

8 THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

Let us remember that the conservation of our natural resources is but part of another and greater problem to which this Nation must awake in time—the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the Nation.

And as the governors responded unanimously in their declaration of principles:

We declare our firm conviction that this conservation of our natural resources is a subject of transcendent importance, which should engage unremittingly the attention of the Nation, the States, and the people in earnest cooperation.

Let us conserve the foundations of our prosperity.

On the 50th anniversary of this historic conference which actually launched the conservation movement in the minds and hearts of the people of the United States and of the whole world, we could do far worse than study these principles and ask ourselves the two vital questions: "Where have we failed in the past to honor them?" and "How can we serve them better in the future?"