

CONSERVATION CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

I welcome this opportunity to join you, even though briefly, during your meeting. I am deeply concerned about your problems. I want to be closely associated with your progress and the dreams for the future of your ~~95~~ soil and water conservation districts *in Conn. & the 3000 in your land.*

Words are the legitimate weapons of civilized man facing the issues of their times. Your ~~program~~ *plan*, as I see it, should provide for a timely discussion of vital issues. The opinions of each person carries weight. Your expressions count for you are responsible spokesmen.

This is the time to speak for the unity of the countryside in all its values and uses. It is the time to advocate the protection and development of our resources as a whole, in accordance with their capabilities and the goals of the community. It is a time to speak for action that will meet the oncoming demands of a growing Nation. It is a time to forestall premature and disorderly commitments of resource use.

We find ourselves in an age demanding instant satisfaction of ill-considered demands--often hypocritically made in the name of progress and society. Therefore, I believe it is a time to come forward, to be heard, to assume fully your responsibilities of leadership in soil, in water, and in related conservation work.

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Address by Norman A. Berg, Deputy Administrator for Field Services, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at the Regional Winter Area Meeting of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, Cookeville, Tennessee, March 3, 1966

4. In Montgomery County, Maryland, the district has helped to establish a sediment control program whereby builders and developers will be required to install erosion control devices in accordance with an approved conservation plan.
5. In one district in Arkansas, the supervisors have hired a full-time executive secretary to provide administrative assistance. State associations, also, are beginning to employ staff help because their programs are growing so rapidly. North Dakota, Colorado, Texas, and California have already taken this step.
6. In Massachusetts, the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee approved hiring an information specialist by conservation districts.

And, again, in Tennessee soil conservation districts and other sponsors have received authorization for Federal planning assistance for the 11-county Hull-York Lakeland Resource Conservation and Development Project in the Upper Cumberland.

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In a host of other places, districts are working with planning and zoning organizations to provide information on resource potentials, are working with highway departments to minimize land damage and erosion hazards during construction and maintenance, are organizing Neighborhood Youth Corps programs like in Nebraska, are developing and operating recreation facilities where needed, a rejoining with other districts in