

REMARKS

BY

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR STEWART L. UDALL
TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE
TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE
CONSERVATION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

OCTOBER 18, 1965

In my native State of Arizona, the Spanish heritage is the result of a pioneering era of exploration and settlement. The names of *the great* explorers Cabeza de Vaca and Coronado still ring in our ears, and the intrepid missionaries Kino and Junipero Serra put down roots that still cling to our soil. Spanish place-names still dominate the landscape of my native State: our largest river is the Colorado; our highest mountains the San Francisco peaks; our most stupendous National Park is the Grand Canyon; and our widest desert the Cabeza Prieta.

So you will understand when I say that I

feel at home and among friends already!

This is my third trip to Latin America as a United States Cabinet Minister. At the request of President John F. Kennedy, I went to Bogota in 1962 to the Presidential inauguration. Later, President Lyndon B. Johnson asked me in 1964 to represent the United States at Caracas, when for the first time in its history an elected President of Venezuela, Romulo Betancourt, turned over his sash of office to his duly elected successor, President Raul Leoni. These were stirring occasions that I will long remember.

However, the conservation of resources is my main responsibility in government, and it was high time that I was sent southward on a conservation mission. It is a source of deep satisfaction to all of us that this long-overdue conference has now been convened at Mar del Plata.

This is a most fitting time to discuss common problems, to compare notes on past conservation failures and triumphs, and to make plans that will give new vitality to an agreement made by the leaders of this hemisphere 25 years ago.

We are here today to lay plans for the wise use of the renewable natural resources of the nations of our hemisphere. Its nations have a rich and varied inheritance of resources. Every person born in this hemisphere is in a real sense a part owner of a continent that is his earthly home. Some nations have rich reserves of petroleum or other minerals; some have none. Some regions have unlimited water; others are wastelands. Some climates are mild; others are harsh and inhospitable to man. But when it comes to the land itself -- its water, forests, ~~and~~ wildlife and natural beauty -- each nation

has a rich storehouse of resources to waste or to use wisely. In the years ahead we will make great decisions about resources for which our children and theirs will curse or bless us. Resource management is the issue that has brought us here to Mar del Plata. Our human stewardship of the land and its creatures -- our success or failure as trustees and managers of the resources we have inherited -- will determine whether the people of this hemisphere leave wastelands or rich, fruitful land as a legacy for the generations of men and women who follow.

Resources are the very sinews of national strength. More than we know, our mutual actions

Future

will determine the power and green glory of
the ~~future~~ nations of this hemisphere.

Whole regions and river valleys of the world are unproductive and devitalized today due to mistakes in resource management made centuries ago. In China, the Middle East, and around the rim of the Mediterranean there are deserts where great civilizations once flourished.

We have the knowledge and tools in the Twentieth Century to prevent such destruction if we are wise enough to make farsighted decisions. Each generation is tempted to

promote its own prosperity by drawing on the
resource bank of future generations. Should
we not resolve here to use our full influence
to see that the nations of our hemisphere
make decisions that insure a handsome deposit
in the resource bank of our children?

Modern science is a coin that has both a
bright side and a dark side. The impact of the
machine and modern technology has been both a
blessing and a curse to mankind. The very
science that can teach us to renew resources
can, if misdirected, cause us to waste, plunder
and poison the world of nature that is our home.

Only ten short days ago I was chairman of an international scientific conference called to quicken the conversion of saline and brackish water to fresh. Ten of the Latin American Republics sent delegates to the conference where nearly 100 technical papers were read to the 2,400 participants who came from 65 foreign countries. Here was an example of modern-day technology at its best -- scientists assembled for the common cause of solving water-shortage problems that beset so

IN this area
many nations. ~~Here, at its best, was modern~~
~~technology and its promise for a better future.~~
~~can add a new dimension~~
to traditional conservation,
for science will enable us⁸ increasingly to "create" new resources for the use of mankind.

Largely due to advantages of the continent and the early political independence of the United States, it participated earlier than the other nations of this hemisphere in the industrial and technological revolutions of the past century. However, much of that growth was wasteful and unwise. We plundered nearly four-fifths of our primeval forests before devastated landscapes made us realize that forests had to be managed as a renewable resource. Later, in the great plains of our mid-continent, a conservation mistake of great magnitude was made, erosion claimed the farmlands, and great

dust storms dramatized the failure of Americans as managers of soil and land.

History came to our rescue at this point, however, when a great conservation President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, came to the helm of leadership. Roosevelt favored a "good neighbor" policy both toward land and toward the sister republics of this hemisphere as well. Among his gifts to the American people, none was more lasting than the conservation programs he instituted to save soil, conserve wildlife, establish national parks, harness rivers, replant forests, and rebuild and renew the

land itself.

We are attempting today -- under a President
who started in American politics as a young
worker on resource projects for Franklin D.
Roosevelt -- to deepen and expand these Roosevelt
resource policies. In the intervening years
new failures have brought new resource problems
to our doorsteps.

The pollution of water and air is the
conservation scandal of the 1960's in the United
States. *This is our major failure today.*
Today some large American rivers are
little more than running sewers; and the air
over some cities is so contaminated as to

threaten human health.

As you can see, I am not here today to preach to you, or to pretend that the United States has solved its resource problems.

Under the leadership of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson we have gained new momentum, and a new sense of direction, in our fight against waste, and pollution and blight. However, much work

remains to be done *in the United States.*

History has taught us many lessons in the past Century.

We have learned, for example, that foresight and long range planning are absolutely

essential; we realize, too, that the cost of

correcting major mistakes can be enormous: once erosion
or pollution takes hold it requires billions of
dollars to renew and restore damaged resources.
We have also learned that policies that favor

private gain and short-term profit instead of

the greatest good for the largest number of

people in the long run are sure to diminish

the strength of our nation. We know, too, that

men who want to further both the beauty and the

bounty of America must constantly search for

the right balance between development and

preservation of resources.

President Johnson has described our present
in the United States
policy ¹/ the "new conservation." These are the

goals he has set out for the American people:

"We must not only protect the countryside and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities. Our conservation must be not just the classic conservation 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 the dignity of man's spirit."

In the past several months, we have seen

in the United States the establishment of several new national parks, the creation of *reserved and developed* new national seashores for all of the people, *1* the preserving of more than two percent of our land as permanent unspoiled wilderness, the saving of scenic rivers, and the creation of vital new refuges for American wildlife.

New water pollution control legislation has also been enacted. A clean air action program has been launched. Highways and cities are to be re-designed and made more beautiful to the eye.

We have also borrowed another page from

Franklin D. Roosevelt's book, and thousands of young men from underprivileged families are eagerly at work in our public parks, forests, and rangelands learning new skills, and helping rebuild the land.

The cost of all these programs of renewal will, of course, be extremely high. If we purify our rivers, cleanse the skies, preserve land and wildlife, and restore the blighted areas of our land, this will be a fresh fulfillment of our oldest dreams.

We are trying to recognize that man is a ~~definite~~ part of the web of life, and that his

role in this cycle cannot be usurped, nor

can he, without great peril, usurp the role

of the other elements in that chain.

From studying resource problems in ^{Latin America,} Africa,

in Japan, in the Soviet Union, and in my own

United States, I have learned that all nations

have much to learn before they solve the great

problem of man-land harmony -- and achieve an

ideal ecological cycle. We do know that while

science has unraveled many puzzles, it still

is in its infancy when we approach the problem

of how to use our resources with wisdom and

restraint.

The recent miracles of agricultural production show what science can do if we follow its principles.

Science does not provide the beautiful paintings and other works of art, new and ancient, found throughout the Americas. Nor can it, with all its gadgets and equipment, give man the rest and restoration that come from ~~affiliation~~^{contact} with the out-of-doors.

Science cannot magically create a new bird or mammal once the last pair has been destroyed.

Modern-day technology is both a pit and a pinnacle. We must not forget that.

Many nations of the world are at a stage of development similar to that my own country passed through a few decades ago. Most have

adequate room for growth, but all nations now face the critical rate-of-growth question that hinges on what we have come to call "the population problem." ~~1968 R85~~

Growth is a good goal, but should we not increasingly ask ourselves whether it is more important to grow right than to just expand without plan or purpose?

We are discussing this question with great seriousness in the United States today. In testimony before a Congressional Committee a few weeks ago, I spoke of the search for balance between people and resources in these words:

"The people of the United States have long deluded themselves by nurturing a myth of the superabundance of resources -- and by harboring an illusion that unrestrained growth was the golden key to the good life....Today there is still plenty of everything to go around. But more and more people are beginning to watch with increasing anxiety as science and technology attempt to stretch a predictably finite wealth of natural resources to cover ever-growing demands. Undoubtedly, for the foreseeable future, we could continue along this course. But what kind of environment for life are we

creating? Will the environment which results be a quality environment or an environment providing only a bare survival? This is what we must face now, while the chance of choice remains....

"It is now painfully clear to all those who have faced up to the real problem that if the present rate of population increase continues indefinitely, most of the crucial problems that now confront the human race will simply become insoluble. Unless we master this problem it will increasingly sit -- in all parliaments and at all council tables -- as the silent

master of all decisions that concern life,

liberty and the pursuit of human happiness."

There was a day when remoteness of lands

discouraged international meetings ~~on conservation problems~~

It was a rare event when President Roosevelt came to Buenos Aires in 1936.

has been broken and we can meet often to exchange

ideas and work out new plans of cooperation.

Today no country can go it alone. We have

many important, binding ties between us. We

are mutually strengthened by the movement of

raw materials and products from natural resources,

by exchange of students and scholars, and by

visiting each other on holidays and for business.

The hemisphere has economic and social unity in diversity, yet it, for all its complexity, cannot and should not be isolated from the rest of the world. There is a commonality to all our problems, and in the 1960's resource conservation must concern itself with all actions and activities that affect our overall environment -- from the pesticide residues ^{that have been found} in the penguins of the Antarctic to safeguarding of the polar bear of the Arctic.

We are gathered here to implement an agreement and to plan future action programs. I want to discuss recent developments in your

lands that seem to me to represent the promise and hope of tomorrow. Let me outline a few of the conservation developments that give me feelings of optimism about the future of parks, wildlife, fishery resources, forests and regional planning in this hemisphere.

1. The most recent and notable was the ^RNational Forestation Program for Chile announced in early August by His Excellency President Eduardo Frei Montalva. Franklin D. Roosevelt would surely have applauded this concept, for it seeks to restore fertility by the planting of trees and the prevention of soil erosion.

Let us hope that this bold plan is followed by similar conservation action in other nations where the forests have been shortsightedly destroyed.

2. One of the remarkable things about this continent is that many of the scenic masterpieces are undiscovered by the outside world. Only five years ago in the valley of Rio Cutibirenti in Peru spectacular waterfalls in a magnificent jungle setting were discovered. This scenic wonder attracted world attention and the government of Peru moved quickly to establish it as a National Park after making

an ecological reconnaissance study of the area

that was perhaps the first of its kind in

history. All of us congratulate Peru
on this timely action.

3. The joint action by the governments of

Peru and Bolivia to protect the rare vicuna

deserved the applause of conservationists in

all parts of the world. This encouraging action

has been followed by the training of wildlife

management teams to protect and manage this

wildlife resource. By now, I am confident that

all of us recognize that none of our conservation

plans for parks, forests or wildlife refuges

will succeed in the long run unless rangers

and foresters and wildlife specialists are
trained to manage them in accordance with

scientific principles. This must be high

on the agenda of this conference, for

4. Our host country, Argentina, has for

30 years had a far-sighted policy on national

216
parks. Some of its natural wonders -- Nahuel

Huapi, ^{so} Iguazu, Lanin, and the Glaciers National

Parks -- are the equal of any in the world.

5. In Venezuela the protection planned
for the Tacagua Valley is an excellent example
of conservation action, and in the Caroni River
Basin a broad regional resources plan similar
to the Tennessee Valley plan in the United

CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT
WITHOUT WISE
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TO FAIL

States is moving ahead under strong govern-
mental ~~guidance~~ leadership.

6. Nor is Latin America neglecting its historic heritage. The prehistoric ruins of the Incas, the Aztecs and other cultures will, if properly preserved, attract tourists from all parts of the world. The government of Mexico, for example, is doing a superior job of reconstructing and restoring the pyramids and temples at Teotihuacan.

, besides a splendid National Park system,

7. In Brazil regional planning that embraces all resources is under way in the San Francisco Valley, and a program to unlock

the treasures of the great Amazon Basin also
in process.

IF time permitted
I could enumerate similar actions that
have been taking place in all of the ^{OAS} countries,
represented here today. What we Americans call
conservation is gaining ground everywhere.

and there is hope that ~~this~~ action is only the
beginning ~~stages~~.

Based on American experience, I would sound
one loud warning to the delegates of this
~~we suffer from today~~
conference. Learn from our errors, and formulate
plans now to avoid pollution of water and air
that will otherwise settle like a plague over

your rivers and your cities. Pollution is the result of a failure to develop a scheme to dispose of human and industrial waste^s. It will cancel out many of our gains in conservation unless wise laws are enacted that prevent the misuse of water and air.

If we are wise and put the welfare of our children first, we surely will realize that there is a time to cut trees and to plant them, a time to harvest wildlife and a time to preserve it, a time to develop parts of our land and a time to preserve other parts in parklands and open space. Balance is the key to a pattern of growth that will promote true prosperity.

I believe deeply that it is imperative for our social, cultural and economic welfare that we preserve the natural environment of our countries. ^{and renew our renewable resources.} Those nations which ignore the lessons of history will see resources wither and be forced to settle for stunted growth.

We should preserve the natural environment because we owe our children no less than the best resource stewardship at our command.

We should do this because ~~it will make~~ ^{also in the long run it is the key to national prosperity.} nations prosper.

We should do this because to live with beauty is to live fully and joyously as human beings.

If we respect the relics of our history
and preserve the ^{natural wonders} ~~scenery~~ and wildlife of our
lands, Latin America will ^{surely} ~~become~~ one of the
great tourist and vacation regions of the
world. I will go so far as to predict that in
^{in large numbers}
my lifetime ~~certain~~ tourists from all over the
world will, for example, travel ^{up} the great Amazon River, and go
unique landscapes of Tierra del Fuego, ~~in this~~
~~country~~ and make regular sightseeing flights
over Antarctica and the South Pole. Let our
imaginations soar. Each nation that conserves
its land and history will be host to the whole
world - - and will profit greatly from
tourism just as Mexico is doing
Today.

32

Quite wrongly, I admit, ^{we in the} the United States
~~is commonly referred to as~~ ^{our country} ~~as~~ America. However,
we use the slogan "See America First" to
encourage our citizens to see the ^{history and the} wonders of
the United States. There will surely be a day
not far off when "See the Americas First" is
our mutual slogan ^{all of us here espouse.}

Some nations of the Organization of American
States have yet to sign and ratify the 1940
Convention. I take it as a happy omen that
Brazil has recently signed. Let us hope that
this conference will inspire others to launch

New action to use ~~science to~~ develop and protect
their ~~all~~ renewable natural resources.

The year 1972 is the centennial of the
creation of Yellowstone National Park ^{in the United States --}
an

event which marked the start of the world
park movement. We in the United States are
considering calling a Second World Conference
on National Parks to celebrate this anniversary.

I fully expect the list of accomplishments of
the nations of the Western Hemisphere in the
few intervening years will be a long and
impressive one.

I will close my remarks on this occasion

by quoting a public statement by President Lyndon B. Johnson a month ago when he signed a law reserving a new National Seashore for the American people:

"What the Good Lord once gave in greatest abundance have now become rare and very precious possessions...

"We are living in the Century of Change. "But if future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than with sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology. We must also leave them a glimpse of the world as God really made it, not just

as it looked when we got through with it...

"So it remains for us, who live in the summer of our greatness as a nation, to preserve both the vision and the beauty which gave it rise."

Here, my friends, is a challenge for the people of all the nations of this hemisphere.

Muchos graciosos.

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Opening Paragraph of Secretary Udall's Speech

Por el hecho de haber nacido y haberme criado en un
estado como Arizona, donde el Castellano se habla en miles de
hogares, resulta casi injustificable mi falta de conocimiento
de este rico idioma. A pesar de ello, había decidido
pronunciar este discurso en la lengua de Cervantes. Pero en
el momento de partir de Washington, mis colegas del Departamento
me convencieron de que si continuaba con tal idea el resultado
sería desastroso.

PAUSE

Por lo tanto, con el permiso de ustedes, seguiré
en inglés.