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**Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on S. J. Res. 89 - In  
Support of The International Biological Program**

Edmund S. Muskie

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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie  
In Support of S. J. Res. 89  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
Subcommittee on Health  
February 9, 1970

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee today in support of S. J. Res. 89, a resolution which I have introduced in support of the International Biological Program. I am also grateful to you for the interest and concern which you have shown in the program.

We are all deeply concerned with protecting and enhancing the quality of our environment. We have learned that we must take world-wide action to avoid disaster. As an atomic mass becomes "critical," our biological communities are also reaching critical stages in development. If we continue to toy with the delicate balance of nature, we will not survive. Environmental pollution is simply incompatible with human health and welfare.

We must begin to make changes in our life styles, but before we know what kinds of changes we should make, we must know where we are in relation to our environment. Before we plan changes we should be able to predict the consequences of carrying out our plans.

United States participation in the International Biological Program constitutes one of our first efforts--perhaps the first--to acquire the knowledge to support environmental planning and management. It is not a cure; it will not provide finished answers to our environmental problems, but it is a start toward understanding the relationship between man and his environment, and it is a good start.

The U. S. program has been reviewed in some detail by the Subcommittee on Health. I understand that it is totally oriented toward research, supporting systems, analysis and modeling, and that the two primary components that make up the U. S. effort include basic and applied research (1) on environmental management, and (2) on man's adaptability to his environment.

This is an ecological program in its broadest and most cooperative sense. It includes engineers, social scientists, physical scientists, meteorologists as well as life and biological scientists and ecologists. They must share data and plan jointly.

The program includes studies of the biosocial adaptations of migrant and urban peoples, human genetic changes and adaptations, human adaptations to the arctic climate and high altitudes, and studies and modeling of total ecological systems. This new knowledge will make it possible for us to plan the investments that must be made to enhance the quality of the environment.

One scientist participating in the U. S. program neatly described the IBP purpose when he said, "Our problem is simple and pressing: We will surely be required to advise, and our advice will be included in planning. Will our advice be based on sound knowledge--or will it be hit or miss?"

I hope that the Senate will support S. J. Res. 89. The U. S. National Committee for the IBP and the Interagency Coordinating Committee should advise semiannually the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the status, progress and problems of this program.

The focus of our environmental protection effort must be man--man today, man tomorrow, and man in relation to all the other forms of life which share our biosphere.

If we see man as a part of his entire environment and broaden our concern to reflect that focus we can set our goals for the benefit of all men. This is the value of the International Biological Program.

I hope the Congress will give it the support it deserves.

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