Remarks of Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr., at the Annual Dinner Meeting of The Bar Association of Baltimore City, on Board the Port Welcome, October 6, 1964

The Bar Association of Baltimore City has billed me as "in charge of U. S. Government's Open Spaces Program". In a manner of speaking, that is accurate -- if by open spaces you mean "wide open spaces".

Of course, the more usual use of the term is in connection with the "open spaces program" of the Urban Renewal Act, capably administered by Robert Weaver, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Administration.

The Department of the Interior is virtually impossible to capsule. Its range of activities is vast, for one thing -- for another, if a person has an opinion at all about the Department, it is likely to be a vigorous one.

People who "feel" about Indians, feel deeply, and how we administer our trust responsibilities for the Indians for many influential, opinion-molding groups, is the touchstone of an entire Administration's humanitarianism. If your concern is over the national parks and historic places of the United States, and our natural heritage generally, or if you are interested in wildlife and outdoor experiences, you are likely to find yourself in one of a very wide spectrum of "public-interest" organizations quite unashful in expressing views about management of these resources -- the Wilderness Society, the National Parks Association, Audubon Society, Garden Club, Sierra Club, Isaaak Walton League, etc., etc. These groups know who the Secretary of the Interior is; he may be a patron saint one day and a villain the next, and sometimes both at the same time.

If you live in the West, the Department has economic immediacy. In my own State of Idaho, the big businesses are timber and lumber, livestock, and mining -- and all of these find their sustenance on lands owned by all the people, managed by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture.

In the Lake States, Interior means commercial fisheries; in the dryland west, reclamation, power generation and distribution; in the Caribbean and the Pacific, territorial administration; in Alaska, among other things, the operation of a mainline 477 mile railroad.

In the halls of universities and among the interested segments of the business community, our Geological Survey is a respected authority on hydrology, geology generally, and on conservation. Our Saline Water conversion program, and coal and other research programs, emphasize governmental mobilization of science to public tasks.
To many of you, the free association—word for Interior is oil. The President has vested the Secretary with broad policy responsibilities in this area. Among the matters currently getting attention is the oil-shale potential, so much of these reserves being in public ownership and Interior control.

Interior administers the government monopoly on helium.

Secretary Udall has made this a national Department. By the force of his personality, intellect, and vigor, he has bootstrapped a prosaic department into a role of real leadership in making America conservation-conscious. He has made the whole country aware of our programs, so long identified only with the West. National park and recreation concepts have been broadened.

I can do no better in paying tribute to my own boss, the Secretary of the Interior, then read the words of the President of the United States. "I am very proud," President Johnson said last month when he signed into law the Wilderness Bill and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill, "I am very proud of the leadership and the wisdom, the vitality and the vigorous approach that the distinguished and able Secretary of the Interior has made, the leadership that he has provided from coast to coast in this field."

He hailed those two bills as "in the highest tradition of our heritage as conservators as well as users of America's bountiful natural endowments."

Then he said:

"The Wilderness Bill preserves for our posterity, for all time to come, 9 million acres of this vast continent in their original and unchanging beauty and wonder. The Land and Water Conservation Bill assures our growing population that we will begin, as of this day, to acquire on a pay-as-you-go basis, the outdoor recreation lands that tomorrow's Americans will require.

"I believe the significance of this occasion goes far beyond these Bills alone. In this century, Americans have wisely and have courageously kept a faithful trust to the conservation of our natural resources and beauty. But the long strides forward have tended to come in periods of concerted effort. The first, I think, was under the leadership of a great Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt. This brought passage of the Reclamation Act. This brought the creation of the National Forests. This brought the development of a new concept of National stewardship.

"The second period came under a great Democratic President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He led this Nation in rebuilding the land and developing the resources for improving the life
projects on extracting economic patterns.

Government projects on extracting economic patterns are often seen as ways to stimulate economic growth and create public needs, which in turn impact the distribution of economic benefits and attract investment. However, some projects may result in conflict among stakeholders.

Interests in the distribution of open space for cattle under federal laws may also cause conflict between the government's interests and those of local communities.

I have outlined some of the new laws, like the land and water conservation.

emphasize some of the developments which are of interest to you.

Because I'm speaking tonight to an association of lawyers, I should perhaps

that the Congress is producing.

and that's not merely the next day. That's the kind of leadership we need now,

These leadership must provide for the next decade.

Leadership is needed to make the future safe for the next generation.

We know that America cannot be made strong by leadership that

look ahead, and more than that, plan ahead, better still. To

and the future, of course, a new and a stronger nation's conservation to

do it in a manner, and an end to the purposeful. It's passed this year. It

been before the Congress since 1977, but it has been before the Congress for

parties in the Congress, & more importantly, the White House Bill. My

just from the Democratic Party, but not the Republican Party.

I think it's significant that these steps have broad support not

as a good and wholesome and beautiful place to live.

No single Congress in my memory has done so much to keep America

project our principles to conserve our precious water resources; to

our acreage and our water rights; our food, our water, our property.

such consumer actions, has done even more. Action has been taken to keep

Canyonlands National Park legislation, which I expect to sign shortly,

National Seashore Bill, which is awaiting action; the Canyonlands National

monuments. Congress has made many of these actions.

term Congress, because in addition, there is no doubt the Congress

the Eighty Congress. If the Eighty Congress has not yet passed the other

I think we have to conclude that another historic era has begun

up their talent on the text of the Eighty Congress.

projects.

the wildlife conservation service, through the water conservation

of all of us. We did it through the TWA, through the CCF, through
I'd like to suggest your attention to two other areas of conservation law, using what surely must be the title for a graduate seminar in some of our law schools soon -- tax policy as a tool of conservation, and modes of manipulating the disposal of resources as a tool of conservation.

On the horizon on the first issue is more use in the United States of approaches long used in England, whereby the impact of death taxes can be minimized by gifts or bequests for national purposes, and the development of criteria for allowance of charitable deductions where easements are given for park or other public purposes.

Conservation is a great unifying force in our country. Every time the President has spoken of it since coming to office a year ago, and he has done so many times, he has emphasized that urbanization is one of the great forces of our era, with which conservation must cope. Urbanization, and its handmaiden, the growing population, and the triumph of technology creating with it the increasingly heavy burdens of disposing of the waste products of progress -- from exhaust fumes to radiation, from junk buildings to junk automobiles -- makes it necessary that conservation move from nature's wilderness to the man-made wilderness of our cities.

"All of this," he said at Portland, "requires a new conservation. We must not only protect from destruction, but we have the job of restoring what has already been destroyed -- not only develop resources, but create new ones -- not only save the countryside, but, yes, finally, salvage the cities. It is not just the classic conservation of protection and development, but it is 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 the dignity of his spirit."

So one of our tasks is to remove the section divisiveness which seems to be abroad in our land, not that between north and south alone, but that between east and west.

For we are one country. We stand or fall together. Prosperity and depression alike no longer can be experienced regionally or sectionally, nor long confined to one segment of the economy.

The rural and raw material economy states must be alert and responsive to the needs of the urban and industrial states -- the needs for mass transportation to relieve the paralysis of traffic, for green acres and open space, for urban renewal, and for parks and recreation for the cities. And conversely, the Eastern areas must know something about what irrigation and reclamation means in the arid West, and what the forests and rangelands need by way of protection and management and development.
For if we divide ourselves, if we emphasize our differences rather than our common interests, if we are jealous and protective and possessive by state, section or region, we jeopardize the unity of our nation.

All Americans can unite in a concern for conservation -- of our land, of our land resources and the resources of the sea. Regard and respect for natural things is a universal heritage of Americans now; we must see that it remains so.

We must learn from the past, not try to return to it. Our country fifty years ago had a hundred million people. Fifty years from now, it will have four hundred million, over four-fifths living in urban areas.

The history of the world is the history of men's ability to develop the structures and techniques of government to serve their ever more complex needs. In our world, this means a free government, a responsive government, a democratic government -- it doesn't mean no government.

It means an efficient, thrifty and effective federal government, a creative federalism of cooperation with state and local governments and private interests.

Those of us in government are inspired by the President's leadership. It isn't negative or sterile, but alive and alert. We are being shaken up, infused with enthusiasm, and prodded to new efforts -- challenged to help to produce a society which rests on abundance and liberty for all; which demands an end to poverty and racial injustice; a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents; a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness; a place where the city serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce, but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community.

The solution to our problems, he said, 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.

By way of conclusion, let me express to you the thought that next to the preservation of our liberty and security, no responsibility which the people can entrust to their government is more solemn than the stewardship of natural resources. A generous Deity has richly endowed our land; the endowment must be preserved and kept intact. It must serve the needs of the more than four hundred million Americans who must live within it, in fifty years or less, just as we must live within it, right now. The Americans of 2015 must have pure air and clean water, parklands and seashores, and enough food, fiber and fuel for the good life.
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This is a responsibility which cannot be abandoned or defeated, postponed,