DEVELOPMENT OF WATERPOWER AT NIAGARA FALLS

Mr. NEUBERGER. Mr. President, I am sure that all supporters of the public-power preference clause will be interested in the article which appeared in the New York Times of January 28, describing the stand of our former distinguished colleague, Senator Herbert H. Lehman, with respect to proposed new legislation dealing with the development of potential waterpower at Niagara Falls.

Particularly those of us in the Senate from the States of the Pacific Northwest and the Tennessee Valley remember with deep appreciation Senator Lehman as one of the most staunch and able defenders of the public-power preference clause. He was always a remarkable champion of the public interest, of the hydroelectric resources of the great Columbia Basin and of the Tennessee River watershed. For these reasons, we should certainly consider carefully the warnings being voiced by ex-Senator Lehman concerning policies now prevailing at Niagara Falls.

The article from the New York Times, entitled “Lehman Opposes New Niagara Bill—Says Absence of Preference Clause Is ‘Most Unfortunate’,” is printed herewith for printing in the body of the Bill, and asking your help in securing its adoption. In closing, we assure you of the united support of service station operators across America for this legislation and of the desperate need for its adoption at the earliest date.

We will appreciate hearing from you as to the progress of this vitally important measure.

Sincerely yours,

F. C. RAY.,
National Congress of Petroleum Retailers, Cash B. Hawley, President.

APPLETON AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE ASSOCIATION,
Appleton, Wis., January 29, 1957.

Sen. ALEXANDER W. DODGE,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator: This association of gasoline retail dealers of Appleton urgently solicit your support on the “Equality of Opportunity” Bill 6-11. The House passed this bill during the last session by a vote of 383 to 3 and it was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill has been reintroduced with the same number in this session.

We believe that the destructive practice of price discrimination practiced by major oil companies is one of the major factors causing an estimated 90,000 service stations to fail in business each year.

The loophole of “good faith” in the Robison-Patman Act must be closed. We need your support so that we may do everything possible for the success of this bill. We would appreciate hearing from you as to the progress being made.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH F. VERNON,
President.
Fascist variety. Benighted minds are in construction of schoolrooms. Yet the standing. Surely the great Government ignorance is a citizens? Keliey bill, after all, proposes to invest small Investment in better schools of the United States can make a relation dictatorship be of the Communist or than $40 billion annually on armaments Sltch year in new school buildings a mere modern and in Schools empire. the clay with distribution. Yet I still would rank Federal and indifference to educational needs of the Hells Canyon, on the Snake River. Denial of this project by the administration of funds under the administra- tion's proposal would discriminate against States like Oregon and in favor of the States of the South. For example, Oregon would receive from the administration's bill $6.65 per census child for school construction purposes each year. But Arkansas and South Carolina each would receive $13.51 per child, Alabama would receive $12.63 per child, and Georgia and West Virginia each would receive $12.63 per child. Yet, as we sit here in the Senate Chamber, Oregon's problem is the highest unemployment rate of any State in the Nation, and this certainly will have an adverse impact on the financial ability of Oregon's people to operate its school system, to say nothing of erecting needed new school buildings. The statistics presented by the administration show conclusively that a disproportionate share of the total fund available will go to the States of the South, if the White House program is enacted into law.

The Hill oil-for-education bill was defeated, when it should have been adopted. The tidelands oil reserves, which the White House education conference of 1955 exposed the error of that renunciation, but precious time had been lost. Now the President himself has endorsed a Federal aid-to-schools program. I am happy to report. Although his program is not yet adequate, it represents an encouraging reversal of opinion on his part.

We must pass a program for Federal aid to schools. I hope it will be the Kelley bill, which is H. R. 1 in the House and S. 777 in the Senate.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PETROLEUM RETAILERS URGES ACTION ON EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY BILL

Mr. WILEY. Mr. President, it is my privilege to be the sponsor of S. 11, a more important bill introduced on January 7 by a number of Senators for the purpose of amending and clarifying the Robinson-Patman Act, so as to strengthen genuine equality of opportunity.

It had been my hope that the 84th Congress would have enacted much-needed legislation of this type. For this bill is designed to prevent dis- trictive price discrimination practices which are now occurring because of the loophole created by the Supreme Court's decision in the Standard Oil-Detroit case in 1948. This so-called good-faith loophole, has destroyed the effectiveness of this protection by letting the good faith defense prevail even where competition is substantially lessened and monopoly fostered by the discrimination involved. As a result, small, price discriminating price discrimination permitted by this decision are weakening and destroying small business across the country and fostering the growth of monopoly in industry after industry.

As the national trade association of service station operators, we believe the injury to small business in general and to the Nation's service station operators in particular caused by the Supreme Court decision in the Standard Oil-Detroit case continues to worsen and will continue to deepen and worsen until Congress acts to remedy this situation.

We have been encouraged and hopeful of congressional action to correct this problem in the last session when the Equality of Opportunity Bill passed the House by a vote of 363 to 3 and is now before the Senate Judiciary Committee. While this bill failed of adoption at the instaminute through lack of time, it has been reintroduced in the Senate as H. R. 11 and S-11, the Equality of Opportunity Bill, and every single reason which supported its adoption in the last session applies with even greater force at the present time.

In behalf of the Nation's 260,000 service station operators, we earnestly request your help to secure the adoption of this desperately needed legislation as early as possible in the present session. The mounting rate of small business failures and consumers as (in industry after industry) they are forced to pay higher monopoly prices, the destruction of competition, the destruction of freedom and opportunity which we are witnessing—all cry out for congressional action against monopoly monopolistic practices. Those who profit from these monopolistic practices have a right to be protected, but not at the expense of depriving the public of competition and fair dealing. We ask you to weigh the interests of small business, consumers and the American system of opportu- nity against each pro-monopolistic inter- est and vigorously support our cause.

We also ask you to be alert to pro-monopoly propaganda in the guise of small business. We are receiving reports that various major oil companies are propagandizing and pressuring their short-term lessee operators to vote against