The original documents are located in Box D32, folder "Dwight Lydell Chapter, Izaak Walton League, Grand Rapids, MI, January 13, 1972" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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## DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1972.

OF CONSERVATION IN AMERICA.

ALL THE INDICATORS POINT TO A

NEW ERA OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL

PRESERVATION.

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS TOWARD CONTROLLING THE DEGRADATION OF OUR RESOURCES THAN IN ALL OUR PAST POLITICAL HISTORY.

REFORM WILL NOT COME EASILY.

WE WILL EXPERIENCE MANY OUTCRIES. BUT NEW

SELF-DISCIPLINE MUST BECOME PART OF OUR

LIFE-STYLE.

TO BEGIN WITH, WE MUST HAVE ORDERLINESS. IF WE ARE GOING TO STABILIZE

AND IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT, WE MUST HAVE
A SENSE OF ORDER IN HOW WE LAY OUT OUR
OCCUPANCY OF THE LAND. WHERE THE CRITICAL
FACTOR IN THE PAST HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE
FAST BUCK, IT MUST NOW BE ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY AND THE CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION
HAS INITIATED A CONCEPT OF LAND USE POLICY
WHICH INCLUDES POWER PLANT SITING, STRIP
MINE RECLAMATION, PROTECTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS ON THE BASIS
OF MULTIPLE USE AND SUSTAINED YIELD, AND
REPEAL OF THE 1872 MINING ACT,
SUBSTITUTING PROCEDURES WHICH WILL
ELIMINATE INDISCRIMINATE MINING PRACTICES
AND ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT NOW IS FACING THE GREAT TEST. THE 92ND CONGRESS MUST PROVE WHETHER IT IS PARTISAN OR RESPONSIVE.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LONG OVERDUE NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY TO DEAL WITH THE FRIGHTENING AND HAPHAZARD SPRAWL OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT. THE DESIRE ALSO IS TO ACHIEVE COMPATIBLE MULTIPLE-USE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE ON THE VAST PUBLIC DOMAIN AS WELL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED THAT

1.8 MILLION ACRES OF LAND BE SET ASIDE AND

ADDED TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM.

HE HAS DIRECTED THAT FEDERAL SURPLUS

PROPERTIES BE CONVERTED TO USE AS PUBLIC

PARKS.

LEADERSHIP THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ADVISORY AGENCY, THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, WAS SET UP. IT WAS ALSO AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION THAT AN

AGENCY WITH THE POWER TO SET ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND ENFORCE THEM -- THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY -- WAS ESTABLISHED.

THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR A SWEEPING REORGANIZATION OF THOSE SCATTERED AGENCIES AND FRAGMENTED FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHICH RELATE TO THE CUSTODY OF AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. HE HAS LAID BEFORE THE CONGRESS A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO REORGANIZE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ALONG BASIC FUNCTIONAL LINES.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING, THE
NEW DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WOULD
END THE SCATTER-GUN APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT
EXISTING TODAY. AT PRESENT, SUCH AREAS
AS WATER RESOURCES, LAND MANAGEMENT,
MINERALS, ENERGY AND EARTH SCIENCES ARE

D'I

HANDLED BY AN UNWIELDY AND COMPLEX VARIETY OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IS
NOW HANDLED THROUGH THE BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION IN THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.
THE SOIL CONSERVATION WATERSHED PROGRAM
IS IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT. THE
CIVIL FUNCTIONS OF THE ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS IS IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ALL THREE OF THESE FUNCTIONS WOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER A SINGLE ADMINISTRATOR.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE: ACTIVITIES OF THE FOREST SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN INTERIOR OVERLAP. THEY ARE NOT COORDINATED SUFFICIENTLY. IN THE NEW DEPARTMENT, THEIR ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ALIGNED SO AS TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION.

THE NATION'S ENERGY PROGRAMS ARE NOW FRAGMENTED AND SPREAD AMONG SEVERAL AGENCIES. IN THE NEW DEPARTMENT, DIRECTION OF ALL MAJOR ENERGY PROGRAMS INVOLVING NUCLEAR POWER, COAL, PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS AND HYDRO POWER WOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER WITHIN AN AGENCY OF CO-RELATED FUNCTIONS.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD INCLUDE

THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES POLICY, DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY,

TECHNOLOGY FOR RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION, MANAGEMENT OF URANIUM STOCKPILES AND PRODUCTION OF ENRICHED URANIUM;

MINING RECOVERY, PROCESSING AND UTILIZATION STUDIES;

WASTE DISPOSAL, RE-USE, RECYCLING AND SUBSTITUTION STUDIES;

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF MINED AREAS;

FOSTERING OIL AND GAS PIPELINE SAFETY, AND MINE AND HEALTH SAFETY;

CONSERVATION OF MINERALS AND FUEL RESOURCES;

AND RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES PERTAINING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

ONE OF THE MOST URGENT AND
IMMEDIATE TASKS OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD
BE TO INTEGRATE AND IMPLEMENT THE
PRESIDENT'S NEW "CLEAN ENERGY" POLICY, WHICH
IS AIMED AT MEETING THE EVER-GROWING DEMAND
FOR ENERGY WITHOUT INCREASING THE WORLD'S
POLLUTION BURDEN.

AND PRIORITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE BEING REDIRECTED.

NOW LET ME POINT OUT THAT THIS
YEAR WE WILL OBSERVE THE NATIONAL PARK
CENTENNIAL.

THIS IS APPROPRIATE BECAUSE ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PET PROJECTS IS HIS LEGACY OF PARKS PROGRAM, AIMED AT A MAJOR EXPANSION OF OPEN SPACES SET ASIDE FOR LEISURE AND LEARNING.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SPELLED OUT
HIS PARK EXPANSION PROGRAM IN MESSAGES TO
THE CONGRESS AND TO THE PEOPLE.

SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BUT MOST OF THEM LIE AHEAD AND WILL REQUIRE INNOVATIVE ACTIONS THAT INVOLVE DIRECT FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL AREAS.

SINCE 1969, 13 NEW AREAS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED 14
WILDERNESS PROPOSALS TO THE 91ST CONGRESS.

THIRTEEN OF THESE PROPOSALS WERE NOT ACTED UPON AND WERE RESUBMITTED TO THE 92ND CONGRESS.

IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT LAST
YEAR SENT CONGRESS 14 NEW WILDRENESS AREA
PROPOSALS, COMPRISING 1.8 MILLION ACRES.
STUDIES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON
20 ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE WILDERNESS AREAS
WILL BE COMPLETED BY NEXT JUNE. THESE
STUDIES WILL PUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM ON SCHEDULE.
PRESIDENT NIXON HAS AUTHORIZED

FULL FUNDING OF THE LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION FUND, INCLUDING AN
APPROPRIATION OF \$380 MILLION IN THE CURRENT
FISCAL YEAR. OF THAT AMOUNT, \$280 MILLION
WILL GO TO STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND \$100 MILLION WILL GO TO ACQUIRE
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PARK AND RECREATION
RESOURCES.

BY NEXT JUNE, THE FUND WILL HAVE PROVIDED \$750 MILLION IN MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES AND LOCALITIES. THIS MONEY HAS FACILITATED THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOUSANDS OF NEW PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS.

PRESIDENT NIXON ALSO HAS

REQUESTED THAT THE HOUSING AND URBAN

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM OF GRANTS

TO STATES AND LOCALITIES FOR OPEN SPACE

BE REORIENTED TO PROVIDE MORE URBAN PARKS

AND THAT THE PROGRAM'S BUDGET AUTHORITY

BE INCREASED FROM \$75 MILLION TO

\$200 MILLION.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ESTABLISHED

A PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD TO DECLARE CERTAIN

FEDERAL PROPERTIES SURPLUS AND AVAILABLE

FOR TRANSFER TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

MORE THAN \$40 MILLION -- HAVE ALREADY

BEEN TRANSFERRED TO STATES OR THEIR

LOCALITIES FOR PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES

THROUGH THE BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR.

! MIGHT MENTION AT THIS POINT THAT IT IS PLANNED TO TURN OVER A 12-ACRE PIECE OF THE GRAND RAPIDS NATIONAL GUARD RIFLE RANGE TO KENT COUNTY FOR PARK PURPOSES UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S LEGACY OF PARKS PROGRAM. AND IT WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE TO POINT OUT THAT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LAST OCTOBER GAVE GRANDVILLE A GRANT OF \$28,578 TO ACQUIRE 10 ACRES OF LAND ACROSS BUCK CREEK FROM GRANDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR A COMMUNITY PARK. THAT SAME MONTH, THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT GAVE THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS \$181,350 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A 60-ACRE PARK ALONG THE GRAND RIVER AT THE INTERSECTION OF MONROE AVENUE AND THREE-MILE ROAD.

THOSE WERE 1971 GRANTS. IN 1970,
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GAVE US A
\$2,792,760 GRANT FOR ACQUISITION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF 15 NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL
PARKS IN OR NEAR THE MODEL CITIES AREA OF
GRAND RAPIDS, PLUS \$12,450 FOR A 43-ACRE
PLAINFIELD PARK ALONG THE ROGUE RIVER,
AND \$25,000 TO WYOMING FOR A 26-ACRE
EXPANSION OF ITS PARK SYSTEM.

ADD THEM ALL UP AND WE FIND
THERE WERE \$3,040,138 IN FEDERAL GRANTS
TO KENT COUNTY FOR PARK PURPOSES JUST IN
THE LAST TWO YEARS ALONE.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RIFLE
RANGE PROPERTY, AND I POINT THIS OUT
BECAUSE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY NATIONWIDE
HAS RICH POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF THE
NATION'S PARKS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
OWNS ROUGHLY 761 MILLION ACRES OF LAND,

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE AREA OF THE 50 STATES.

WE ARE ALSO MOVING AHEAD WITH OUR NATIONAL WILD RIVERS AND NATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM. ACQUISITION OF LAND WAS STARTED IN 1969 FOR THE FIRST EIGHT SCENIC RIVERS AUTHORIZED AS INITIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

TWENTY-SEVEN NEW NATIONAL

RECREATION TRAILS -- TO BE ADMINISTERED

BY APPROPRIATE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND

PRIVATE OWNERS -- WERE DESIGNATED IN JUNE

OF 1971.

THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO PLANS
TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS
AROUND SOME OF OUR LARGE URBAN COMPLEXES,
BUT WE EXPECT STATES AND CITIES TO DO THEIR
SHARE WHERE APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE.

SO WE ARE DEVELOPING POLICIES

TO INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FOR CITY DWELLERS AND TO MAKE PARKS AND

NATIONAL SHRINES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

AMERICANS, INCLUDING LOW INCOME FAMILIES.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS

DEVELOPING A LONG-RANGE PLAN TO INSURE
THAT OUR PARK RESOURCES ARE KEPT UNIMPAIRED
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

YOU CAN FEEL SURE THAT THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES IS IN GOOD HANDS.

BUT I ASK YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM TO REORGANIZE THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS -- TO CREATE A NEW DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THREE OTHERS. THIS REORGANIZATION IS VITAL IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TO BE TRULY RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE.

THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN
THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR LAND, OUR WATER
AND ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES WILL
REQUIRE THE VERY BEST EFFORT ON THE PART
OF ALL OF US. WE MUST ACHIEVE MAXIMUM
EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF OUR RESOURCES AND
A NEW QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

THIS IS A TIME FOR VISION, A
TIME TO GIVE NEW LIFE TO OUR DREAMS OF A
PLACE IN THE SUN FREE FROM THE NOISE AND
CONFUSION THAT CONFOUND MODERN MAN.

Distribution: Fifth district only Sint air mail 2 p.m. 1/11/71 M Office Cipy REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH. REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE DWIGHT LYDELL CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
12 NOON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1972

## FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 1972

I am optimistic about the future of conservation in America.

All the indicators point to a new era of conservation and environmental preservation.

In the last three years we have made more progress toward controlling the degradation of our resources than in all our past political history.

Reform will not come easily. We will experience many outcries. But new self-discipline must become part of our life-style.

To begin with, we must have orderliness. If we are going to stabilize and improve our environment, we must have a sense of order in how we lay out our occupancy of the land. Where the critical factor in the past has always been the fast buck, it must now be environmental quality and the conservation of resources.

As you may know, the Administration has initiated a concept of land use policy which includes power plant siting, strip mine reclamation, protection and management of public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield, and repeal of the 1872 Mining Act, substituting procedures which will eliminate indiscriminate mining practices and ensure environmental control.

Our system of government now is facing the great test. The 92nd Congress must prove whether it is partisan or responsive.

The Administration has called for the establishment of a long overdue National Land Use Policy to deal with the frightening and haphazard sprawl of metropolitan development. The desire also is to achieve compatible multiple-use for the benefit of people on the vast public domain as well.

The President has proposed that 1.8 million acres of land be set aside and added to the National Wilderness System. He has directed that Federal surplus properties be converted to use as public parks.

(more)

It was through the President's leadership that an environmental planning and advisory agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, was set up. It was also at the President's direction that an agency with the power to set environmental standards and enforce them—the Environmental Protection Agency—was established.

And of tremendous significance, the President has called for a sweeping reorganization of those scattered agencies and fragmented functions of the Executive Branch which relate to the custody of America's natural resources. He has laid before the Congress a proposal to establish a Department of Natural Resources and to reorganize the Executive Branch along basic functional lines.

Environmentally speaking, the new Department of Natural Resources would end the scatter-gun approach to Government existing today. At present, such areas as water resources, land management, minerals, energy and earth sciences are handled by an unwieldy and complex variety of agencies and organizations.

Water resources development is now handled through the Bureau of Reclamation in the Interior Department. The Soil Conservation Watershed Program is in the Agriculture Department. The civil functions of the Army Corps of Engineers is in the Defense Department.

In the Department of Natural Resources, all three of these functions would be brought under a single administrator.

Another example: Activities of the Forest Service in Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management in Interior overlap. They are not coordinated sufficiently In the new department, their activities would be aligned so as to be the responsibility of the same organization.

An example in the energy field: The nation's energy programs are now fragmented and spread among several agencies. In the new department, direction of all major energy programs involving nuclear power, coal, petroleum, natural gas and hydro power would be brought together within an agency of co-related functions.

The functions of the energy and mineral resources administration in the new department would include the formulation and implementation of a National Energy Resources Policy; development of energy production technology; technology for resources development and utilization, management of uranium stockpiles and production of enriched uranium; mining recovery, processing and utilization studies; waste disposal, re-use, recycling and substitution studies; protection and restoration of mined areas; fostering oil and gas pipeline safety, and mine and

health safety; conservation of minerals and fuel resources; and research and information services pertaining to the environment.

One of the most urgent and immediate tasks of the new department would be to integrate and implement the President's new "Clean Energy" policy, which is aimed at meeting the ever-growing demand for energy without increasing the world's pollution burden.

I assure you that the actions and priorities of the Federal Government are being redirected.

Now let me point out that this year we will observe the National Park Centennial.

This is appropriate because one of the President's pet projects is his Legacy of Parks Program, aimed at a major expansion of open spaces set aside for leisure and learning.

The President has spelled out his park expansion program in messages to the Congress and to the people.

Some of the objectives have been accomplished but most of them lie ahead and will require innovative actions that involve direct Federal participation in several areas.

Since 1969, 13 new areas have been added to the National Park System.

The President recommended 14 wilderness proposals to the 91st Congress.

Thirteen of these proposals were not acted upon and were resubmitted to the 92nd Congress.

In addition, the President last year sent Congress 14 new wilderness area proposals, comprising 1.8 million acres.

Studies and public hearings on 20 additional possible wilderness areas will be completed by next June. These studies will put the National Park Service wilderness review program on schedule.

President Nixon has authorized full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including an appropriation of \$380 million in the current fiscal year. Of that amount, \$280 million will go to states and local governments and \$100 million will go to acquire nationally significant park and recreation resources.

By next June, the Fund will have provided \$750 million in matching grants to states and localities. This money has facilitated the acquisition and development of thousands of new parks and recreation areas.

President Nixon also has requested that the Housing and Urban Development Department's program of grants to states and localities for open space be reoriented to provide more urban parks and that the program's budget authority be increased from \$75 million to \$200 million.

The President has established a Property Review Board to declare certain federal properties surplus and available for transfer to state and local governments.

Nine thousand acres--worth more than \$40 million--have already been transferred to states or their localities for park and recreation purposes through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Department of Interior.

I might mention at this point that it is planned to turn over a 12-acre piece of the Grand Rapids National Guard Rifle Range to Kent County for park purposes under the President's Legacy of Parks Program. And it would also be appropriate to point out that the Interior Department last October gave Grandville a grant of \$28,578 to acquire 10 acres of land across Buck Creek from Grandville High School for a community park. That same month, the Interior Department gave the City of Grand Rapids \$181,350 for development of a 60-acre park along the Grand River at the intersection of Monroe Avenue and Three-Mile Road.

Those were 1971 grants. In 1970, the Federal Government gave us a \$2,792,760 grant for acquisition and development of 15 neighborhood school parks in or near the Model Cities Area of Grand Rapids, plus \$12,450 for a 43-acre Plainfield Park along the Rogue River, and \$25,000 to Wyoming for a 26-acre expansion of its park system.

Add them all up and we find there were \$3,040,138 in Federal grants to Kent County for park purposes just in the last two years alone.

This does not include the Rifle Range property, and I point this out because Federal surplus property nationwide has rich potential for expansion of the Nation's parks. The Federal Government owns roughly 761 million acres of land, about one-third of the area of the 50 states.

We are also moving ahead with our National Wild Rivers and National Trails

Program. Acquisition of land was started in 1969 for the first eight scenic rivers

authorized as initial components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Twenty-seven new national recreation trails--to be administered by appropriate Federal, State, local and private owners--were designated in June of 1971.

The Administration also plans to establish national recreation areas around some of our large urban complexes, but we expect States and cities to do their share where appropriate and possible.

So we are developing policies to increase recreational opportunities for city dwellers and to make parks and national shrines accessible to all Americans, including low income families.

The National Park Service is developing a long-range plan to insure that our park resources are kept unimpaired for future generations.

You can feel sure that the conservation of our natural resources is in good hands.

But I ask your support of the President's program to reorganize the Federal Departments--to create a new Department of Natural Resources and three others. This reorganization is vital if the Federal Government is to be truly responsive to the needs of people.

The problems and challenges in the management of our land, our water and all of our natural resources will require the very best effort on the part of all of us. We must achieve maximum extension of the life of our resources and a new quality of life for the American people.

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