

## Nominee Vows Pollution Fight

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William D. Ruckelshaus told a Senate committee yesterday that he will become a strong advocate within the Nixon administration for programs that will clean up the environment.

An assistant attorney general in the Justice Department, Ruckelshaus was nominated by President Nixon to head the new Environmental Protection Agency that opens its doors for business today.

The agency will have jurisdiction over air and water pollution, solid waste disposal and other national environmental programs that have been scattered in 15 departments and agencies.

The hearing on his qualifications before the Senate Public Works Committee continues today.

Chairman Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), a member of the committee, praised the nominee at two points in yesterday's session when he said that he would vigorously enforce pollution abatement laws and that he would be an advocate within the administration as well as outside it for environmental protection.

"I hope that you preempt

the title that has been tossed about loosely in recent years," said Muskie. "I hope that you become known as Mr. Clean."

Ruckelshaus told the committee that he would seek the funds and the staff needed to enforce the National Air Quality Standards Act, now pending before a Senate-House conference committee. The act would set deadlines for removing pollutants from the air.

Ruckelshaus also sought to soothe committee members by promising that reports on the possible effect of federal programs on the environment would be made public at a point when they would be useful in determining if the programs should go ahead.

This has been a sore point between some members of the committee and the administration on such questions as the supersonic transport (SST). In the case of the SST, Muskie said he had been told that the reports were made orally and would not be available.

Ruckelshaus also told the committee that the federal government is "one of the biggest polluters in the country" and that the administration is committed to bringing the government into compliance with anti-pollution laws as soon as possible.

He promised to confer with the committee before any changes are made in regulations governing minor oil spills. The Interior Department had planned to relax such regulations on the eve of transferring jurisdiction over water quality control to the new agency. Interior pulled back when Ruckelshaus objected.

On the controversial question of putting pressure on the automobile industry to produce

a nearly pollution-free engine by 1975, Ruckelshaus defended the administration position that his agency be given authority to postpone the deadline if the industry could not meet it.

The Senate version of the pending Air Quality Standards Act would allow the agency to give a one-year extension but would require congressional action if there were to be further extensions.



**William D. Ruckelshaus testifies before Senate committee on his views regarding environmental protection.**