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Siciliano Outlines Proposed Ocean-Atmosphere Agency

The first official announcement of the President's intention to create a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce was made by Rocco C. Siciliano, Under Secretary of Commerce, before the Marine Technology Society on June 30.

Following are highlights of the Under Secretary's address:

"I am privileged to report to you tonight that President Nixon is about to take a giant step forward in assuring a national effort in the exploration, development, and preservation of the marine environment which surrounds us.

He will shortly submit to the Congress a reorganization proposal to create a new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, an organization to be situated within the Department of Commerce which, Congress willing, will become the focal point of all Federal programs presently concerned with the oceanic and atmospheric environment and with related geophysical and hydrological activities.

The Department of Commerce already contains the basic scientific elements which will be fundamental to this new agency, which undoubtedly will become known as NOAA. The Department also contains the Maritime Administration, with its wide capabilities in marine engineering and ship design.

The creation of NOAA will not be just another bureaucratic reshuffling. It will be the consolidation into one powerful working force of some of the finest, most dedicated, and most energetic scientific, technological ,and administrative talent anywhere in the United States government.

It will receive the personal and continual attention of the Secretary. It will answer to our highest levels. It will be among our highest priorities. It will generate consistent, meaningful forward motion.

Under Secretary Siciliano

We believe that in NOAA an organization will be created which can tackle national problems in a new and more effective way. It will be an ocean-and-atmosphere agency with numerous responsibilities in the earth sciences. The approach will be interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, in response to the complex nature of the problems to be attacked--in other words--an environmental approach.

It is not yet time to speak in concrete terms of specific agencies and sub-agencies. But it is our intention to organize the effort around the following concepts:

The mapping and charting of the global oceans and the Great Lakes.

Fish exploration and technology, aquaculture, and marine biological research.

The technology of the air and sea.

The technology of that marvelous scientific tool, the geophysical satellite.

The monitoring of the geophysical environment, including pollution, seismicity, climate and geomagnetic field, and data collection and dissemination.

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Proposed Agency Outlined *(continued from page 1)*

And the nation's weather service will be broadened substantially in scope.

Within this framework, we are convinced, a great deal can be accomplished and much duplication and overlapping of function and effort ended.

This is not the time to set forth in detail the programs which will be undertaken. However, I should like to tell you some of the things which require early action.

A very high priority must be accorded to the exploration and development of our natural resources--living and non-living. The quest for the seas' industrial raw materials is certain to intensify. One of the major contributions the new Administration must make, with the help of the scientific and technological community, will be to develop the knowledge, the techniques and the tools to help transform needs felt into needs met.

High priority must be given to the creation of a global environmental monitoring and prediction service, because it underpins so many other things we must do. Our society is constantly changing, and so are its effects upon the environment. We must be ready to meet the needs created by those changes--I am thinking principally of the severe problems of air and water pollution which today constitute a grave national concern. A global monitoring and prediction network is absolutely vital to the task of fighting pollution.

The civil ocean monitoring and prediction system must be integrated with the weather system to provide a more inclusive national service. The job of collecting, processing, and disseminating information for this system is a gargantuan one. It will demand substantial acceleration in the use of satellites and a data buoy network, now planned to close major gaps in ocean information; and the use of other platforms as well.

One largely undeveloped area which is basic to our future national prosperity is the Continental Shelf and its slopes. It waits to be explored, charted, and turned to optimum national use. At present it is not even satisfactorily defined, internationally. We are now embarked upon a Continental Shelf survey program but the nation sorely needs geological, geophysical and bathymetric reconnaissance scale maps of 1:250,000, out to 2500 meters --and we need them now. It is our conviction, moreover, that all Federal nautical charting activities must be accelerated to insure current charts of all coastal areas of moderate to heavy marine activity. A 50-year resurvey cycle should be completed within 15 years. To do it will require a degree of automation not yet in sight.

The Environmental Science Services Administration operates the National Earthquake Information Center and is working toward techniques of earthquake prediction. Its 10,000 employees man geophysical observatories, communications systems, and environmental research laboratories across the nation and over the world. It has a fleet of ships and a fleet of aircraft. ESSA coordinates all Federal meteorological services, Marine Environmental Prediction, Geodesy, and Marine Mapping, is the lead agency for developing the World Weather Program, and has major national and international responsibilities in the development and operation of tsunami warning services.

We are entering a time when man must make the most of his environment--every part of it. When Americans understand the nature of a problem, they have a way of solving it, no matter how close to insolubility it may appear. And this is how it will be with the problems we have been thinking about here.

Let us get on with it--together."

Pamphlet Explains Probability Forecasts

A new pamphlet entitled "Precipitation Probability Forecasts," that explains how Weather Bureau meteorologists arrive at this helpful but poorly understood figure, has been published by the ESSA Office of Public Information. The publication is available at 10 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

C&GS Air Photo Team Operating in Florida

The Coast Survey's Air Photo Mission 2 will be operating in Florida near the Kennedy Space Center during July. The photography taken by the crew will be used to compile photomosaic maps. Personnel assigned to the mission are Lt. Cdr. Walter S. Simmons, pilot and chief of the mission; Lt. Leslie H. Perry, copilot and navigator; and Charles C. Ferguson, aerial photographer.

Eighteen Unit Citations, Seven Bronze Medals Awarded Tonight

In addition to six $1000 awards, 18 ESSA Unit Citations for Special Achievement and seven Department of Commerce Bronze Medals will be presented at the ESSA Awards Night dinner-dance tonight.

The unit citation--a newly constituted award--recognizes outstanding individual and collective efforts which contribute to ESSA's mission. It will be awarded to:

Thirty-six officers and crew members of the USC&GSS DAVIDSON, commanded by Cdr. Ray E. Moses, for her rescue of 13 men from a sinking tuna fishing boat off San Diego, Calif., March 10, 1970.

Seventy-seven employees of the National Environmental Satellite Center for their efforts in the Satellite Infrared Spectrometer Project (SIRS), for successfully achieving what had been labeled by many experts to be an impractical objective.

Participants in the 1969 Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX), for successfully carrying out the most rigorous oceanographic and meteorological experiments ever undertaken.

The staff of the Weather Bureau Forecast Office in New Orleans for actions during Hurricane Camille in 1969, particularly for the timeliness and content of warnings issued to Gulf Coast residents.

The Mobile, Ala., Weather Bureau staff, for serving as the main link between the Weather Bureau and Civil Defense, law enforcement officials, and other disaster agencies in direct charge of evacuating persons in the path of Hurricane Camille.

The six-man Warning Coordination Unit at the Weather Bureau Forecast Office in Chicago, for its outstanding forecast competence and sustained high level of performance, especially for development and application of wind and wave forecasting techniques for the Great Lakes and outstanding work in the preparation

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ESSA Employees Association Officers for 1970 Elected

Meeting with Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator (center) are the newly elected officers of the ESSA Employees Association: (left to right) Charles J. Fronczek, vice president; Helen Hagemeyer, secretary; Matthew H. Kulawiec, president; and Michael Lipson, treasurer.

Awards *(continued)*

of special weather bulletins on major Midwest storms for use by press and radio.

The Public Forecast Unit at Minneapolis, which is responsible for issuing winter weather warnings for North and South Dakota, for its actions in three major winter storms during April of 1970. The Unit gave 10- to 24-hours' notice prior to the onset of the severe weather.

The staff of the Weather Bureau Office in Lubbock, Tex., for effective severe storm warning service. On April 17, 1970, tornado warnings issued by the Lubbock office are credited with saving many lives in the Texas South Plains. On May 11, the Lubbock Weather Bureau issued warnings in advance of a tornado which struck downtown Lubbock.

The Weather Bureau Office in Amarillo, Tex., for the effectiveness of its severe weather warning service, as demonstrated on April 17 and 18 when the office issued several tornado warnings and other informative severe weather releases in advance of storm occurrences in the Texas Panhandle.

The Oklahoma City Weather Bureau for severe weather warning service during a tornado outbreak in southwest and central Oklahoma on April 29. Warnings issued as a tornado approached Oklahoma City provided residents with 40 to 75 minutes of warning time. Although the tornado left over $6 million damage in Oklahoma City, no one was killed and less than 50 persons were injured.

The Weather Bureau Rawinsonde Section, for implementation of the use of time-share computers to assist observers in interpreting data received from radiosondes.

The Warning Coordination Forecast Unit at the Weather Bureau's National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City for providing timely and effective forecast coordination between the Kansas City Center and Weather Bureau offices in storm-threatened areas of the Central and Northern Great Plains.

The Weather Bureau Offices at Bismarck, Williston, Aberdeen, Huron, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls, for their forecasts and warnings during the three April 1970 storms, and especially for the manner in which they adapted the general forecast of the approaching storms into local and zone statements and warnings for their areas of responsibility.

The seven ESSA employees receiving Bronze Medals are:

Madge M. Hassell, budget and accounting assistant at the Atlantic Marine Center, "in recognition of 21 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the Coast and Geodetic Survey in the fields of budget and accounting."

Harold M. Craddock, a meteorologist with the Digital Systems Advisory Group at the National Climatic Center, "for superior service in archiving, cataloging, and processing data gathered in the Barbados and Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX)."

Gertrude A. Fricke, general physical scientist in the Office of Data Information, EDS, "for extremely competent service over a long period." During 30 years of Federal service, she has consistently demonstrated the highest order of initiative, integrity, and creative innovation.

Louis E. Leipold, chief of the Editorial Branch, ESSA Scientific Information and Documentation Division, "for distinguished editorship over a six-year period and superior supervisory performance over the past three years." Mr. Leipold made outstanding editorial contributions to a set of four books published by ESSA, "The Prince William Sound, Alaska, Earthquakes of 1964 and Aftershocks."

Ernest W. Vogt, a systems accountant in the Systems Branch, ESSA Finance Division, will be cited "for dedicated service and valuable contributions to the administrative and accounting operations of ESSA." Mr. Vogt's 29 years of Federal service have been almost entirely within the Weather Bureau and in ESSA since its formation in 1965.

George M. Krahl, chief of the Substation Management Section of the Weather Bureau's Data Acquisition Division, will receive the medal "for his exemplary stewardship of the substation network observing program and for his effective management of the operation of these networks for the past 22 years."

The medal to J. George Hankey, chief of the ESSA Exhibits Section, will pay him tribute for expertise in the management and development of numerous ESSA visual programs, and in meeting difficult deadlines.

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Monday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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