

MR. PRESIDENT:

No one appreciates the unsurpassed grandeur of the American countryside more than I. I also appreciate the fact that the efforts of the authors of Section 122 of the bill under consideration are inspired by a noble purpose and laudable intentions. However, the drafters of the Constitution wisely limited the powers and authority of the Federal Government to those areas which were vital to the existence of a central government, rather than granting the power to act to the end that a desirable social purpose was accomplished. This is a matter which should be left to the States to decide, without the influence of economic pressure in the form of a Federal grant.

Those powers reserved to the States in the Constitution have been and are being constantly reduced to a minimum by a gradual erosion process. One of the principal methods used by the Federal Government to erode the rights of the States is by Federal purchase through grants to the States, accompanied by an ever increasing Federal preemption of tax sources. The sugar-coating of a grant makes the pill of usurpation no more palatable than were the usurpation accomplished by force. The use of Federal funds in an attempt to entice the States to surrender their rights only emphasizes a prevailing disregard for sound economy and an irresponsibility with the taxpayers money.

I shall vote for the Kerr amendment to strike Section 122 from the highway bill. I urge those who would stand fast for the preservation of the States as sovereign entities rather than sub-divisions of the Federal Government to do likewise.

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