAS BAD, EITHER IN
OUTCOME OR IN MOTIVATION. BUT THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT THE 35
ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION WERE FORWARD-LOOKING, THEY
SAID THAT IF MAN USES THE RENEWABLE RESOURCES WISELY, THEY WILL HELP
MAN SUSTAIN HIMSELF IN PERPETUITY.

h NOW, 100 YEARS LATER, WE HAVE A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING
OF THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH OF THIS FACT.

h THIS PAST CENTURY HAS BEEN ONE OF MAJOR CHANGE, OIL AND
THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE -- BOTH RELIANT ON NON-RENEWABLE
RESOURCES -- HAVE WORKED CHANGES ON OUR WHOLE WAY OF LIFE.

h I AM SURE THAT WHEN THE FIRST MEETING OF AFA WAS HELD IN
1875, A NUMBER OF YOUR MEMBERS CAME ON A PASSENGER TRAIN WHOSE ENGINE
EQUALED 500 HORSES. SOME PROBABLE CAME VIA "ONE-HORSE POWER" -- A
HORSE, PULLING A "DEMOCRAT" -- THE POPULAR TWO SEATER SHAY OF
THE DAY.

FOR YOUR MEETING HERE TODAY SOME CAME BY 747 -- A JET
POWERED BY THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT 9,000 HORSES. A FEW PROBABLY
CAME BY TRAIN PULLED BY 4,000 HORSES, AND MANY CAME BY CAR WITH A
200 TO 300 HORSE POWER ENGINE.

h ^{Forest fuels} OUR USE OF ENERGY THESE PAST FEW DECADES HAS BEEN AS
PROFLIGATE AS OUR USE OF WOOD USED TO BE. WHEN YOUR ORGANIZATION
FIRST ASSEMBLED IN CHICAGO, MANY OF THE CITY STREETS WERE COBBLED
WITH WOOD PAVING BLOCKS. AND THE RAILS THE TRAINS RAN ON WERE TIES
OF NOW PRIZED AND EXPENSIVE HARDWOOD LUMBER.

h IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ENERGY EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS ARE
GOING TO CHANGE HOW WE VIEW AND HOW WE USE THE FOREST RESOURCES.

h AMERICA'S FORESTS AND RANGELANDS ARE ASSUMING NEW AND
LARGER IMPORTANCE. WE ARE LEARNING TO WORK WITH NATURE, BUT TIME
IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.

↳ WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SOME RESOURCES ARE RENEWABLE. ↳ THEY
CAN BE HUSBANDED OR USED AGAIN AND AGAIN IF NOT ABUSED. *+ Improve in quality + yield.*

↳ WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE A MASSIVE JOB OF RECLAMATION ON BOTH
FOREST AND RANGE LAND IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE VIGOR AND QUALITY OF
THEIR RESOURCES. *- We are lagging behind in Reforestation*

↳ WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE FOREST AND THE RANGE HAVE MANY
RESOURCES AND THEIR USES CAN BE MULTIPLE. *(Multiple Use Concept)*

↳ AND WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS A VALUE TO THE QUALITY
OF WILDNESS.

↳ IN ADDITION, WE HAVE LEARN TO RESPECT NATURE -- THERE ARE
ECOLOGICAL INTERCONNECTIONS THAT WE MUST WORK WITH, NOT AGAINST.

↳ IN JANUARY, 1976, WE ARE GOING TO TEST OURSELVES ON HOW
TO APPLY WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED. ↳ UNDER THE FOREST AND RANGELAND

RENEWABLE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT, THIS PROCESS ALREADY IS WELL UNDER
WAY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOW HAS IN CIRCULATION FOR PUBLIC
STUDY THE RAW MATERIAL THAT EVERY INTERESTED CITIZEN IS ASKED TO STUDY.

IN FACT, THE LAW -- WHICH PROVIDES THE RULES FOR THIS TEST -- REQUIRES
YOU AS CITIZENS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BODY OF FACTS AND TO THE PROPOSALS.

IN JANUARY YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COME FORWARD AND TELL THE CONGRESS
WHETHER OR NOT ALL OF THE RELEVANT FACTS ARE THERE AND WHETHER THEY ARE
COMPREHENSIVELY DISPLAYED. YOU WILL BE ASKED IN THE SECOND PART OF
THAT TEST EITHER TO PICK WHAT YOU THINK IS THE BEST COURSE, WITH YOUR
REASONS, OR TO SUGGEST OTHER ALTERNATIVES AND BACK THEM UP WITH
REASONS.

AND FURTHER, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO HELP US IN THE CONGRESS TO
SELECT THE BEST COURSE TO CHART FOR THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

IN THIS UNIQUE AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST, WE IN THE CONGRESS
WILL LIKEWISE BE EXAMINED ON OUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT OUR
RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS NEW LAW.

4 WE WILL BE EVALUATING YOUR IDEAS AND MEASURING THEM AGAINST
THE PROPOSALS OF THE EXECUTIVE, AND, YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO EXAMINE THE ANSWERS WE GIVE.

1 THIS LEGISLATION WAS THE PRODUCT OF MANY PEOPLE WORKING
TOGETHER WITH DIVERSE VIEWS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WHEN AFA DECIDED
TO SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION, IT DID SO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT
IT WAS MAKING A COMMITMENT FOR ITS 80,000 MEMBERS TO WORK ACTIVELY
AND CONTINUOUSLY TOWARD THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

1 THIS LAW IS NOT A ONE-TIME THING. IT PROVIDES THAT ANNUALLY
WE CAN ADJUST OUR SIGHTS, AND THAT EACH 5 YEARS WE CAN SUBSTANTIALLY
OVERHAUL OUR PRIORITIES AND PROGRAM. EVERY 10 YEARS WE WILL HAVE A
NEW COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE ASSESSMENT THAT WILL GIVE US THE
BASE FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN BOTH DIRECTION AND SPEED.

Develop a Policy for the future of our Forests -
So we don't get ¹² into the same jam we have on Energy
I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THIS ACT WILL DO MORE THAN HELP

US CHART THE RIGHT COURSES FOR OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES. IT

ALSO SHOULD SERVE AS A MODEL THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO MANY

OTHER AREAS.

LAST WEEK WHEN I SPOKE TO THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN

FORESTERS, I DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THE WEST VIRGINIA TIMBER

HARVESTING DECISION AND SOME OF ITS IMPACTS.

I WILL NOT REPEAT THAT GROUND TODAY. HOWEVER, I WOULD

LIKE TO EXPAND A BIT ON WHAT I SAID.

Society of American Foresters

I CALLED ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF SAF AS PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND COOPERATE IN POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE

REFORM.

AND I CALL ON YOU AS A KEY CITIZEN GROUP TO HELP WORK OUT

THIS ISSUE, AS YOU HELPED GET THE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT ADOPTED.

h I HOPE THAT YOUR AREAS OF AGREEMENT APPROACH WILL HELP GALVANIZE
ALL CONSERVATIONISTS TOWARD SOME COOPERATIVE SOLUTION AS TO HOW
THE NATIONAL FORESTS SHOULD BE MANAGED.

h I AM PREPARED TO HELP.

L SHORTLY, I PLAN TO RE-INTRODUCE SECTION 201 OF THE
ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT. h THIS WILL GIVE
THE PUBLIC AND THE EXECUTIVE AGENCIES A BILL ON WHICH TO FOCUS
IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHAT FORM NEW LEGISLATION SHOULD TAKE.

h THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE WE MUST FACE IS WHETHER FORESTRY
SHOULD BE PRACTICED IN THE COURTS, OR IN THE WOODS.

h THE NEXT ISSUE WE FACE IS WHETHER CONGRESS SHOULD WRITE
TIGHT INSTRUCTIONS INTO LAW, OR ALLOW THE PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MANAGER THE FLEXIBLE AUTHORITY NEEDED TO APPLY THE BEST
SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY PRACTICES IN A MANNER THAT ASSURES COMPLETE
RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

L ^a MY SENTIMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ~~██████████~~ ¹ FORMER
CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE, WHO TOLD YOUR ORGANIZATION IN 1935,

"FORESTRY IS A PROFESSION THAT WILL NOT TOLERATE POLITICAL DOMINANCE."

L TO BEST RESOLVE THESE ISSUES, CONGRESS IS GOING TO NEED
ALL OF THE HELP THAT YOU CAN GIVE.

L IN 1905 AT THE AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS, TEDDY ROOSEVELT
ISSUED MARCHING ORDERS FOR ALL OF US HERE TODAY WHEN HE SAID:

"YOU ARE MIGHTY POOR AMERICANS IF YOUR CARE FOR THE
WELL-BEING OF THIS COUNTRY IS HOPING THAT WELL-BEING WILL LAST
OUT YOUR OWN GENERATION. L NO MAN HERE OR ELSEWHERE IS ENTITLED
TO CALL HIMSELF A DECENT CITIZEN IF HE DOES NOT TRY TO DO HIS
PART TOWARD SEEING THAT OUR NATIONAL POLICIES ARE SHAPED FOR THE
ADVANTAGE OF OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN."

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE BECAUSE
WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE COMPLACENT
BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO.

FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS MY GOOD FORTUNE TO WORK CLOSELY
WITH SENATOR CLINTON ANDERSON OF NEW MEXICO, BOTH IN THE CONGRESS
AND EARLIER WHEN HE WAS A SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. LET ME SHARE
WITH YOU A THOUGHT OF HIS -- A PHILOSOPHY THAT I SHARE.

"CONSERVATION IS TO A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BY FREE MEN
AS THE ROOTS OF A TREE ARE TO ITS LEAVES."

ON THIS OCCASION WHICH MARKS YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY, I
WANT TO JOIN WITH YOU IN SALUTING THAT HARDY BAND OF 35

CONSERVATIONISTS WHO SET US ON THE COURSE OF WISE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT. NOW, AS A GROUP WITH 80,000 MEMBERS, I HOPE YOU WILL

SWELL YOUR IMPACT TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT BE PRAGMATIC AND IDEALISTIC
AT THE SAME TIME. As the great American conservationist Carl
Schurz said:

"Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching
them with your hands But like the seafaring man on the desert
of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them
you will reach your destiny."

#



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org