Remarks of Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr.,
at the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the North Carolina Resource
Use Education Conference, North Carolina College, Durham, N. C.,
November 12, 1964

I am deeply honored by the invitation of the
North Carolina Resource Use Education Conference
to speak to your seventeenth annual meeting. I
am especially pleased, since it is a repeat invitation.
Last year the invitation conflicted with a commitment
I had to speak at one of your sister institutions of
higher learning, Idaho State University, in my own
state.

In the meantime, there has been a great national
election. The subject of our mutual interest today
was an issue of the campaign that preceded it. I
believe that conservation was one of the affirmative,
constructive issues of the recent campaign. Around
this banner, Americans could unite, and without rancor or bitterness.

So I am glad to be with you to keynote this great conference. The responsibilities of a keynoter are great. I must honorably represent the national administration of which I am a part, the Department for which I work, and I must try to leave something with you which can be taken back to your schools, something hopefully entitled to be remembered and repeated.

We like to think of conservation as the unifying force of the diverse responsibilities of our department. Many of our bureaus are concerned with conservation of the land and its resources, organizations like the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, the Bureau of Outdoor
Recreation and the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Mines and the power marketing agencies.

We are proud in the Department of our Secretary, Stewart Udall, who has done so much to make all America conservation conscious. I hope that you will have the opportunity, perhaps while you are here, to look into and be inspired by one of the truly fine books on conservation, The Quiet Crisis. In this book you will find background for an understanding of what our country and the people must do as we try to accommodate to perhaps 400 million people who will live in our country, perhaps within your lifetimes.

The first census after I was born counted 105 million Americans. Only 20 years ago the population
was 150 million Americans. Between 1920 and 1950 our country's growth filled up the West, until urbanization is now the national norm. The two hundred million population increase predicted for the next 45 years (by 2010) will be crowded in upon our already crowded cities. The result will be even more suffocation of the values of openness, quality values which you will be examining in your sessions this week and next.

President Johnson, at another campus not long ago laid down a challenge to Americans to produce "The Great Society." "We have always prided ourselves," he said, "on being not only America the strong and America the free, but America the beautiful. . . A few years ago we were greatly concerned about the 'ugly American.' Today we must act to prevent an ugly America. For once the battle
is lost, once our natural splendor is destroyed, it
can never be recaptured. And once man can no
longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, his
spirit will wither and his sustenance be wasted."

The Quiet Crisis is a reference book which
documents President Johnson's words. It is also
one of the most readable and interesting you will
find. So once again let me urge you to use it as
an introduction to conservation literature.

Let me talk for a moment or two about conservation
literature. It helps, sometimes, to have a theme or
subject for personal reading. It opens doors to
experiences of great meaning to look to the writings
of Henry Thoreau and William O. Douglas, to John
Wesley Powell and Aldo Leopold. The literature of
conservation is a treasure house.
The early waves of conservation in this nation brought the government and the people generally to a consciousness of resources and the necessity for wisely using them. John Wesley Powell could foresee the harnessing of the rivers for the public good. Gifford Pinchot fathered the idea of a sustained yield, multiple purpose management of our forest lands; he not only secured the creation of a system of national forests but his influence is felt by all users of the woods, who now follow higher standards for the management of the resources.

It was in the 19th century that Ralph Waldo Emerson in his essay, *Nature*, developed the thesis that the individual should "enjoy an original relation to the universe." Henry Thoreau, in *Walden*, caught Emerson's spirit, and developed an explicit reverence for the land.
In this century, beginning with the vigorous Theodore Roosevelt, the conservation story has centered around the responsibility of the government for seeing that the natural resources, including especially the minerals of the public lands, should be "conserved".

And we have a series of wise laws which make this country a better place today, including the act which created the National Park Service, and provided for the protection of antiquities; the laws authorizing national forests and their management on a multiple use basis; the Taylor Grazing Act which ended the great range wars and brought stability to the range livestock industry in the West; the Reclamation Act which provided for the establishment of a fund into which should be paid a part of the proceeds of the minerals of the public lands for development of
Irrigation and reclamation, and for the repayment of the users of these projects of the cost over a 50-year period.

There are in this field of conservation and resources management literature, stirring stories of adventure, exploration and discovery; high excitement as you read about the struggles for the control of minerals and of the oil reserves; philosophy and quiet contemplation as in The Sand County Almanac of Aldo Leopold, which will sharpen your awareness of the ethical considerations of a man's relationship to the land. There is the genius of Audubon's Birds of America to please the scientist's mind and the artist's eye.

As I said, these are things which will be introduced to you in Secretary Udall's fine book, The Quiet Crisis. That book bridges the idea that conservation is associated
with land and its resources to the much broader modern concept of conservation, a concept which relates to the growing urbanization and exploding population.

President John F. Kennedy said that we must expand the concept of conservation to meet the imperious problems of the new age.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's remarks at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which I mentioned earlier, was an occasion for him to say the same thing. In our national history, as he pointed out, for a century we labored to settle and subdue a continent; for half a century we called upon unbounded invention and untiring industry to create an order of plenty for all of our people. The challenge of the next half century is whether we have the wisdom to use that wealth to enrich and elevate
our national life, and to advance the quality of our American civilization. He spoke about our cities, our countryside, and our classrooms.

I hope that if you feel moved to take up my challenge to look into the literature of conservation that you will discover Lewis Mumford and such books as *The Culture of Cities* and *The City in History*. The experience of most American youth now covers the sprawl of the new subdivisions, the ever-growing pressure on highways and other facilities, including particularly the demand for more and more schools.

The violence in our cities, particularly where young people are involved, reflects the erosion of the values of the community, the values of communion with nature. The loss of these, said President Johnson to the students at Ann Arbor, breeds loneliness, boredom and indifference.
Loneliness and boredom and indifference, when triggered by emotion or incited by extreme elements, moves with frightening speed, sometimes, to violence and hate. All society suffers the consequences.

This, then, is another concept of conservation and what it means to you. We must understand our cities just as we must understand our land and its resources, and just as we must understand our system of government and the nature of freedom. This is the meaning and importance of conservation in America today.

I outlined a little earlier to you some of the landmarks of conservation legislation. The process of the Congress coming to grips with the needs of our country and the framing of national policy for conservation concepts is still going on. Congress in 1958 authorized the Outdoor Recreation Resources
Review Commission expressing the Congress' desire to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to all American people of present and future generations such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as will be necessary and desirable for individual enjoyment, and to assure the spiritual, cultural, and physical benefits that such outdoor recreation provides. Chapter I of the Commission's magnificent report said that the "outdoors lies deep in American tradition."

The recommendations of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission are being put into effect. For example, its recommendations that a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation be established in the Department of the Interior has been carried out. This group coordinates the outdoor recreation activities of more than 20 federal bureaus and offices
which have responsibilities related to outdoor recreation. These include the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, whose reservoirs serve the ever growing demand for water based recreational opportunities; the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, who have the scenic lands and camping opportunities and the parkways in the natural and historic areas which mean so much to Americans; and the Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned with fishing and hunting opportunities and habitat for ducks and wildlife.

President Johnson, last September, had a ceremony in the Rose Garden for the signing of two bills which fit this pattern. At that time, he paid a graceful tribute to Secretary Udall:
"I am very proud," President Johnson said 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 of all of us. He did it through the TVA, through the CCC, through the Soil Conservation Service, through the water conservation projects.

"Anyone that objectively studies the record of the 88th Congress, I think would have to conclude that another historic era has begun this year."

I would like you to pursue your deliberations and discussions with feeling that the conservation
movement is a dynamic, important national force. It is something which you can be a part of at many different levels, all of them important. You can, as I have said, find the stimulation of adventure in its history; its literature will excite you; there are great vocational opportunities in it, and make no mistake about it, these vocational opportunities are every bit as open to the women as to the men in this country. Conservation consciousness can help you with the work of your schools, and can be included in the agendas for your PTA and civic association meetings.

I would like to quote further from words spoken by the President:

"Within your lifetime powerful forces, already loosed, will take us toward a way of life beyond the realm of our experience, almost beyond the bounds of our imagination. For
better or for worse, your generation has been appointed by history to deal with those problems and to lead America toward a new age. You have the chance never before afforded to any people in any age. You can help build a society where the demands of morality, and the needs of the spirit, can be realized in the life of the Nation.

"So will you join in the battle to give every citizen the full equality which God enjoins and the law requires, whatever his belief, or race, or the color of his skin? Will you join in the battle to give every citizen an escape from the crushing weight of poverty? Will you join in the battle to make it possible for all nations to live in enduring peace as neighbors and not as mortal enemies? Will you join in the battle to build the Great Society, to prove that our material progress is only the foundation on which we will build a richer life of mind and spirit?

"There are those timid souls who say this battle cannot be won, that we are condemned to a soulless wealth. I do not agree. We have the power to shape the civilization that we want. But we need your will, your labor, your hearts, if we are to build that kind of society."
"Those who came to this land sought to build more than just a new country. They sought a free world.

"So I have come here today to your campus to say that you can make their vision our reality. Let us from this moment begin our work so that in the future men will look back and say: It was then, after a long and weary way, that man turned the exploits of his genius to the full enrichment of his life."