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REMARKS OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JAMES K. CARR AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL AID AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM, NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 7, 1962

As you may know, President Kennedy has directed Secretary Udall to head the delegation which is attending the inauguration of the President of Columbia in Bogota. Secretary Udall asked me to express his apologies for his resulting inability to be with you this evening. Happily for me, I am here in his stead.

This evening we are here to celebrate the silver anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Act. With us tonight are two men of vision--two of several men who have clearly earned the title "Outstanding Men of Conservation." I consider it an honor and a privilege to share in this celebration of 25 years of cooperative, Federal-State wildlife restoration--a monumental tribute to Senator Robertson, co-sponsor of the act, to Carl Shoemaker, who penned the legislation, and to the late co-author, Senator Pittman.

I am here to do two things tonight--to bask with you in the glow of accomplishment--and, perhaps even more important, I am here to sound a mild warning.

It is pleasant to pause and celebrate progress. But even as we "tick off" our phenomenal accomplishments in conservation and restoration of wildlife, we are aware of a more important reason for assembling here. This is the essence of our battle. We have been told we have only a few years to bulwark nature's fortresses or to be overrun by the demands of so-called civilization. The year is 1962. The century is running out.

Every 35 years, the population-estimators tell us, we can count on twice as many Americans as peopled our country the generation before.

Consider first, the state of the nature-to-people balance as it would have existed today were it not for the visionary legislation we honor here tonight. Many of you present will remember the tremendous effort needed to bring about this act--the act which tooled up the Nation for its dramatic response to the drastic decline of wildlife resources in the 30s.

A history of careless and unwise use of our lands over many years, and a serious drought in 1936 had decimated our wildlife--the warning lights were going on all over the Nation. The need for action struck at all levels of government. The Federal Government began purchasing and developing land and water for refuges. The States, too, recognized their vital stake in wildlife resources. They under-
wired this recognition with forceful measures. But funds were short everywhere.

Not nearly enough money was available to meet the urgent need for research, resource planning, and most of all--coordinated action.

The need was crucial for an immediate, deliberate and energetic program if the depletion of wildlife was to be arrested and our reserves rehabilitated. As in all crises--when men find the bonds of common purpose, a solution can be found. In this case, those represented by you here tonight produced the Pittman-Robertson Act.

This Act established the much-needed funds. It did something even more important. It gave the country a program. The underlying premise of this effort was the essence of sportsmanship--that the beneficiaries of a tax should be those who pay the bulk of it. In this case, those who purchase ammunition and firearms contribute 11 percent of the manufacturer's price toward restoration of the Nation's wildlife.

Both Senator Robertson and Carl Shoemaker are to be congratulated on the key roles they played in this legislation. Its fairness in pattern and success in action have kept it a guidepost for future legislation all these years. Even today, on the Hill, as lawmakers held hearings on the Federal Aid-in-Grant program for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, their views were doubtless influenced by the quarter century of success pioneered by the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Following the trail blazed by Pittman-Robertson, the Congress is considering ways and means of expanding the Nation's recreational facilities, with a proposal that the campers, swimmers, hikers, and sportsmen foot the bulk of the bill.

The manner of financing this program before the Congress has not been determined, but it probably will take the form of user fee park stickers, and comparable pay-as-you-go devices.

As Secretary Udall has pointed out, "The days when a courageous President could win great conservation victories by a stroke of the pen are over. The pressures of a growing industrial society press heavily on our resources; competition for land and water increases; hard choices are made; public and private expenditures are now the instruments of conservation progress."

It would be possible tonight to revel in reams of statistics--all of them measuring the gigantic "plus" which Pittman-Robertson has meant to our Nation's wildlife resources. From these funds, vital and unprecedented research was initiated, lands were purchased; then these lands were developed. Capable personnel were drawn into this effort--people who gave it the tremendous momentum which was the guarantor of success. More than 450,000 game birds and about 85,000 mammals have been transplanted in 44 States, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. At least 40,000 deer and 15,000 antelope have been stocked, with outstanding results. Deer hunting is now possible in most States--antelope in 17. Without the Pittman-Robertson program and its quarter-century of effort, this boast would, instead, be a national lament.

But even as we celebrate 25 years of daring achievement, we must force our minds ahead. We must wonder what this gathering will be celebrating when it meets to review the Golden Anniversary of the Act.

The day is gone, we dare now to hope, when extinction of wildlife by malpractice and disinterest is possible. But we dare not allow satisfaction with the past to create apathy toward the future. The momentum of planning, foresight and good judgment--vital to the successes of the past--must be accelerated to meet the challenges of the future.

The demands of a material civilization have forced us into a compromise with nature in the raw. However, we would do well always to hold--as a background for action--the realization that we and our material civilization are products of nature, and that neither will continue to exist without wise shepherding of her bounty.

The recreation opportunities of our future sportsmen will depend on the extent to which they have access to the out-of-doors. The challenge remains--indeed it increases--to provide accessible places where our future adults may have their interests in wildlife and allied sports stimulated and satisfied. By the time we meet to celebrate our Golden Anniversary, there will be 90 million more people in our country. Quietly, undramatically, day by day, America's outdoor legacy is being nibbled away. Compared with the recreation opportunities we ourselves have enjoyed, what will remain for the generations that follow? It is only the foresight of today that can be translated into the heritage of tomorrow.

We in the Department of the Interior are understandably proud of the progress of the past quarter century under the Pittman-Robertson Act. There is not a single State or territory which has not put Federal aid funds to work on behalf of its waterfowl. State wetlands preservation and development under this program are of particular significance at the present time with our waterfowl resources once again reduced and seriously threatened by continuing drought and drainage in the prairies.

Basic research under the Pittman-Robertson program is every day pointing up new and more efficient conservation methods. Of particular value, our Federal aid studies furnish us information to regulate hunting seasons, bag limits and harvest zones. Experimentation in the methods of setting and gunning pressure also are providing us with valuable tools for wildlife management.

To date, close to 2½ million acres of land and water have been purchased in 47 States under this program. In addition, another 12 million acres has been leased for public use. The land development program has resulted in creation of favorable wildlife habitats--the purchase and development of feeding and resting areas.

At present, the fund amounts to approximately \$15 million a year.

It is indeed a stunning record of accomplishment.

But we in Interior are determined not to be mesmerized by yesterday's progress. Our attention is focused on tomorrow--our resolve is centered on the future--Interior is in reality the Department of the Future.

This concern of man to preserve his place in the natural scheme of things was recently characterized by Secretary Udall as "a wholesome note of sanity in a troubled world." Let us underscore this wholesome note with all the resources of a vital society, alert to its highest responsibility--the passing on of a rounded cultural heritage to its young people.

Let me close with this double message...First, a hearty congratulation to you--the pathfinders of natural conservation--and second, a challenge to all of us to accelerate our effort--for this is, indeed, the decade of decision.

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