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HUMPHREY PROPOSES NEW APPROACH  
TO PROBLEMS OF ~~NEW~~ WATER POLLUTION

File

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today proposed a new approach to the growing problem of water pollution--the creation of regional river basin waste treatment authorities across the nation.

In introducing his proposal--the River Basin Waste Treatment Authority Act of 1972--Senator Humphrey said:

"It is time to stop the talk and start acting to halt the growing ~~menace~~ menace of pollution. We simply can no longer afford the ~~loss to our economy, the loss of recreation opportunities, and the destruction,~~ ~~either to the economy, to re~~

damage to our economy, the loss of recreation opportunities nor the destruction of the Nation's natural beauty.

It was Humphrey's ~~second~~ second major anti-pollution proposal in two days. Yesterday in Los Angeles he outlined, and today he introduced in the ~~Senate~~ Senate, the Community Coalitions for a Clean Environment Act.

This measure would pump several hundred millions of dollars, backed in part by ~~Environment~~ citizen-purchased Environmental Savings Bonds, into grass roots, community efforts to combat all forms of pollution.

The River Basin Waste Treatment Authority Act, he said, would permit for the first time a comprehensive, coordinated and ~~approach~~ systematic approach to water pollution.

"Despite great progress made by hundreds of communities in controlling water pollution," the Senator said, "we must face the fact that individual communities working separately, ~~with~~ usually with inadequate funds and limited enforcement machinery simply are not equal to the task.

"What is accomplished," he asked, "if Community A along a waterway builds a modern and ~~efficient~~ effective sewage treatment plant, if ~~the~~ Community B ~~is~~ upstream continues to dump raw sewage?"

He said the ~~the~~ river basin treatment ~~agencies~~ agencies mandated by his bill would be authorized to plan, build, operate and maintain sewage treatment facilities that would meet Federal standards.

They would be financed by user charges on existing and new treatment plants and by the issuance of bonds for the entire cost of new construction on the national investment markets. The Federal government will pledge 40 per cent and would provide technical assistance of the debt service costs. The terms of the bonds ~~will~~ will approximate the useful life of the facilities.

~~He~~ <sup>Humphrey</sup> said the authorities ~~(would be)~~ would include several states in such major river ~~basins~~ basins as the Ohio, the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Colorado, the Rio Grande, and the ~~Potomac~~ Potomac.

~~Senator Humphrey~~ <sup>He</sup> cited these figures to illustrate the ~~dimensions~~ dimensions of water pollution, which he said has ~~affected~~ affected every major river in the Nation:

--Some 1,400 American ~~and~~ communities still dump raw, untreated sewage into rivers.

--Thousands of existing treatment plants are inefficient and inadequate with poor design, operation and maintenance.

--Operation loads from municipal sewage systems are expected to increase four times in the next 50 years.

--More than 1,000 communities outgrow their ~~existing~~ treatment systems every year.

--Only 70 per cent of the Nation's population is served by sewage treatment systems, and less than half of existing plants are ~~adequate~~ to meet present needs.

"This proposal together with the Federal ~~Water~~ Water Quality Control Amendment passed by the <sup>Senate</sup> ~~Senate~~ last session, ~~and~~ give hope that we can arrest water pollution," Humphrey said.

"They give hope that we can restore the purity and the beauty of our waterways and make them safe for ~~commerce~~ commerce and navigation, for recreation and for other uses by our growing population."



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