

# Congress Ponders Oceanographic Research Program

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune  
Washington Correspondent

Washington - Congress is close to enactment of a bill by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) authorizing a 10-year program "to unveil the secrets of inner space—the oceans."

It calls for an oceanographic research program for both military and economic purposes, including these provisions:

1. Construction of advanced marine research ships and laboratories.
2. Training of sufficient marine scientists to execute the program.
3. International exchange of oceanographic data.

The Senate Commerce Committee, in approving the bill, observed that oceanic knowledge is little more than two dimensional, covering winds, waves, currents, reefs and shoals and fisheries just below the surface.

"Today knowledge of the oceans must be three dimensional, extending from the surface to the bottom, and to the crust below the surface," its report stated.

### Russian Program

Testifying about the danger of underwater attack from missile subs, Sumner Pike, ex-member of the Atomic Energy Commission, declared: "Another nation caught us practically unawares upstairs; for heaven's sake don't let the same thing happen to us down cellar."

The committee noted that "Soviet Russia, which has more submarines than all the nations of the free world combined, is conducting an unprecedented ocean research program, one that surpasses that of the entire free world."

"The world's greatest mountain ranges and deepest canyons lie hidden in the oceans," the committee noted, supporting its proposal for complete charting of these little-known contours.

The report predicted underwater commercial commerce at speeds twice that of present surface ships, taking advantage of underwater currents just as high altitude planes pick up speed in the jet stream. Underwater devices located on sea mounts would substitute for lighthouses.

To chart the seas the bill authorizes construction of 10 survey ships during the next

10 years for the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Other economic benefits include increasing productivity of fisheries, underwater mining for liquid fuels and metallic minerals, and research into the interchange of energy between the oceans and the atmosphere which causes weather disturbances.

### Fish Harvest Increased

The committee reported that Russia and Red China are stepping up their harvest of fish. Russia is employing 100 fishery research ships exploring oceans from the Bering Sea to the Grand Banks off Newfoundland to the coast of Africa.

"Meanwhile, the United States has steadily declined, our fisheries research fleet and its activities have diminished, and we are in grave danger of losing an industry that produces food in the value of a billion and a half dollars annually and gives employment to 500,000 citizens," the report said.

Testimony was received that "the oceanic waters contain more minerals than have been mined by man in all history. Vast deposits of manganese, cobalt, copper, iron and nickel nodules lie on the deep ocean floor . . . and techniques will be developed which will enable them to be mined commercially within 5 to 6 years."

The Eisenhower Administration says the program is unnecessary because the government this year will increase its oceanographic research program from \$38 to \$56 million. But Congress is expected to give it a nudge anyway.

### Herter Favors Cuba Sugar Import Cut

Washington - (UPI) - Secretary of State Christian A. Herter told Congress Wednesday the time has come to cut down on marketing of Cuban sugar in the United States, a move that would be a stiff economic blow to Premier Fidel Castro.

Without mentioning public attacks on this country by Castro and other Cuban officials, Herter told the House agriculture committee this is "an appropriate time" to reduce the dependence of American consumers on Cuban sugar.

Herter noted that Cuba's sugar production is expected to drop while the Castro government has made sugar sales agreements with the Soviet Union and other Communist nations.

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