
It is an honor for me to be the spokesman for Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today, and to greet distinguished governors from six Venezuelan provinces. Just a week ago, I also represented Secretary Udall in ceremonies honoring the 150th anniversary of your country. President Kennedy and your Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Dr. Jose Antonio Mayobre, exchanged messages of goodwill between our countries, and joined in honoring the great Simon Bolivar. El Liberator's statue is below my window, at the opposite end of this hallway.

The Ambassador and I chatted briefly, and he told me that in your country the Ministry of the Interior was concerned chiefly with political matters.

I said it was different here, and then I said, perhaps not so different after all.

At any rate, today I am to tell you a little of what we do, and you can judge for yourselves whether things are different in Venezuela.

In a general way, we like to think of our Department as a department of natural resources -- to manage, conserve, and develop them. In the management of fish resources, both sports and commercial, and other wildlife species; in the location, development, and exploitation of minerals; in the harnessing of our western streams for irrigation and power development; in administering the laws permitting private owners to graze their cattle and sheep on the public lands, and related work for care of and rehabilitation of the range itself; in managing a great national park system; and in basic research and development of methods for conversion of sea water to fresh water -- in all these things we are concerned directly with natural resources.

But we are concerned also with other resources. This department is charged with responsibility for the overseas territories of the United States -- the Virgin Islands, familiar to all of you as a neighbor on the Caribbean, American Samoa, and Guam. We are entrusted with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands -- a trusteeship under the United Nations covering three million square miles of ocean in the Pacific, dotted with the Islands of the Marianas, Carolines, and Marshall Islands.

In the human resources field, our oldest Bureau is Indian Affairs, created by Congress a quarter century before the Department itself was set up in 1849.
For your reference, I am distributing an organization chart (I am sure you have such things in your provinces), which shows how the various functions I've referred to are divided among my colleagues in the Secretariat, and the bureau chiefs. You will note a few penciled changes -- last week we got our 30th national park, in Hawaii; the Oil Import Administration (important to Venezuela, I'll note) has been moved into the Mineral Resources Assistant Secretary; and we have 295 wildlife refuges, a gain of five since the chart was printed.

And last but not least, note that we operate a railroad -- almost 500 miles of main line in Alaska is operated as a governmental function, on a yearround basis. If I can close with a little American slang, which I hope will challenge the interpreters, I'll tell you that its private insignia shows a locomotive nudging a moose from its tracks, and this makes it a "Moose-Gooser".