



our problems--the important initial step--and we have made progress in charting a course of scientific investigation to obtain answers to these problems. We know, for example:

--That the resources of the sea are almost illimitable, but some are in serious danger of depletion and require improved conservation programs.

--That the shoreline of the United States is changing and becoming increasingly more polluted, thereby threatening many fish and other marine species which spawn or spend their early life close to shore.

--That great expanses of ocean, and the floor beneath it, are unknown and uncharted.

--That our research efforts are too concentrated on immediate problems, important as these are.

--That we are woefully ignorant, in many respects, of the ecology of the oceans and their shorelines.

--That our knowledge of the genetics of the creatures of the sea lags far behind similar knowledge of the animals and plants of the land.

--That the full and imaginative uses of marine products, such as Fish Protein Concentrate, are still largely to be discovered.

--That the ocean contains many dissolved minerals which we do not know how to recover economically with few exceptions; further, only in the case of petroleum have we made any significant progress in utilizing the resources under the floor of the ocean.

--That the technology of harnessing the energy of the oceans is in its infancy.

The Kennedy Administration has started to work on some of these problems--and the Albatross will, as its predecessors, make important contributions. Other work is also in progress.

The Department of the Interior has constructed new laboratories; new research projects are under way to develop new oceanographic equipment; international probing of the sea frontiers are planned or under way; a fellowship program in marine science will help alleviate the severe shortage of young scientists;

A National Fisheries Center with oceanarium facilities--as recommended by the National Academy of Science--is being located in Washington; ecological studies of fish and shorelines are in progress; a cooperative program to study the geology and hydrology of the Atlantic Continental Shelf has been initiated with a similar Pacific study planned; and research has been expanded on Fish Protein Concentrate, a product which not only can provide a rich protein diet for the hungry one-third of the world but also bring significant employment opportunities to the American fisheries industry.

We hear much of the peaceful uses of space and of the atom, but we should-- I feel--place the peaceful uses of the sea on a similar parity in the scale of our national thinking. The secrets of the sea are another challenge in the understanding of ourselves. In the sea, man has an opportunity to reforge his links with the past and to plan his relationship with the future.

It is a mark of progress that we can dispatch questing ships such as the Albatross into new areas of exploration. As one of Britain's great physicians once observed:

"That man can interrogate as well as observe nature was a lesson slowly learned in his evolution."

May good fortune follow the Albatross as it probes and unravels the limits of man's current knowledge.

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