

● **Consv. Leader**

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"The cuts would destroy the momentum built up during the past 30 years by the federal-state-local partnership that has given our country unprecedented conservation know-how and progress."

The Association headed by Monk is composed of 3,000 individual Conservation Districts in 50 states, with two million cooperating landowners, largely farmers and ranchers.

Monk voiced particular op-

position to a proposal in the budget that Congress authorize a revolving fund through which Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and individual farmers and ranchers, would make \$20 million in payments to the federal government for scientific and technical assistance provided by the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture

"This proposal by the Bureau of the Budget shows a total lack of understanding about the national interest in

conservation and the nationwide benefits realized from this work," Monk declared. "Landowners already contribute far more than the government to conservation and development of soil and water resources. The results benefit all Americans — the businessman, housewife, sportsman, consumer, and especially the children who will inherit our land — and all these must be listed among the chief beneficiaries"

Under the revolving fund

proposal, federal appropriations for "Conservation Operations" of the Soil Conservation Service would be reduced from \$104,223,000 to \$84,103,000 in fiscal year 1966. The \$20,000,000 difference would be made up by payments into the revolving fund by Districts, farmers, and other landowners. "The revolving fund proposal, coupled with the recommended cut-back of 40 per cent in cost sharing funds, would result in a decrease of at least 50 per cent in the application of conservation practices on the privately-owned lands of America, and would reduce the quality of the practices applied," Monk predicted.

"The revolving fund proposal would reverse a policy of 30 years standing. With the creation of the Soil Conservation Service in 1935, Congress began a policy of providing SCS technical as-

sistance without charge to the private landowners of the country willing to adopt farm-wide conservation programs on their properties. A reversal of this policy is wholly unacceptable to the nation's 3,000 locally organized and operated Soil and Water Conservation Districts," Monk declared.

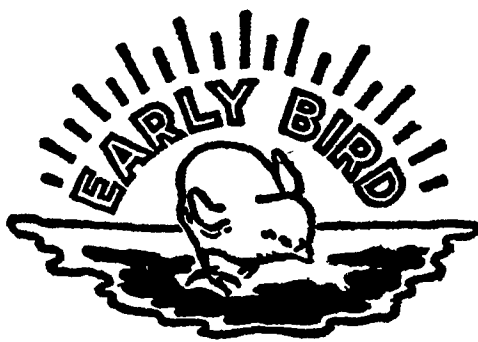
"I am immediately alerting each of the 15,000 citizens throughout the nation who serve without pay on the governing bodies of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts about the seriousness of the proposed revolving fund and the other cut-backs," Monk said "It will be the primary issue at our national convention next month"

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