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AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

LARRY CRAIG  
1ST DISTRICT, IDAHO

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 22, 1982

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Mr. Lewis Nelson, Jr.  
The Wildlife Society  
828 Nylarol  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Lewis:

Thank you for voicing your support for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife program.

Before I remark about the program itself, I would like to present some interesting facts. Even with the fiscal 1982 budget reductions proposed by the Reagan Administration and enacted into law on October 1, federal spending for the year will total \$728 billion. This level of spending will bring total outlays over the 25 year period beginning at the end of fiscal 1957 up to \$6,710,800,000,000.

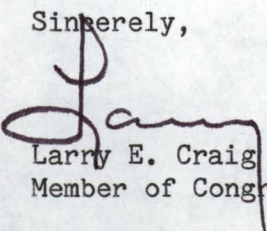
Federal spending has increased at an average annual rate of 12.7% since 1957. The highest annual rate of growth was recorded during the early 1970's, when federal spending was increasing at an average rate of 17.3% per year from 1970 to 1977. From 1957 to 1969, the average annual rate of growth was 11%.

My reason for taking this opportunity to present these facts is to show that the Federal government is not being reduced. Federal programs are expanding and taxes are increasing.

While I understand the benefits that have accrued through the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife program we must weigh all alternatives to direct federal expenditures for this program and others like it. The Merchant Marine and Fishery Committee has recommended funding the program at \$4.4 million dollars for FY83 but this dollar figure may vary as it continues through the appropriations process. While \$4.4 million does not sound like much, it does have an impact when you tally all the small programs that are funded at \$4 or \$5 million dollars.

Do not misunderstand me, the positive aspects of the program to Idaho are recognized, but, I am suggesting that the University of Idaho or the Idaho Department of Fish and Game assume a larger share of financing the program.

Sincerely,

  
Larry E. Craig  
Member of Congress

LEC/sb